

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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Dietrich School Council Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Research Development Adam Leibovich (Vice Chair);

Elected Members: Carol Colby, Robert Ruck, Neepa Majumdar, Susan Sesack, Scott Morgenstern, Chloe Hogg, Andrew Zentner, Yolanda Covington-Ward, Valerie Oke, Svitlana Maksymenko, and Dawn McCormick; **Divisional Chair representatives:** Gayle Rogers, Diego Holstein, and Jon Rubin; Student Government Board Representatives: Tyler Viljaste and Victor So

Council Members not present: **Elected Member:** Chris Nygren; **Graduate Student Representatives:** Clara Maria Bueno Suero and Travis Court;

Dean's Office Personnel present: Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Kay Brummond, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Holger Hooek, Executive Director for Staff and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Montag, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Senior Advisor to the Dean for DEI Tara Meyer, Executive Director of Undergraduate Studies Jessica Hatherill, and Administrative Coordinator Alyson Sved.

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

1. Dean's Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee shared the following accomplishments:

- Suzanna Meyer, Instructor in the Department of Linguistics was appointed by the TESOL International Association to serve as one of three local co-chairs on the TESOL International Convention 2022. She will be joined by two other co-chairs, Linh Phung (Chatham University) and Ying Zhang (RMU). They were nominated by the regional affiliate, Three Rivers TESOL, to take on responsibilities that include recruitment of volunteers and support of volunteer teams for the

convention, which is attended by more than 6,000 participants, presenters, and exhibitors.

- Marta Lewicka, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, was named a fellow of the American Mathematical Society for the 2021 Class for her contributions to partial differential equations, calculus of variations, and continuum mechanics
- Lillian Chong, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, was recognized for her computational work with COVID19. Chong was part of a 12-member team that received the 2020 ACM Gordon Bell Special Prize for High Performance Computing Based COVID19 Research for their project "AI- Driven Multiscale Simulations Illuminate Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Dynamics".
- Colin Allen, Distinguished Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He was elected as part of the section on history and philosophy of science for "his significant contributions to philosophy of science, philosophy of biology, philosophy of cognitive science and in logic, computation and artificial intelligence."

Dean Blee offered her congratulations to the faculty and their departments.

2. Finalize Response to Assessment of Teaching Recommendations Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee asked the Council members for their feedback on the DS Council Teaching Evaluation Draft 20 Nov 2020, which was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. She directed the Council's focus to pages 2 and 3. Dean Blee explained that the draft outlines materials that candidates should assemble, in addition to their OMETS, for promotion. The goal is for candidates to submit a dossier that is thorough, appropriate, and rigorous. Dean Blee asked the Council for any final comments and shared that the document will be posted to the Dietrich School website.

The document was motioned, seconded, and approved by the Council.

3. Approve Spring Full Faculty Meeting date (Dean Kathleen Blee)

The Council voted to schedule the spring Full Faculty meeting on March 18th from 3pm-5pm.

4. Faculty Grants Committee Election (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee explained the responsibility of Council to elect the Dietrich School Faculty Grants Committee (FGC). Due to early retirement, the FGC had a vacancy for a Natural Sciences representative. The FGC is charged with distributing financial support for research projects and events to tenure- stream and tenured faculty members in the Dietrich School.

The Council voted via a Qualtrics survey to elect Vittorio Paolone from the Department of Physics and Astronomy to fill the vacancy.

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

Graduate Council met on October 22 and November 20, 2020. Associate Dean Hoock updated the Council (prior to the 11/3 elections) on resources provided by UCC, OTP, and PittVotes for graduate and professional students during the election season, holistic admissions efforts across Dietrich School graduate programs, the realignment of graduate administration staffing, and the UCGS Student Affairs Subcommittee's charge to explore diversity and anti-racism training for all graduate and professional students.

Council resumed its consideration of Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. In that context, Associate Dean Hoock updated Council further on DSAS Diversity Task Force deliberations on recruiting, admitting, and retaining underrepresented graduate students. Council emphasized the importance of fostering best practices across disciplines to render curricula more inclusive. To explore the topic of graduate instructors and pedagogical preparation during and beyond the pandemic, Council hosted Joel Brady, Teaching Consultant and the Program Supervisor for the Graduate Student Teaching Initiative at the University Center for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Brady summarized the pedagogical support UCTL has provided to graduate student instructors since spring 2020 and shared his perspective on graduate instructors' experiences under Flex@Pitt.

Council considered the importance of supporting graduate students in articulating the skills and professionally enhancing experiences accrued when teaching in hybrid and remote modalities and will continue discussions about contemporary pedagogical preparation for graduate students in spring.

Associate Dean Hoock concluded by acknowledging his appreciation for all that graduate students are navigating and accomplishing at this deeply challenging time and for all that all the graduate faculty, program leadership, graduate administrators, the team in the Office of Graduate Studies, and University support units are doing to advance the success and wellbeing of our graduate students. Associate Dean Hoock thanked Council members for their service during this demanding term and wished them a restful, safe, and healthy winter break.

