

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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**Dietrich School Planning and Budgeting
Committee
Minutes of the November 16, 2017 Meeting**

Committee Members present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kay Brummond, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Holger Hoock, Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Research Development Adam Leibovich, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twynning, Reid Andrews, Frayda Cohen, Rachel Coombs, Kelsey Cummings, Alana Dunn, Leslie Hammond, Kristin Kanthak, Barbara Kucinski, Jeffrey Lawrence, Adriana Maguina-Ugarte, Giuseppina Mecchia, Evon Nigro, Sunil Saxena.

Committee Members not present: Shelby Brewster, Adriana Helbig.

Dietrich School Resource Personnel present: Executive Director for Financial and Physical Resources Patrick Cunningham, Administrative Coordinator Erin Golen, Director of Workforce Effectiveness Maureen Lazar, Executive Director of Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Montag, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Director of Special Projects and Initiatives Rebecca Roadman, Assistant Dean for Business and Finance Barbara Vattimo.

1. Dean's introduction (Dean Blee)

Most of the work of this committee happens during the spring semester; this is our orientation meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on April 25, 2017 were distributed and approved electronically. The minutes were moved and accepted as written.

3. Dean's Update (Dean Blee)

The state budget appropriation has passed with flat funding. The Chancellor will send a letter to the university community detailing concerns with the proposed federal budget.

We have very positive early news about undergraduate applications to the Dietrich School, which have increased over last year for both Pennsylvania and out of state residents. Applicants have a higher SAT and are more diverse.

4. The Role of the PBC (Dean Blee)

The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Planning and Budgeting Committee advises the Dean regarding budgetary matters and planning in the framework of the University's Planning and Budgeting System. We are part of the university planning and budget system. The Plan for Pitt is a five-year plan that sets the planning parameters for the university from 2016 to 2020. Our planning process will operate within the goals of The Plan for Pitt. We will update each year's planning, with this year as year one of our five-year plan.

5. The plan for Pitt Academic Years 2016-2020

Dean Blee led a review of the 6 goals in the Plan for Pitt:

- Advance Educational Excellence
- Engage in Research of Impact
- Strengthen Communities
- Promote Diversity and Inclusion
- Embrace the World
- Build Foundational Strength

6. Template for a Five-Year Strategic Plan

The template of the Five-Year Strategic Plan was reviewed.

7. Dietrich School Mission Statement

The current mission statement was presented, and will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Discussion of ambitions for new T/TS faculty positions in the Dietrich School

PBC discussed the list of desired characteristics of new T/TS faculty positions which was drafted after discussions with department chairs and the DS Council. PBC recommended that the item "Ability to strengthen other departments, through research collaborations or innovative teaching arrangements" be replaced by "Ability to strengthen and/or benefit from other departments, centers,

or interdisciplinary programs, through research collaborations or innovative teaching arrangements.”

9. SERU Data

2016 SERU data on the Dietrich School was presented and reviewed.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Dietrich School Council Minutes of the November 20, 2017 Meeting

Council Members present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean, Faculty Recruitment and Research Development Adam Leibovich (Vice Chair), Daniel Berkowitz, Marissa Bowman, Lillian Chong, Jeffrey Hildebrand, Sung Kyu Jung, Jeffrey Lawrence, Andrew Lotz, Dana Och, Suzanne Staggenborg, Sabine von Dirke.

Council Members not present: Reid Andrews, Sam Donovan, Adriana Helbig, Melanie Hughes, Lina Insana, Scott Kiesling, Nihita Manem, Sean Nonnenmacher, Becca Rohac.

Dean’s Office Personnel present: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kay Brummond, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Holger Hooch, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Administrative Coordinator Erin Golen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Executive Director of Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Montag.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on October 17, 2017

The minutes of the October 17, 2017 Dietrich School Council meeting were distributed electronically, moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean’s Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Two noteworthy accomplishments:

- Emily Elliott, Associate Professor in Geology and Environmental Science Department, received a large grant from the Heinz Endowment for her Western PA Water Challenges research project.
- Dawn Lundy Martin, Professor of English and Co-Director for the Center for African American Poetry and

Poetics, was one of 36 people nationally to receive an FY2018 Creative writing fellowship for The National Endowment of the Arts.

