

The DIETRICH School of Arts & Sciences Gazette

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Dietrich School Council Minutes of the April 21, 2021 Meeting

Committee Members Present: Dean Kathleen Blee (Chair), Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Research Development Adam Leibovich (Vice Chair); Elected Members: Carol Colby, Yolanda Covington-Ward, Chloe Hogg, Svitlana Maksymenko, Dawn McCormick Scott Morgenstern, Chris Nygren, Valerie Oke, Robert Ruck, and Susan Sesack; Divisional Chair Representatives: Diego Holstein and Gayle Rogers; Graduate Student Representative: Clara Maria Bueno Suero; Student Government Board Representative: Tyler Viljaste

Council Members not present: Elected Members: Neepa Majumdar and Andrew Zentner; Divisional Chair Representative: Jon Rubin; Graduate Student Representative: Travis Court; Student Government Board Representative: Victor So

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

1. Dean's Report (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee shared the following announcements:

- Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean for Faculty Kay Brummond received the 2021 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. The award included \$10,000 in grant support to the Department of Chemistry to use for their Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).
- Professor and Chair of Mathematics Jonathan Rubin was elected to the 2021 class of SIAM Fellows.

- Professor of Africana Studies Christel Temple's book *Black Cultural Mythology* has won the 2021 College Language Association's (CLA) Book Award.
- Associate Professor of History Keisha Blain was awarded a prestigious fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, New Jersey. IAS is one of the world's leading centers for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry.
- Professor of Psychology, Ming-Te Wang was awarded the Distinguished Research Award for Human Development and Learning from the American Educational Research Association (AERA). The award recognizes scholars who strive to improve the educational process through scholarly inquiry and dissemination of research results. Wang received the award for a series of three meta-analytic articles on parental ethnic-racial socialization and youth of color's developmental outcomes.
- Mark Farino, undergraduate student of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Department of Mathematics, is one of two University of Pittsburgh students who have been named recipients of the 2021 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, which support outstanding students who are pursuing careers in the fields of engineering, mathematics and the natural sciences.
- Alumni, Rebecca Skloot (A&S '08) has been selected by the Chancellor as a 2021 Honorary Degree Recipient.

2. Nominating Committee (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Dean Blee reminded the Council members of their charge to nominate faculty to serve on the Nominating Committee. The election for this committee will be held at the Fall 2021 Full Faculty Meeting. Alyson Sved will email the Council members with more information.

3. Faculty Grants Committee Election (Dean Kathleen Blee)

Council voted to elect Drew Armstrong, Department of History of Art and Architecture, as the Humanities representative and Keila Grinberg, Department of History, and Robert Hayden, Department of Anthropology, as the Social Sciences representatives for three-year terms on the Faculty Grants Committee.

4. Setting Agenda for Fall 2021 Full Faculty Meeting (Dean Kathleen Blee)

The Council members shared thoughts on potential agenda items for the Fall 2021 Full Faculty Meeting. They agreed that the agenda will include the following items: update on diversity efforts, new budget model, lessons from the pandemic, test optional admissions, update on faculty hiring, accessible technology, and a welcome back reception with a special segment welcoming new faculty who were hired in the fall of 2021 and 2020.

5. Update on Dietrich School diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts (Senior Advisor to the Dean for Diversity Equity and Inclusion Tara Meyer)

Senior Advisor Meyer presented a preliminary copy of a report created by the Diversity Task Force last fall. The task force, which included faculty, staff, students, and administrators, recommended a set of DEI priorities to the Dean. These priorities are informing current initiatives and efforts in the Dietrich School. More details will be provided, and progress reported to next year's Council.

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

Associate Dean Twynning shared the following reports from the Undergraduate Council meetings:

Revision to the Film and Media Studies major

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Film and Media Studies Program to modify the Film and Media Studies major.

Revision to the Africana Studies major

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Department of Africana Studies to modify the Africana Studies major for a two-year period. It requests a review of the internship requirement in academic year 2023.

Revision to the Africana Studies minor

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Department of Africana Studies to modify the Africana Studies minor.

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New Urban Planning and Geographic Analysis major

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Urban Studies Program to create a new BS in Urban Planning and Geographic Analysis. This proposal must proceed to Dietrich School Council and then to PACUP for final approval.

