

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate Council
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council invites interested Dietrich School faculty to attend a meeting to discuss proposed revisions to the General Education Requirements. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 23, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., in the University Club, Ballroom A.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Council
Minutes from the January 19, 2016 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp (Vice Chair), Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Daniel Berkowitz, Don Bialostosky, Lisa Brush, Steven Finkel, Michael Goodhart, Adriana Helbig, Jeffrey Hildebrand, Jeffrey Newman, and Alan Sved, Lecturers Angela Athanas and Katherine Wolfe, Graduate Student Representative Ling Qing Xu, and Student Government Board Representative Alex Kash

Not in Attendance: Professors David Bartholomae, Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski, and Kay Brummond, Lecturer Milica Hayden, Graduate Student Representative Treviene Harris, and Student Government Board Representative Naomi Stoll

1. Minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2015

The draft minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2015 were distributed electronically. The minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Professor Nicholas Rescher (Philosophy) was awarded the Helmholtz Medal from the German Academy of Sciences. Distinguished Professor and

Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Kathleen Blee is the winner of the 2016 John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship of Social Movements and Collective Behavior from the Center for the Study of Social Movements at the University of Notre Dame.

The Dean provided an update on the state of the budget, reminding Council that the University still does not have an appropriation from the Commonwealth. The University is fronting state grants to undergraduates who are in-state residents and who meet family income criteria, with the intent to bill the state later. University Trustees passed an institutional budget for the year, providing guidelines to increase compensation retroactive to January 1 with an average 2% increase for faculty and for staff.

Dean Cooper provided an update regarding the status of postdocs. Postdocs are currently exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act with no overtime rights or responsibility for detailed tracking of hours worked. The Obama Administration is proposing to increase the minimum salary threshold for professional employees to be classified as exempt to \$50,400 a year. Most postdocs are funded on grants and contracts, and lead time will be needed to increase salaries to the proposed threshold, if approved, unless the faculty want postdocs to become hourly employees. The topic will be revisited later in the term if further discussion and potential action by this committee is required.

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

Associate Dean Twyning reported that Undergraduate Council has not met since the last meeting of the Dietrich School Council.

4. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Associate Dean Kathleen Blee)

Associate Dean Kathleen Blee reported that Graduate Council has not met since the last meeting of the Dietrich School Council, as it is engaged in reviewing TA/TF training in the Departments of Biological Sciences and Communications. Associate Dean Blee and Associate Dean John Twyning are working with CIDDE to develop a process for timely export of data from OMET evaluations

of graduate student teaching to departments in a format that is easily interpretable and will allow departments to evaluate subsets of the data. For example, computing mean (average) scores of student evaluations of TA/TFs in a range of recitations and labs and comparing them to scores at the School level may provide useful information for assessing student performance in the classroom, identifying problems, and providing assistance to student teachers. Associate Dean Blee will provide more guidance to Chairs by the end of the term.

The report was moved, seconded, and approved.

5. General Education Review Update (Associate Dean John Twyning)

Associate Dean Twyning reported to Council that Undergraduate Council was to meet the following day to review General Education courses and descriptions.

6. Set dates and agenda items for Full Faculty Meeting (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean presented to Council three dates as options for the Spring Full Faculty Meeting and it was decided that the meeting shall be set for Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed, moved, and accepted as presented.

7. Other Business

None.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the February 3, 2016 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Kathleen Blee, Executive Director for Financial and Physical Resources Patrick Cunningham, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Carol Colby, Adriana Helbig, Scott Morgenstern, Nathaniel Rosi, and Anne Weis, Lecturers Anthony Bledsoe and Svitlana Maksymenko, Staff Representatives Alana Dunn and Mat Romick, Graduate

Student Representatives Allison Cullen Doyle and Lindsay Taraban

Not in Attendance: Associate Dean for College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Professor Luca Rigotti, Lecturer Gretchen Bender, Staff Representative Linda Howard, and Graduate Student Representative Melissa Yang

1. Minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2016 were distributed and approved electronically. The minutes were moved and accepted as written.

2. Planning Document Benchmark Data (Dean N. John Cooper)

Benchmark data received from the Office of the Provost last week was discussed at some length. Associate Deans Kathleen Blee and John Twyning led discussion of ranking information for graduate and undergraduates programs, and Associate Dean Blee led discussion of the faculty scholarly productivity data derived from the Academic Analytics database of faculty and research universities. Other data sources discussed included the survey of undergraduate Student Experience in Research Universities (SERU), graduation data, and sponsored research expenditures.

3. Graduation Survey and Data

Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard provided graduation survey information, as provided by graduating seniors, and as requested by the Committee at the previous meeting. Dean Cooper reminded the Committee that the information provided is confidential and to be used for internal and planning purposes only. He also invited suggestions if Committee members feel that additional information or data should be included.

4. Goal 1 on Advancement of Educational Excellence Revisited (Associate Deans Kathleen Blee and John Twyning)

Associate Dean Blee shared updates on Graduate Council, which included information on the TA Optimization Project, advanced pedagogical training and certification, and faculty mentoring. She shared with the Committee that she and Dean Twyning are working with CIDDE to improve delivery and analysis of OMET surveys and scores.

Dean Twyning discussed the continued work by Undergraduate Council on adding a diversity requirement

to the General Education Requirements; GERs are a topic on the agenda for the spring Full Faculty meeting. Dean Cooper added that a special meeting of the Full Faculty can be scheduled in April if Undergraduate Council wants to prepare specific changes in the General Education Requirements. Dean Twyning also shared updates on the College in High School program.