A reminder to please act upon the Chancellor’s e-mail request to contact your local legislators and voice your opinion of the proposed federal budget.

3. Report from Dietrich School Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twyning)

The Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising has been awarded to Dr. Russell Clark, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Summary update:

As of November 13, Undergraduate Council approved the following courses to fulfill General Education Requirements. This summary accounts for all courses approved to fulfill the new General Education Requirements.

Courses approved to fulfill General Education Requirements

- A Course in Literature: 34 courses transitioned, three courses approved (37 total)
- A Course in the Arts: Four courses approved (4 courses total)
- Creative Work: 1 course approved (1 total)
- Philosophical Thinking or Ethics: 49 courses transitioned, two courses approved (51 total)
- Historical Analysis: 19 courses transitioned, six courses approved (25 total)
- Global Issues: four courses transitioned (4 total)
- Specific Geographic Region: 17 courses transitioned, six courses approved (23 total)
- Cross-Cultural Awareness: Seven courses transitioned, six courses approved (13 total)

These courses represent a potential offering of seats in the following strength, per academic year, in General Education courses for the new requirements.

- Diversity – 1,492 seats
- Creative Work – 90 seats
- Philosophical Thinking or Ethics – 4,594 seats
- Historical Analysis – 1,389 seats
- Global Issues – 290 seats
- Specific Geographic Region – 1,125 seats
- Cross-Cultural Awareness – 1,155 seats

October 26, 2017

Revision to the Urban Studies major

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approve a revision to the Urban Studies major.

Existing courses to transition to new General Education Requirements

- o JPNSE 1023 Aspects of the Japanese Language Geographic Region
- o JPNSE 1700 Theory and Practice of Translation Cross-Cultural Awareness
- o HPS 0613 Morality and Medicine Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o HPS 1616 Artificial Intelligence and the Philosophy of Science Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o HPS 1602 Race: History, Biology, Psychology, Philosophy Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o HPS 1682 Freedom and Determinism Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o HPS 1602 / PHIL 1650 Philosophy of Biology Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o HPS 1508 Classics in History of Science Philosophical Thinking or Ethics

Batches of existing courses to transition to new General Education Requirements

- o Philosophy courses to transition to Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o PHIL 0010 Concepts of Human Nature
- o PHIL 0012 Concepts of Human Nature Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0080 Introduction to Philosophical Problems
- o PHIL 0082 Introduction to Philosophical Problems Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0200 History of Ancient Philosophy
- o PHIL 0202 History of Ancient Philosophy Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0210 History of Modern Philosophy
- o PHIL 0212 History of Modern Philosophy Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0220 Introduction to Existentialism
- o PHIL 0222 Introduction to Existentialism Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0230 Philosophy and Film
- o PHIL 0232 Philosophy and Film Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0300 Introduction to Ethics
- o PHIL 0302 Introduction to Ethics Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0320 Social Philosophy
- o PHIL 0322 Social Philosophy Writing Practicum

- o PHIL 0330 Political Philosophy
- o PHIL 0332 Political Philosophy Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0350 Philosophy and Public Issues
- o PHIL 0352 Philosophy and Public Issues Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0360 Introduction to Biomedical Ethics
- o PHIL 0362 Introduction to Biomedical Ethics Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0440 Minds and Machines
- o PHIL 0442 Minds and Machines Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0450 Theories of Knowledge and Reality
- o PHIL 0452 Theories of Knowledge and Reality Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0460 Philosophy of Mind
- o PHIL 0462 Philosophy of Mind Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0470 Philosophy of Religion
- o PHIL 0472 Philosophy of Religion Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0610 Philosophy and Science
- o PHIL 0612 Philosophy and Science Writing Practicum
- o PHIL 0850 Philosophy and Liberal Democracy
- o PHIL 1040 Aristotle
- o PHIL 1682 Freedom and Determinism
- o PHIL 1760 Religion and Rationality
- o PHIL 1762 The Guide of the Perplexed
- o PHIL 1840 Science and Religion