Revise the Museum Studies major

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Department of History of Art and Architecture to revise the Museum Studies major.

Revise the Museum Studies minor

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council approved a motion from the Department of History of Art and Architecture to revise the Museum Studies minor.

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- HAA 0042 / ARC 0180 World Cities
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- HAA 1027 / ARC 1340 Heritage Sites
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- SPAN 1480 US Latinx Cultural Studies
 - Literature
- LEGLST 0200 / LCJS 0200 Race, Class, Gender, and the Law
 - Diversity
 - Historical Analysis

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Algebra requirement

Dietrich School Undergraduate Council agreed to allow completion of Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, or Calculus in high school with a grade of B or better to meet the Algebra requirement for a pilot period of one year.

Individual courses to fulfill new General Education Requirements

- ENGFLM 1533 / FMST 1533 Disability in Film and Television
 - Diversity
 - The Arts
- HAA 0065 The Viral Image
 - The Arts
- HAA 1011 / ARC 1182 Pittsburgh Neighborhoods
 - Diversity
- ITAL 0085 / FMST 0303 Italian Cinema Icons
 - The Arts
 - Specific Geographic Region
- THEA 1102 Acting 1
 - Creative Work
- ENGLIT 0717 The Fairy Tradition and Fairy Tales
 - Literature
- LEGLST 1700 / LCJS 1700 Ethics of Criminal Justice
 - Philosophical Thinking or Ethics
- HIST 1753 The Ottoman Empire
 - Historical Analysis
 - Specific Geographic Region
 - Cross-Cultural Awareness
- SLAV 1320 / SOC 1312 Pittsburgh, Diaspora, Migration: Slavic and East European Communities
 - Specific Geographic Region

Council voted to accept Associate Dean Twynning's report.

7. Report on the College of General Studies Council (Associate Dean John Twynning)

Associate Dean Twynning shared the following report from the College of General Studies Council:

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Bylaw revisions

Associate Dean Twynning introduced the existing bylaws and opened discussion of membership. The College of General Studies Council approved Associate Dean Twynning to proceed with revisions to clarify the membership of the council. The revised bylaws follow.

April 2021 Proposed Revision

The College of General Studies Council works with the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and

the College of General Studies in reviewing matters of curricula and instructional programs, degree and certificate requirements, and assessment and review of academic programs. The College of General Studies Council serves as the council of initial jurisdiction regarding grading regulations, policy decisions, and other academic matters in the College of General Studies. The College of General Studies Council shall report its actions to Dietrich School Council through the Associate Dean and may refer any academic matter to Dietrich School Council for decision.

The College of General Studies Council consists of:

- the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the College of General Studies, who shall preside
- two (2) appointed CGS faculty members
- two (2) elected faculty members from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, with one (1) tenured/tenure-stream member and one (1) appointment stream member
- two (2) CGS students appointed by the College of General Studies Student Government
- relevant faculty from across the University appointed as needed by the Associate Dean.
- Ex-officio members are:
 - the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and the College of General Studies, who shall preside as previously noted
 - the Executive Director for Undergraduate Studies and the College of General Studies
 - the Director of Academic Program for the College of General Studies
 - the Director of the Institute for Professional and Continuing Studies
 - College of General Studies Program Directors.

Create HLTHSV subject code

The College of General Studies Council approved a proposal to create a new HLTHSV subject code to identify courses for the Health Services major.

Student Awards and Recognition

Executive Director Hatherill reported on the creation of a committee to review student awards and recognition. Associate Dean Twynning highlighted the range of student accomplishments and his desire to see a broader range of

students recognized. He invited council members to submit ideas and comments.

8. Report from Dietrich School Graduate Council (Associate Dean Adam Leibovich)

Associate Dean Leibovich shared the report from the Dietrich School Graduate Council, which was prepared by Associate Dean Hoock.

Graduate Council met on March 19 and April 14, 2021. Associate Dean Hoock celebrated recent accomplishments by DSAS graduate faculty and students: Chris Bonneau, Political Science: Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award; Tia-Lynn Ashman, Biological Sciences, and Bob Batterman, Philosophy: Provost's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring; Morgan Pierce, Ph.D. student in History: President-elect, GPSG.

