

## October Committees Report

Committee	University Research Council
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Alexandria Harris
<b>Representative Email</b>	ALH236@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	September 5, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>The meeting started off with introductions and quickly moved on to new ethics board guidelines for conflict of interest. There wasn't much time spent on this, just an approval vote after they had worked on the guidelines over the summer.</p> <p>The new policy is #11-01-03.</p> <p>There are new Bayh-Dole compliance requirements (trademark provisions) with the change occurring in April. They are going to discuss how to move forward on these changes. This may impact the most students and researchers at the university since it defines how the school handles ownership of new ideas.</p> <p><b>Upcoming projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New intellectual property laws - they didn't go into this much since the meeting was running late.</li> <li>○ Drone research - Currently there are no rules regarding the research, but federal laws exist. They propose to have university policy on drone flights and research reflect the FBI laws. Some of these include not flying within 5 miles of an airport or helipad and not flying over large crowds. One way around the airport restriction is to build a large enclosure for the research (like a large net). No specific plans were decided.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	October 19,2018

Committee	Plant Utilization & Planning
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Sami Mian
<b>Representative Email</b>	SAM415@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 22, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>We discussed all of the new building renovations and construction plans for the next 30 years, starting with new developments to the REC center.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 19, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>University Council on Graduate Studies</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Kaitlin Powers
<b>Representative Email</b>	KEP60@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 23, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two subcommittees were created: <b>Diversity and Inclusion</b>, and <b>Regulations</b> Governing Master's Programs. Committee members signed up to be on either committee.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion about the use of GRE scores in Pitt applications.</b> Ellen Ansell discussed survey results from the University Senate and found that GREs are required for many programs, but the importance of the scores are low and that eliminating them would not be problematic. She recommends a university-wide ad hoc committee to further examine this. John Horn from the School of Medicine also presented and said that most of the Med School's competitors do not require GRE scores so they did not this year.</li> <li>• A proposal for a Law School Online Post-Bac Certification in Human Resources Law was voted on and approved.</li> <li>• We heard about the School of Engineering's accelerated BS/MS program as an example of upcoming proposals we will hear later.</li> <li>• <b>There was a discussion regarding Graduate Certificates and there was an approval of text that allows for "double dipping" (if somebody is taking credits for a graduate program, those credits can also count towards their certificate) and that at least 10 credits need to be from Pitt.</b></li> <li>• Pitt Commons, a personalized education online platform, is launching this fall. Students can sign up at commons.pitt.edu</li> <li>• <b>Announcements:</b> AAU data on graduate stipends is available (Pitt falls in the middle); <b>Graduate Commencement will be on the Thursday before undergrad's and next year they will explore changing to the Monday after;</b> November 1 is a Mental Health Panel for Graduate Students; the initial phase of Unionization occurred a few weeks ago; there have been changes to the Tuition Incentive Program</li> </ul>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 20, 2018

Committee	Library
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Michelle Ozaeta
<b>Representative Email</b>	MGO11@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 4, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting really just gave a broad overview of the three main libraries - what they are currently dealing with as well as interesting things on the horizon.</li> <li>• The medical library as well as the building that hosts the medical school is currently having some work done on it and completely new additions to the building are expected within the next few years.</li> <li>• They also discussed how their librarians are some of the best in the country.</li> <li>• The main library is also having some work done to it. The 4th floor is now complete and work on the 3rd floor will begin soon. They have also expressed interest in expanding a program geared towards undergraduate research by potentially having graduate students serve as mentors.</li> <li>• They also wanted to show us an annex where the library stores its extra books, but we decided to schedule it for one of the next meetings.</li> <li>• Finally, we heard from the law library. Apparently, enrollment for law schools has diminished across the country and Pitt is no exception to this. The law library frequently finds itself understaffed.</li> <li>• Space in the library is often cannibalized to make room for more offices for professors and staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	Sometime in November

