

**General Council Meeting**

Monday February 15, 2016

# Dining Room A, William Pitt Union

# 5:00 – 6:00pm

# AGENDA

**General Meeting**

1. **Call to Order 5:00 pm**
2. **Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2016 General Council Meeting**
3. **Additions to Agenda**
4. **Executive Board Reports**
   1. President's Report: Dominique Johnson (ddj6)
   2. Vice President's Report: Erin Pfeil-McCullough (ekp9)
   3. Faculty Advisor’s Statement: Asst. Dean Linda Rinaman
      1. No report
   4. Administrative Assistant's Report: Allison Cullen Doyle (asgso)
   5. Social/Programs Coordinator: Shane Redman (smredman1@gmail.com)
      1. Carrie Benson, Med, ​Title IX Specialist, ​Office of Diversity and Inclusion
   6. Website/Communication: Kenrick Fernandes (kof3)
5. **Internal Committees**
   1. GPSG: No report; meeting today
   2. Grad Expo: Erin Pfeil-McCullough (ekp9)
   3. Teaching Awards: Delphine Monserrat (drm74)
   4. Peer Professionalization Workshop: Matthew Hadado (mjh145)
   5. Summer Research Grant: Elizabeth Hildreth (aeh77): no report
   6. GSO Policy: Dominique Johnson (ddj6)
   7. Diversity and Inclusion: Dominique Johnson (ddj6)
6. **A&S Committees**
   1. A&S Council: Attached
   2. A&S PBC: Allison Cullen Doyle (apc22)
   3. A&S Grad Council: Shane Redman, Political Science (smr105); Wil Upchurch, Communication (wil.upchurch@gmail.com); Mathew Kesterke, Anthropology (mjk109); Amoja Bajaj, Psychology (amb311); Marlissa Amole, Psychology (mca31)
7. **Old or Unfinished Business**
8. **New Business**
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

Dietrich School Council Meeting:

1. Deans Report included list of faculty awards. Most notable Terrance Hayes from English has a book being considered for the National Book Circle Critic's Award; Nancy Condee from Slavic  received AATSEEL award for distinguished service; Lucy Fisher from Film received Chancellor's Senior Research Award.

Dean also mentioned there is still no allocated funds for commonwealth appropriation.  They don't expect to hear anything about further developments until after the April primaries. Dean mentioned this is a complicated time to try and address this issue as across the university we are in the middle of recruiting season.

2. Don Bialostosky gave a report on the Year of the Humanities events in progress. There are over 120 events approved and we can view a list of upcoming events at [humanities.pitt.edu](http://humanities.pitt.edu)

3. AD Twyning from Undergrad Council reported the introduction of a new FILM course designator under which all film related courses will now be cross-listed.

Also, there is a review of pedagogical techniques that can be employed to address the writing in natural sciences initiatives as outlined by the College Writing Board.

Last UG Council meeting reviewed how to include a Diversity requirement into GenEd courses. Students reps at the meeting explained why they want a diversity requirement and that it should have "real world" relevance. The idea is to have diversity concerns "built-in" to courses where students get to address issues of structural inequalities. Course that qualify as Diversity GenEd classes would be designated with a D similar to writing classes coded with a W. There is as yet a rollout date as to when these changed will be available in enrollment procedures.

4. AD Blee reported that request for pedagogical training for biosciences and communications grad TAs were approved.

Also, sub committee on faculty mentoring reviewed results from Grad student survey and will be convening focus groups of grad students to gather preliminary information that will be used to develop a mentoring handbook. This handbook will be used as a "go to" for grad students and grad faculty for details on mentoring relationship expectations, etc.

AD Blee mentioned that there is a move to adopt a Holistic File Review from grad school applicants, an approach that is already being used for the Med school. This approach she says will create a more inclusive admission review process where instead of looking at a small group of indicators (GPA, GRE) a more qualitative criteria will be looked at. She mentioned academic, research experience, and persistence or commitment as indicators. The last of these three criteria will be addressed in personal statement essay that are built into the essay prompts posted on application website. This new proposed review system will allow Pitt to be more transparent with prospective grad students about what the school defines as a metric for success in grad programs.

5. No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 205pm.