5. Other Business

None.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the February 12, 2016 Meeting**

In Attendance: Senior Associate Dean James Knapp (Chair), Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean for College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Executive Director for Financial and Physical Resources Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Carol Colby, Adriana Helbig, Nathaniel Rosi, and Anne Weis, Lecturer Gretchen Bender, Staff Representatives Alana Dunn and Mat Romick, Graduate Student Representative Lindsay Taraban

Not in Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper, Professors Scott Morgenstern and Luca Rigotti, Lecturers Anthony Bledsoe and Svitlana Maksymenko, Staff Representative Linda Howard, and Graduate Student Representatives Allison Cullen Doyle and Melissa Yang

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2016 were distributed and approved electronically. The minutes were moved and accepted as written.

2. Goal 3: Strengthen Communities (Senior Associate Dean James Knapp)

Senior Associate Dean Knapp led an in-depth discussion of Goal 3, outlining the nine unit goals to help support Pitt's goal to strengthen communities. These goals include reinforcing the value of diversity, inclusion, and global

perspective; strengthening lifelong alumni connections; creating a supportive and productive work environment that recognizes the contributions of faculty and staff; attracting and retaining a diverse population through recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff, and students; realizing the economic and social impact through direct knowledge exchange and through collaboration; developing strategic partnerships to strengthen our global presence; enriching student experience through expanding opportunities for study abroad and by integrating global perspectives in the curriculum; and increasing our impact of research by focusing on key themes. Dean Knapp reminded the Committee to share suggestions or feedback as we continue working through the strategic planning process.

3. Goal 4: Build Foundational Strength (Senior Associate Dean James Knapp)

Time did not allow for discussion of Goal 4. To be revisited at the next meeting.

4. Other Business

None.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

**Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
Planning and Budgeting Committee
Minutes from the February 17, 2016 Meeting**

In Attendance: Dean N. John Cooper (Chair), Senior Associate Dean James Knapp, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies John Twyning, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies Kathleen Blee, Associate Dean for College of General Studies Cristina Ruggiero, Executive Director for Financial and Physical Resources Patrick Cunningham, Executive Director for Staff Personnel and Senior Assistant Dean Michele Colvard, Director of Communications Carol Mullen, Senior Administrative Officer Jessica Hatherill, Professors Carol Colby, Scott Morgenstern, Luca Rigotti, Nathaniel Rosi, and Anne Weis, Lecturers Gretchen Bender and Svitlana Maksymenko, Staff Representatives Alana Dunn and Mat Romick, Graduate Student Representatives Allison Cullen Doyle and Lindsay Taraban

Not in Attendance: Assistant Dean for Business Barbara Vattimo, Professor Adriana Helbig, Lecturer Anthony

Bledsoe, Staff Representative Linda Howard, and Graduate Student Representative Melissa Yang

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2016 were distributed and approved electronically. The minutes were moved and accepted as written.

2. Dean's Report (Dean N. John Cooper)

The Dean reported that Senior Lecturer Nancy Pfenning (Statistics) was awarded the 2016 Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Teaching. Distinguished Professor Lucy Fischer (English and Film Studies) and Associate Professor Seth Horne (Chemistry) are recipients of the 2016 Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Research. Lecturer Jenny Johnson (English) was named 2016-17 Mary MacKall Gwinn Hodder Fellow by the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University. Professor Emerita Alison Stones (History of Art and Architecture) was elected a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America. Professor Nancy Condee (Slavic Languages and Literatures) was honored with the 2015 American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Award for Distinguished Service. Assistant Professors Melissa-Evelyn Libertus and Ming-Te Wang (Psychology) were honored with the Association for Psychological Science's Rising Star designation. Associate Professor and Director of Jazz Studies Geri Allen (Music) was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Historical Album category for her co-produced album "Concert by the Sea." Andrew Mellon Professor Eric Moe (Music) won a Grammy Award in the Classical Music Producer category for his CD portfolio.

Dean Cooper updated the Committee on the state of the budget, stating that there is still no appropriation from the Commonwealth. It is likely that the state will not adopt a budget until after the April primary elections.

3. Goal 2: Engage in Research of Impact (Dean N. John Cooper)

Dean Cooper led discussion of Goal 2, outlining the three unit goals that will allow the Dietrich School to continue engaging in research of impact. A key unit goal is to identify and engage in strategic research opportunities that will support the School's impact on society, specifically expanding research in the following strategic areas: reimagining the human in the digital age, philosophy and philosophy of science, creativity and creative expression,

big data and data science, impacts of global climate change, human and social sustainability, translational material and synthetic sciences, nanoscience, brain studies, mathematical and data sciences, and holistic integrated biology. Other unit goals include participating in large research collaborations; expanding our computational capacity to meet research needs across a broad range of disciplines; and extending the impact of our research through application to practice, policy development, and commercial translation.

The Goal 2 draft was moved and accepted.

4. Goal 5: Embrace Diversity and Inclusion (Dean N. John Cooper)

Associate Dean Blee led discussion of Goal 5, outlining the unit goals to help support Pitt embrace diversity and inclusion. Unit goals include reinforcing the value of diversity and inclusion by transforming the School's climate; enriching the student experience through engagement and expanded opportunities; and helping attract and retain a diverse regional population and community through recruitment and retention.

The Goal 5 draft was moved and accepted.

5. Goal 4: Build Foundational Strength (Dean N. John Cooper)

Time did not allow for discussion of Goal 4. To be revisited at the next meeting.

6. Other Business

None.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

ERRATUM

The January 27, 2016 minutes of the Planning and Budgeting Committee meeting, agenda item 4 (Gazette Volume 47, Number 6) should read: Professor Carol Colby (Natural Sciences) will serve a three-year term and Lecturer Svitlana Maksymenko (Social Sciences) will serve a two-year term.