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Sexual Assault Task Force</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Courtney Laughlin
<b>Representative Email</b>	COL36@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 15, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>Meeting began having all members introduce themselves and involvement with the task force. Kate then disclosed the AAU <b>Campus Climate Survey</b> which focus on graduate/ undergraduate understanding of resources and safety in regards to sexual assault, anticipated launch date will be 2/11. <b>They are requesting assistance of GSPG and other graduate organizations to help market this survey.</b> Ideal date to begin marketing the survey is in November, the committee will be able to provide all written prompts for posts or newsletters.</p> <p><b>Upcoming:</b> the <b>Frick Fine Arts is having an art gallery opening called " This is not ideal"</b>. The gallery will focus on the gender stereotypes and beauty-standers throughout history, any marketing would be appreciated. The opening is 10/23 and organizers are open to co-hosting an event that day with another student organization.</p> <p>In April IFC is looking to hold a " healthy Masculinity" event and <b>are looking for ideas of speakers outside the "norm" of society.</b> Kate also touched on the campus receiving feedback on the current policy of mandated reporter to report beyond acts of sexual assault but also oppression.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 5, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Equity, Inclusion, Anti-Discrimination, &amp; Advocacy</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Emily Transue
<b>Representative Email</b>	EMTmt59@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 18, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>Spent the majority of the meeting discussing a report generated by a subgroup of the committee regarding <b>GRE scores for graduate admissions.</b> Conducted a survey on the use at various departments at the university and moved to make a recommendation to generate an ad-hoc <b>committee to make more specific Holistic Review recommendations for policy university-wide.</b></p> <p>Some final edits will be made to the document before submission to Nathan Urban for a UCGS (University Council for Graduate Studies) Meeting.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 15, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Computer Usage</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Marua McCall
<b>Representative Email</b>	mccallm@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 19, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed wireless traffic in residence halls (there is a CSSD group who monitors problems).</li> <li>• Spam filtering quarantining retention will increase to 30 days as of October 28.</li> <li>• LastPass password keeper will soon be ready for testing.</li> <li>• Student Technology focus group begins to meet monthly in November.</li> <li>• Dr. Roskies discussed the <b>Center for Research Computing</b>. The tagline is: if it's too big to run on your laptop, consider using the CRC. It is free, and you need a faculty to sponsor you.</li> <li>• Dr. Babichenko discussed mobile app deployment and game hosting and publishing at Pitt. More to come in future meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 16, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Task Force</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Jacob A. Garcia
<b>Representative Email</b>	JAG292@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 26, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>The ATOD Taskforce meeting started off with greetings and introduction. Invited speaker and former Pitt football player, Joey DelSardo, visited the Taskforce to discuss his journey with addiction. Specifically, he addressed how young men cope with addiction and masculinity. <b>Next, it was announced that the Health and Wellness will have a permanent drug take-back disposal box.</b> Lastly, each member gave a brief update on their sector.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 9, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Senate Research Committee</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Beverly Conrique
<b>Representative Email</b>	bconrique@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 26, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p><b>First</b> we discussed research compliance and meeting common rule from institutional review board to protect human subjects, including consent, exempt review, committee review, etc. to ensure researchers in compliance with research ethics as science changes. George Huber and his associates have been working on an annual report addressing these issues in their annual report.</p> <p><b>Second</b>, we talked about National Science Foundation (NSF) funding re: change in the regulatory apparatus at NSF which requires institutions to report to NSF to report for individuals who are PIs any institutional findings or actions associated with harassment (as it relates to the broader Title IX language) and findings. Actions for how Title IX cases are managed and investigated have gotten us into legal compliance through centralization with this new NSF rule so that institutional reporters can report accurate case information to NSF. Individuals who were alleged to have done something and are under investigation are not reported. Only individuals who have been found to have committed something only are reported.</p> <p>Policy at NSF moved forward this last Friday, Oct 19, but no insight has been reached into how NSF will use any information pertaining to this decision (i.e., will reported PI not receive funding, etc). Title IX coordinator Katie Pope was in attendance and clarified that decisions at NSF do not necessarily have to align with the institution's decision (i.e., if someone is found guilty of having harassed and Pitt puts someone on administrative leave, no known impact of this at NSF). The thought of a centralized system that documents all misconduct has been considered, and ways to create it were discussed by comparing with other institutions to explore how they go about this process.</p> <p><b>Third</b>, discussion on how policies are originated and how others can propose a policy in a standardized framework so that committees can receive those policies and work to implement them.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 30, 2018

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Benefits and Welfare</b>
<b>GPSG Student Representative</b>	Michelle Ozaeta
<b>Representative Email</b>	MGO11@pitt.edu
<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 24, 2018
<b>Meeting Summary</b>	<p>For the most part, the biggest topic discussed was the idea of <b>unionization at the school</b>. Though the graduate student unionization efforts were touched upon briefly, they mostly talked about a potential faculty union.</p> <p>The group was rather divided about whether or not unionization was a good thing as some felt that the current process (which includes bringing up concerns at university senate meetings) already did everything a union did while allowing individuals to make their voices heard. Others pointed out that very few people actually take advantage of this system (it's a mission to get people to serve on boards and committees apparently) and that a union had the potential to make it easier for issues to be raised. They had a man there who specialized in union law discussing how such a union could work at the school. Afterwards, one of the professors who was antiunion discussed how the current system works and how complicated unionization would make everything. Ultimately, <b>the opinion in the room was very mixed</b>.</p> <p>After that discussion, the <b>topic of whether or not Pitt should officially declare itself a smoke-free campus</b> came up. Once again, the <b>room was divided over the best course of action</b>, with some claiming that such a measure was a good step for the school to take while others claimed that it was ridiculous because the school wasn't enforcing its already existing no smoking policy. The final decision was to wait for a final copy of the proposed policy before they decided whether or not to support it.</p>
<b>Next Scheduled Meeting</b>	November 28, 2018