Existing courses to fulfill General Education Requirements

- o SWE 1615 Sweden From Vikings to Now Geographic Region
- o TURKSH 1615 Turkish Culture and Society Geographic Region
- o Cross-Cultural Awareness
- o ENGLIT 1180 Humans, Animals, Machines Literature

Batch of existing courses to fulfill General Education Requirements

- o English Literature courses to fulfill Diversity
- o ENGLIT 0365 Imagining Social Justice
- o ENGLIT 0573 Literature of the Americas
- o ENGLIT 0613 Asian American Literature
- o ENGLIT 0630 Sexuality and Representation
- o ENGLIT 1225 19th Century African American Literature
- o ENGLIT 1230 20th Century African American Literature
- o ENGLIT 1262 African American Science Fiction
- o ENGLIT 1380 World Literature in English

o ENGLIT 1382 Prized Books

November 13, 2017

Selection of the 2018 Ampco-Pittsburgh Prize for Excellence in Advising recipient
Dietrich School Undergraduate Council selected Russell J. Clark from the Department of Physics and Astronomy as the recipient of the prize.

Batches of existing courses to transition to new General Education Requirements

- o German courses to transition from Philosophy to Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o GER 1540 Nietzsche and the Nietzscheans
- o GER 1542 Marx and Marxism
- o GER 1544 Freud and the Freudians
- o German courses to transition from Foreign Culture/International – Regional to Geographic Region
- o GER 0003 Intermediate German 1
- o GER 0004 Intermediate German 2
- o GER 1204 German for Social Scientists 2
- o GER 1500 Germanic Myths, Legends, and Sagas
- o GER 1504 European Identity Between History and EU Cultural Policy
- o GER 1529 Berlin: A Divided City
- o History of Art and Architecture courses to transition from Second Course in Literature, the Arts, or Creative Expression to The Arts
- o HAA 0640 Art of Japan
- o HAA 1440 Expressionism
- o History of Art and Architecture courses to transition from Foreign Culture/International – Comparative to Cross-Cultural Awareness
- o HAA 0010 Introduction to World Art
- o HAA 0020 Introduction to Asian Art
- o HAA 0105 Art and Empire
- o HAA 0150 Ancient Art
- o HAA 0380 Art of the Spanish World: Religion, Identity, and the Art of Accommodation
- o History of Art and Architecture courses to transition from Foreign Culture/International – Regional to Geographic Region
- o HAA 0302 Renaissance Art
- o HAA 0620 Art of China
- o HAA 0640 Art of Japan
- o HAA 1110 Greek Art
- o HAA 1130 Roman Art
- o HAA 1160 Roman Architecture
- o HAA 1440 Expressionism

- o HAA 1652 Japan: Buddhist Art and Ritual
- o HAA 1656 Japan: Architecture and Performative Space

Existing courses to fulfill General Education Requirements

- o IRISH 1615 Contemporary Irish Culture and Traditions of Ireland
- o Geographic Region
- o AFRICANA 1020 West African Cultures and Society (part of Pitt in Ghana)
- o Geographic Region
- o MUSIC 1341 West African Performing Arts (part of Pitt in Ghana)
- o The Arts
- o Geographic Region
- o HAA 0018 Death in the Ancient World
- o Geographic Region
- o HAA 0030 Introduction to Modern Art
- o Historical Analysis
- o Geographic Region
- o HAA 0160 Ancient Empires
- o Historical Analysis
- o Cross-Cultural Awareness
- o HAA 0460 Art in Public: Inclusion, Identity and Activism
- o Diversity
- o The Arts
- o HAA 0470 Photography and Art
- o The Arts
- o Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- o Historical Analysis
- o HAA 0520 Art and Politics in Modern Latin America
- o Historical Analysis
- o Cross-Cultural Awareness
- o HAA 1140 Digital Roman Africa
- o The Arts
- o Creative Work
- o Historical Analysis
- o Cross-Cultural Awareness

Report of the Associate Dean was approved by vote of the Council.

4. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council
(Associate Dean Holger Hoock)

Associate Dean Holger Hoock reported that Graduate Council met on October 23, 2017.

Graduate Council received and accepted the responses to the TA/TF training practices reviews from the Departments of History and of Hispanic Languages and Literatures. A Subcommittee of Graduate Council has reviewed the TA/TF training practices in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and will report to the Council in due course.

Associate Dean Hoock introduced a discussion of the Dietrich School's commitment to expanding research opportunities for undergraduates, by engaging graduate students as mentors, with a focus on the challenges of scaling such opportunities in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Council agreed to explore best practices and potentially scalable models and to make recommendations by the end of the academic year.

Associate Dean Hoock continues to engage with graduate students at his monthly Graduate Dean's Hours, departmental fora, and A&S GSO gatherings, including on the tax-reform bill currently progressing through the U.S. Congress. The University urges students and faculty to consider expressing their opinions to their Senators and Representatives, especially about provisions that would impact Higher Education, such as the tax on graduate student tuition waivers. The website, <https://www.with.pitt.edu>, facilitates contacting elected officials.

Recognizing that intellectual vitality and diversity are inseparable, the Dietrich School fosters a diverse and inclusive environment in which graduate students thrive intellectually, professionally, and personally. In November 2017, Associate Dean Hoock co-authored with A&S GSO President Amber Griffith a response to the GSO's student survey on climate and diversity undertaken earlier in this year. Working with ODI, Title IX, and the GSO, the Dietrich School will redouble efforts to maximize the visibility of existing resources regarding discrimination, bias incidents, and how to report discrimination or a bias incident. In addition to now mandatory Title IX training for incoming graduate students in the Dietrich School, and the further training resources available through the Title IX office, enhanced Title IX training for continuing students will be a high priority.

Report of the Associate Dean was approved by vote of the Council.

5. Faculty Grants Committee vacancy

The Faculty Grants Committee had two vacancies in the humanities division. Before council meeting, bios for candidates were electronically distributed to voting council members. The new members elected to the Faculty Grants Committee are Deane Root and Jennifer Josten.

6. Discussion: Evaluating Faculty Teaching

Council discussed how we might supplement student opinions of teaching and peer observations of classrooms as measures of teaching quality. Among the ideas presented were asking faculty to articulate their teaching philosophy, involvement in teaching programs such as those offered through the Center for Teaching and Learning or departmental sessions, and efforts at teaching innovation; and guidelines for peer classroom observations and reviews of course materials and syllabi.

7. Discussion: Ambitions for New T/TS Faculty Positions in the Dietrich School

Council discussed the desired characteristics of new T/TS faculty positions and made an addition which was incorporated. [The full list was circulated to all Dietrich School faculty and staff in the December 2017 Dietrich School Bulletin.]

8. Other Business

All voting faculty will receive a notice of the opportunity to nominate themselves for open positions on Dietrich School committees. This is part of the Dietrich School's efforts to publicize opportunities for School leadership and the processes whereby School leadership positions are filled.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Dietrich School Council
Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Meeting

Council Members present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Faculty Recruitment and Research Development Adam Leibovich (Vice Chair), Daniel Berkowitz, Sam Donovan, Jeffrey Hildebrand, Melanie Hughes, Lina Insana, Scott Kiesling, Jeffrey Lawrence, Andrew Lotz, Dana Och, Sean Nonnenmacher, Becca Rohac, Suzanne Staggenborg.

Council Members not present: Reid Andrews, Marissa Bowman, Lillian Chong, Adriana Helbig, Sung Kyu Jung, Nihita Manem, Sabine von Dirke.