Three Dietrich School graduate students were awarded fellowships from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP): Elijah Hall in Geology and Environmental Science, Karen Y Peralta Martinez, Biological Sciences, and Sara Jaramillo in Psychology. Honorable Mentions: Emily Biermann, Physics and Astronomy; Kayla Komondor, Rachael Kramp, and Madeline Torres, Biological Sciences.

Two DSAS Ph.D. candidates have been awarded Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships for AY22: Samuel Boateng, Music, and Jennifer Farquhar, Anthropology.

The Dietrich School's Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring has been awarded to Dr. Michelle Granshaw, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Theatre Arts (tenured category) and Dr. Rachel Bezanson, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy (untentured category).

Council joined Associate Dean Hoock in congratulating all awardees on their outstanding accomplishments.

Associate Dean Hoock updated Council on the Pitt Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition; graduate fellowships and graduate support as a priority area in the Big DIG (<https://www.thebigdig.pitt.edu/big-dig-videos/Fellowships>); ongoing collaboration between the

DSAS Office of Graduate Studies and the WISE GSO to advance the success of women graduate students; the Dietrich School's commitment to the Hot Metal Bridge program in a constrained budgetary environment; the in-person graduate commencement ceremony for five graduate and professional schools, including DSAS, planned for April 29, 2021 in addition to any virtual events being planned by departments and programs; ongoing efforts at the school and university levels to consider additional summer opportunities for graduate students, including those about to complete their Ph.D. and as yet without immediate positions this summer or fall, such as on- and off-campus internships; the forthcoming Plan for Pitt that will emphasize elevating the University's graduate and professional offerings; and the Dietrich School's increasingly central participation in national conversations on doctoral education, including via an ACLS Design Workshop for a New Academy, where Associate Dean Hoock will lead a team to represent Pitt as one of six universities nationally this spring.

Associate Dean Hoock drew Council's attention to University statements on Anti-Asian Racism and OEDI's community-sourced directory of resources to support antiracism efforts.

Assistant Dean Capo updated the Council on the efforts of the UCGS Graduate Procedures Subcommittee charged with making recommendations on the use of Individual Development Plans and annual mentoring meetings for graduate and professional students.

Associate Dean Hoock introduced a further discussion of the pivot from pandemic crisis response to recovery and renewal at this inflection point in graduate education. He invited Council to consider lessons from the cascading crises of 2020, including fragilities and vulnerabilities exposed by the pandemic, surprising successes and gains to be retained, and major compromises or losses that we will wish to rebuild from.

Members of Council suggested a variety of issues, including the need for more strategic approaches in doctoral education, evaluating program viability and scale, opportunities for selective growth, master's instead of

doctoral-level training, and potential for interdisciplinary programs.

In successive meetings, Council discussed experiences with remote dissertation defenses over the past year with a view to reviewing the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Policy. Members emphasized the benefits of enabling remote access for broader publics and of flexibility regarding remote participation, especially for outside committee members not resident in or near Pittsburgh, especially in terms of enhancing the ability of students to recruit prominent outside scholars to their committees as well as budgets and sustainability.

The current policy already permits the remote participation of non-Pitt, external members in both the dissertation overview and the defense. A potential review of the doctoral dissertation committee policy will want to be grounded in the multi-layered rationale of the defense. The ability to navigate hybrid modalities and environments in academic and non-academic settings will be a crucial competency for all doctoral students irrespective of their specific career aspirations. Some universities now also require or recommend that PhD candidates submit a brief video in which they summarize their research and its significance for a non-specialist audience.

Aspects of the policy might be adapted to enable greater flexibility of remote participation by committee members. The overview could potentially be permitted to occur fully remotely; for the defense at least the in-person requirements for faculty committee members other than the chair might be relaxed further. Council will revisit this topic with a view to adjusting the policy at the start of AY22.

Associate Dean Hoock thanked all members of Council for their service throughout a tumultuous year.

The Council voted to approve Associate Dean Hoock's report.

9. Other Business

Dean Blee thanked the Council members for their service on the Dietrich School Council and the meeting concluded at 5 p.m.