Associate Dean Hoock also updated the Dietrich School Council on the transition to a new graduate admissions platform, Liaison, with significant expected improvements for applicants, programs, the Dietrich School, and the University – from a customizable and more user-friendly application interface that will also support our holistic review efforts, to marketing, tracking enrollment, and other data analytics capabilities. In the absence of a university graduate commencement event in spring 2021, the Office of Graduate Studies will consult with Graduate Council, graduate programs, and OTP on potential alternatives.

Associate Dean Hoock concluded by sharing updates from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, Humanities Engage, with which the Dietrich School expands its participation in the national movement to reimagine the Humanities PhD by deepening the intellectual and the professional preparation of all PhD students for impactful careers within and beyond the academy. Since the start of the pandemic, two dozen PhD students from across our arts and humanities programs have participated in funded curricular innovation fellowships and virtual immersive fellowships with non-profit organizations, with a strong emphasis on projects fostering social justice. For their reflections on the impact of their experiences on their graduate studies, doctoral research designs, career exploration, community building, and social justice activism, see their blog posts at: <https://www.humanitiesengage.pitt.edu/blog>.

Council voted to accept Associate Dean Hoock's report.

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

The Dietrich School Undergraduate Council met three times since the previous DS Council meeting. The report included the following individual courses:

October 9, 2020

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- HPS 0628 Paradox
 - Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- SOC 1717 Modern Taiwan: 1500-1980
 - Historical Analysis
 - Specific Geographic Region
- ANTH 1717 Modern Taiwan: 1500-1980
 - Historical Analysis
 - Specific Geographic Region

November 6, 2020

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- ENGLIT 0850 The Female Hero
 - Literature
- ANTH 0713 Asia Now (cross-listed to SOC 0713)
 - Global Issues
- SOC 0713 Asia Now (cross-listed to ANTH 0713)
 - Global Issues

November 20, 2020

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- ANTH 1706 Taiwan Diaspora (cross-listed to SOC 1706)
 - Social Science
 - Global Issues
- SOC 1706 Taiwan Diaspora (cross-listed to ANTH 1706)
 - Social Science
 - Global Issues
- CLASS 0700 Environmental Classics
 - Literature
 - Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- RELGST 1511 Yoga: Of Loincloths and Lululemon
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- CHIN 1044 The Chinese Writing System in East Asia

- (cross-listed to JPNSE 1044, KOREAN 1044, LING 1044)
 - Social Science
 - Specific Geographic Region
- JPNSE 1044 The Chinese Writing System in East Asia (cross-listed to CHIN 1044, KOREAN 1044, LING 1044)
 - Social Science
 - Specific Geographic Region
- KOREAN 1044 The Chinese Writing System in East Asia (cross-listed to CHIN 1044, JPNSE 1044, LING 1044)
 - Social Science
 - Specific Geographic Region
- LING 1044 The Chinese Writing System in East Asia (cross-listed to CHIN 1044, JPNSE 1044, KOREAN 1044)
 - Social Science
 - Specific Geographic Region
- THEA 1341 World Theatre: 500 BCE to 1640 (decertify for Literature and Historical Analysis effective fall 2021)
 - Diversity
- THEA 1342 World Theatre: 1640 to 1890 (decertify for Literature and Historical Analysis effective fall 2021)
 - Diversity
- HAA 1520 Black Built America: Architectures of Black Resistance in the United States (cross-listed to ARC 1138)
 - Diversity
 - The Arts
- ARC 1138 Black Built America: Architectures of Black Resistance in the United States (cross-listed to HAA 1520)
 - Diversity
 - The Arts
- LING 1263 Cross-Cultural Communication
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- ANTH 0730 Himalayan Geography: History, Society, and Culture
 - Specific Geographic Region
- ANTH 1798 Religion and Ecology: A Himalayan Perspective on Ethics and Diversity
 - Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- ANTH 1801 Himalayan Biodiversity: Natural History and Animal Behavior
 - Natural Science
 - Specific Geographic Region
- ENGLIT 1201 Digital Narrative and Interactive Design
 - Creative Work
- ARABIC 1635 Introduction to Modern Arabic Literature
 - Specific Geographic Region
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness

The report was motioned to accept, seconded, and approved.

7. Report from College of General Studies
(Associate Dean John Twyning)

The College of General Studies Council met on November 6th, 2020. At the meeting, Associate Dean Twyning presented an update and report on business from the last academic year. Director of Academic Programs Dobрева reported on CGS course enrollments and function. Executive Director for Undergraduate Studies and the College of General Studies Hatherill provided administrative updates.

8. Other Business

Dean Blee thanked the Council for their work during an exhausting semester. She emphasized the importance of the Council's work.

The meeting concluded at 4:30pm.