Dean's Office Personnel present: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kay Brummond, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Administrative Coordinator Erin Golen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Executive Director of Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Montag.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2017

The minutes of the November 20, 2017 Dietrich School Council meeting were distributed electronically, moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Four noteworthy accomplishments:

- Karen Arndt, Professor in Biological Sciences, has been named a fellow for 2017 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her contributions to biological sciences.
- Chandralekha Singh, Professor of Physics, has been named a fellow for 2017 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her contributions to physics.
- Edouard Machery, Professor of Philosophy received The Humboldt Research Award in recognition of lifetime achievements in research.
- David Pettersen, Associate Professor of French was inducted to the French Ordre des Palmes Académiques, in recognition of his contribution to the diffusion of French culture abroad.

3. Criteria for promotion to the ranks of Lecturer II and Senior Lecturer

(Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kay Brummond)
Associate Dean Brummond introduced new steps initiated by the Dean's Office to improve the transparency and communication to the NTS faculty as to the criteria for promotion from the rank of Lecturer to Lecturer II and promotion from Lecturer II to Senior Lecturer.

A web page is also dedicated to providing this information to NTS staff:

<https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/resources-nts-faculty>

A. Promotion from the rank of Lecturer II to Senior Lecturer

The criteria for promotion from the rank of Lecturer II to Senior Lecturer are as follows:

1. A title reserved for persons of considerable professional attainment, of eminence, or with recognized expertise in their fields of scholarship or in the creative arts. Renewable appointments are for five years. Evaluation and recommendation for contract renewals will be by a vote of tenured and tenure stream faculty.
2. Review for possible promotion begins at the department level. The Faculty member and the Chair of the [Primary] department should consult the "Criteria for Appointment, Evaluation, and Reappointment of Non-Tenure Stream Faculty." <https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/governance/criteria-appointment-evaluation-andreappointment-non-tenure-stream-faculty>.
3. A departmental review committee should be charged with assembling a promotion dossier.
4. Evaluation and recommendation for contract renewals will be by a vote of tenured and tenure stream faculty, and NTS faculty at the rank of Senior Lecturer.
5. The Chair should submit a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs on behalf of the department, with an appropriate supporting dossier.
6. Checklist for dossier for promotion to Senior Lecturer:
 - Cover Letter from the Departmental Chair to Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, which includes: the promotion process; internal committee recommendation and vote; faculty recommendation and vote; and chair recommendation.
 - Candidate's Current Curriculum Vita
 - Candidate's Personal Statement with respect to his/her demonstrated excellence regarding the criteria for promotion delineated above.
 - External Letters of Reference (minimum of 3 letters external from department must submit signed original)
 - Employee Record Form
 - Course Enrollment Sheets (provided by Dean's Office)
 - Departmental Committee Report (if reviewed prior to discussion by full faculty)

- Copies of annual letters of evaluation by Dept. Chair since most recent reappointment and most recent letter of reappointment.
- Teaching/Course Materials:
 - a. OMETs for all courses including summary sheets
 - b. Peer evaluation of teaching (two dept. evaluations required)
 - c. Candidate's response to peer evaluation of teaching
 - d. Selected course materials (i.e. syllabi for new courses)
- Ballots/Signature Sheet (use key coded tabulation without faculty names because candidate is allowed access to personnel files)

B. Promotion to the rank of Lecturer to Lecturer II

The criteria for promotion from the rank of Lecturer to the rank of Lecturer II are as follows:

1. A full-time faculty appointment outside the tenure stream whose duties are the same as those of Lecturer I, but who has demonstrated consistent excellence as a teacher, and, if appropriate, as an advisor, or in other assigned service to a department. Appointments are for three years, and are renewable. Evaluation and recommendation for contract renewals will be by a vote of tenured and tenure stream faculty, and NTS faculty at the rank of Senior Lecturer. Recommendation for promotion to Senior Lecturer may be made by a vote of tenured and tenure stream faculty, and NTS faculty at the rank of Senior Lecturer.

2. Review for possible promotion begins at the department level. The Faculty member and the Chair of the department should consult the "Criteria for Appointment, Evaluation, and Reappointment of Non-Tenure Stream Faculty."

