

**General Council Meeting**

Tuesday February 14, 2017

# Dining Room, O’Hara Student Center

# 5:00 – 6:00pm

# AGENDA

**General Meeting**

1. **Call to Order 5:00 pm**
2. **Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2017 General Council Meeting**
3. **Additions to Agenda**
4. **Executive Board Reports**
   1. President's Report: Amber Griffith (asg56@pitt.edu)
   2. Vice President's Report: Kenrick Fernandes (kenrick@cs.pitt.edu)
   3. Faculty Advisor’s Statement: Asst. Dean Tara Meyer (tara.meyer@pitt.edu)
   4. Administrative Assistant's Report: Allison Gremba (asgso@pitt.edu)
   5. Social/Programs Coordinator: Allison Gremba (asgso@pitt.edu)
   6. Website/Communication: Kenrick Fernandes (kenrick@cs.pitt.edu)
5. **Internal Committees**
   1. GPSG: Sean Nonnemacher, Sebastian Garaycoa, Kenrick Fernandes
   2. Grad Expo: Allison Gremba, Hety Wong
   3. Teaching Awards: Andrea Maxwell- report included
   4. Summer Research Grant: Hety Wong- report included
   5. GSO Policy and Sexual Assault: Kenrick Fernandes
   6. Diversity and Inclusion: Amber Griffith
   7. Ad hoc Grad Student Union: George Borg, Caitlin Schoering, Chie Togami- no report
6. **A&S Committees**
   1. A&S Council: Michael Rerick, Charles Lwanga
   2. A&S PBC: Shane Redman, Hety Wong, Lana Sims- report included
   3. A&S Grad Council: Amoja Bajaj, Marlissa Amole, Diego Villada, Hector Rodriguez, Jennifer Boum Make- report included
7. **Old or Unfinished Business**
8. **New Business**
   1. Graduate student peer mentoring
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

**Teaching Awards**

Applications are coming in, still seeking volunteers for judging.

**Summer Research Grant**

The Summer Research Grant Committee had a meeting on 1/25 (Wed). Announcements have been sent out to director of graduate studies, administrative assistants, and graduate student representatives of each department. The committee also looks into putting the announcement in Pitt News and TV screens in WPU for promotion. Both the grant application and recruitment of faculty and graduate student judges are open. The deadline of the grant application this year is 3/31 (Fri). The committee has six members: Hei Ting Wong (Chair), Sagnika Chanda, Joshua Graber, Alicia Grosso, Amy Karabowicz, and Lu-Han Li.

**PBC**

We've had 2 PBC meetings since the last GSO meeting. The first meeting was Thursday, February 2nd.  At this meeting Dean Cooper first discussed the impact of and concerns regarding the president's immigration ban.  The effect of the ban on recruitment of students and faculty is being monitored closely.  Graduate students with questions or concerns regarding the ban should contact Dean Blee's office.

Dean Cooper then walked through 2 of the 6 goals for Plan for Pitt and how the Dietrich school's strategic plan maps onto these goals, as well as the metrics used to determine progress in each area.  The first goal was "Advancing Educational Excellence" and the second goal was "Research of Impact".  Both drafts were approved by the committee.

The second meeting was Wednesday, February 8th.  Dean Cooper first announced some awards that have been given to alumni of Pitt in various fields.

He then walked through 3 of the 6 goals for Plan for Pitt and how the Dietrich school's strategic plan maps onto these goals, as well as the metrics used to determine progress in each area.  The goals discussed in this meeting were "Strengthen Communities", "Promote Diversity & Inclusion", and "Foundational Strength".  All three drafts were approved by the committee.

We have one more meeting next week to go over the last remaining goal regarding the Plan for Pitt.  Once that is approved, everything will be finalized and presented to the body responsible for implementing the Plan for Pitt.

**A&S Grad Council**

We discussed a proposed new Ph.D. program in European Cultural Studies (ECS) with two faculty members who had been developing the proposal:  Professors Randall Halle (German & Film Studies) and John Lyon (German).  Philippa Carter, the Graduate Studies Director of Academic Affairs, attended as an observer. We did not take a vote on the ECS proposal at the meeting; rather, our goal was to identify any problems or concerns that should be addressed before the proposal is brought forward for a vote, and indeed, we made some points about the document and the implications of the ECS program in the context of our university.