

# The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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## Dietrich School Council Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Research Adam Leibovich (Vice Chair); Elected Members: Carol Colby, Svitlana Maksymenko, Kathleen Manukyan, Tymofiy Mylovanov, Valerie Oke, Robert Ruck, and Susan Sesack; Divisional Chair Representatives: Stephen Meriney, Gayle Rogers, and Jonathan Woon; Graduate Student Representative: Victoria LaFave; Student Government Board Representative: Daniel Temmallo

**Council Members Not Present:** Elected Members: Cynthia Croot, Haitao Liu, Neepa Majumdar, Scott Morgenstern, Chris Nygren; Graduate Student Representative: Marcelo Cabarcas; Student Government Board Representative: Matthew Moore

**Dean's Office Personnel Present:** Associate Dean for Faculty Kay Brummond, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and CGS John Twynning, and Acting Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Rosemary Capo, Executive Director of Undergraduate Studies and CGS Jessica Hatherill, Executive Director of Administration Michele Montag, Administrative Coordinator Z Taylor

Dean Blee welcomed the Council members and thanked them for attending.

### 1. **Dean's Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)**

Dean Blee announced that Jonathan Woon would be the new Associate Dean for Graduate Studies beginning in January 2022. She thanked Rosemary Capo for filling this role in the interim.

Dean Blee announced an upcoming event in the Science Revealed series.

Dean Blee shared the following announcements:

- Vittorio Paolone (Physics and Astronomy) won the Panofsky Prize of the American Physical Society

- Andrew Mugler (Physics and Astronomy) and his student Michael Vennettilli won the 2022 Irwin Oppenheim Award from the American Physical Society.

Andrew also mentored an undergraduate student at Kutztown University, Caelan Brooks, who was the recipient of this year's Apker Award from the American Physical Society. This is the top US award for physics research by an undergraduate.

- The Hillman Foundation approved funding for the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory for the next 3 years (\$300,000)

- Piotr Hajlasz (Mathematics) was selected as the 2021 recipient of the Sierpinski Medal

- Associate Dean Kay Brummond (Chemistry) was elected to the Organic Syntheses Board of Directors for a five-year term

- Associate Dean Kay Brummond (Chemistry) received the 2021 American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences

### 2. **Appointment of Council Member to Serve as Vice Chair (Dean Kathleen Blee)**

Dean Blee announced the need to appoint a new Vice Chair for Dietrich School Council and asked for nominations. She noted that Adam Leibovich agreed to serve that function if so elected. Steve Meriney nominated Adam Leibovich; Robert Ruck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. **Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Acting Associate Dean Rosemary Capo)**

Graduate Council met on November 2, 2021. Acting Associate Dean Capo announced that as of January 1 2022, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research will be Jonathan Woon from the Department of Political Science. Next spring, through collaboration with the Office of the Provost and Special Events, the Dietrich School will host a Commencement Ceremony for graduate students. The graduate application fee pilot model will be evaluated

in advance of the 2022/23 admissions season. Next academic year, the Dietrich School will pilot a model for program assessment, focusing on broader departmental participation while still collecting the information needed for the Middle States Reaccreditation process. Following a request from the Office of the Provost, the Office of Graduate Studies will be collecting information on enrollment goals as part of the School's five year plan for graduate and professional programs. The revised [Dietrich School Doctoral Dissertation Committee Policy](#) was enacted on October 14, 2021.

Dean Capo emphasized to the Council the importance of focusing on graduate student mental health. She introduced Dr. Jay Darr, Director of the University Counselling Center (UCC), who summarized the [resources available to support graduate and professional students](#), including [Thrive@Pitt, Let's Talk](#), and collaborations with the [University Center for Teaching and Learning on student wellness](#). An update to the [Faculty & Staff Guide for Helping Distressed Students](#) is forthcoming. Training on how to support students is currently available through the [Mental Health Champion Certificate Program and other training offered by UCC](#). Council members discussed with Dr. Darr the importance of normalizing contacting DRS for accommodations related to mental health, language used when discussing mental health, ways to increase awareness of services and supports, and the importance of supporting Hot Metal Bridge students and other students of color. Dean Capo also introduced Chloë Glover, President of the Arts and Science Graduate Student Organization who spearheaded the development of the new grad and professional student-specific tab on the UCC website. Ms. Glover encouraged Council members to consider listening to and including graduate students in discussions regarding mental health support, as their needs and stresses can be very different from undergraduates. She indicated there are groups, such as the Care and Resource Support (CARS) Team, which don't include graduate student representation. She emphasized the need for and benefits of walk-in counselling support, both in the UCC facility and in graduate student spaces, such as the WPU graduate student lounge and departmental spaces. Council members expressed support for these concerns and volunteered to advocate for increasing the availability of resources for students.

Council voted to accept Acting Associate Dean Capo's report.

#### 4. **Report from Dietrich School Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)**

Associate Dean Twyning shared the following report from the Dietrich School Undergraduate Council.

##### **November 5, 2021**

New Certificate in Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx Studies

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a proposal from the Department of Africana Studies to create a new Certificate in Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx Studies. This proposal must proceed to Dietrich School Council and then to PACUP for final approval.

Council voted to accept Associate Dean Twyning's report.

#### 5. **Report on the College of General Studies Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)**

Associate Dean Twyning shared the following report from the College of General Studies Council.

##### **November 8, 2021**

New Disability Studies Certificate

College of General Studies Council passed a proposal to create a new Disability Studies Certificate. This proposal must proceed to Dietrich School Council and to PACUP for final approval.

New Law, Criminal Justice, and Society minor

College of General Studies Council passed a to create a new Law, Criminal Justice, and Society minor. This proposal must proceed to Dietrich School Council and to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies for final approval.

Retire Administration of Justice and Legal Studies minors

College of General Studies Council passed a to retire the Administration of Justice and Legal Studies minors. This proposal must proceed to Dietrich School Council and to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies for final approval.

Update on Liberal Studies major

College of General Studies heard an update on the status of the Liberal Studies major from Boryana Dobрева, Director of Academic Programs.

Update on Institute for Professional and Continuing Studies

College of General Studies heard an update on the status of the Institute for Professional and Continuing Studies from Antonio Quarterman, Director, Institute for Professional and Continuing Studies.

6. **Other Business**

Dean Blee addressed Council on the item of setting the date and agenda for the spring Full Faculty Meeting. The meeting concluded at 2:20 p.m.