<https://as.pitt.edu/faculty/governance/criteria-appointment-evaluation-and-reappointmentnon-tenure-stream-faculty>.

3. A departmental review committee should be charged with assembling a promotion dossier.

4. Evaluation and recommendation for contract renewals will be by a vote of tenured and tenure stream faculty, and NTS faculty at the rank of Lecturer II and Senior Lecturer.

5. The Chair should submit a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs on behalf of the department, with an appropriate supporting dossier by December 1.

6. Checklist for dossier for promotion to Lecturer II:

- Cover Letter from the Departmental Chair to Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, which includes: the promotion process; internal committee recommendation and vote; faculty recommendation and vote; and chair recommendation.
- Candidate's Current Curriculum Vita
- Candidate's Personal Statement with respect to his/her demonstrated excellence regarding the criteria for promotion delineated above.
- Employee Record Form
- Course Enrollment Sheets (provided by Dean's Office)
- Departmental Committee Report (if reviewed prior to discussion by full faculty)
- Copies of annual letters of evaluation by Dept. Chair since most recent reappointment and most recent letter of reappointment.
- Teaching/Course Materials
 - a. OMETs for all courses including summary sheets
 - b. Peer evaluation of teaching (two dept. evaluations required)
 - c. Candidate's response to peer evaluation of teaching
 - d. Selected course materials (ie, syllabi for new courses)
- Ballots/Signature Sheet (use key coded tabulation without faculty names because candidate is allowed access to personnel files).

4. Report from Dietrich School Undergraduate Council (Associate Dean John Twynning)

As of approvals on December 7, we have approved the following number of courses to fulfill General Education Requirements. This summary accounts for all courses approved to fulfill the new General Education Requirements.

Courses approved to fulfill General Education Requirements

- Diversity: 17 courses approved (17 total)
- A Course in Literature: 36 courses transitioned, five courses approved (37 total)
- A Course in the Arts: Four courses approved (4 total)
- Creative Work: Three courses approved (3 total)
- Philosophical Thinking or Ethics: 50 courses transitioned, two courses approved (52 total)
- Social Science: 10 courses approved (10 total)
- Historical Analysis: 20 courses transitioned, six courses approved (26 total)
- Natural Science: One course approved
- Global Issues: Five courses transitioned (5 total)

- Specific Geographic Region: 21 courses transitioned, six courses approved (27 total)
- Cross-Cultural Awareness: Eight courses transitioned, six courses approved (14 total)

These courses represent a potential offering of seats in the following strength, per academic year, in General Education courses for the new requirements.

- Diversity – 1,969 seats
- Creative Work – 1,622 seats
- Philosophical Thinking or Ethics – 4,619 seats
- Historical Analysis – 1,479 seats
- Global Issues – 430 seats
- Specific Geographic Region – 1,730 seats
- Cross-Cultural Awareness – 1,190 seats

Report of the Associate Dean was approved by vote of the Council.

5. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council
 (Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council was read by Dean Twyning on behalf of Dean Holger Hoock)

Associate Dean Holger Hoock reported that Graduate Council met on December 5, 2017. Associate Dean Hoock updated Graduate Council on the tax-reform bill, including provisions contained in various versions regarding Section 117(d)(5), the tax exclusion for graduate student tuition waivers, and on related University advocacy efforts. He further updated Council that he attended, with Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Nathan Urban and Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion Pam Connelly, an A&S GSO Town Hall on November 28, 2017, to discuss diversity, inclusion, and Title IX, professional development, and other issues concerning all graduate students. Graduate Council next discussed a draft report of the committee that had reviewed TA/TF Training in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Council also discussed a draft proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Digital Studies and Methods. Council continues to explore how to involve graduate students more widely as mentors of undergraduate research experiences, especially in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Associate Dean Hoock continues to work with programs and students on enhancing the professional and career preparation of all graduate students. To complement programming developed by departments, the School, and the University, a CFP has been issued to all graduate students for a pilot Professional Development Challenge, intended to support student-designed and student-led

projects that will contribute to the professional development of graduate students.

6. Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.