

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Michael Spring.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:02 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2015 Senate Council Meeting</u> No changes were submitted.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No new items were raised.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p>The Chancellor talked about the upcoming graduation ceremony. The speaker is Charles Bolden from NASA. He served in the US Marine Corps and worked at the US Naval Academy, and was asked by the President to run NASA. He is currently the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We will present him an Honorary Degree in Public Service. It should be an inspirational set of remarks.</p> <p>This past weekend, alumni engagement was at its height with an Alumni Engagement Weekend. It was a focus group for 15 alumni, graduates from Pitt within the last 15 years, on helping us to increasing engagement. We will repeat this event with additional alumni. On May 5th, we will be hosting an event with the Office of Civil Rights (part of US Department of Education) regarding handling and investigating Title IX complaints on college campuses. We have more than 200 registrations, and more are welcomed. We are the hosts for this region. There is a new Diversity Council established by our students that is comprised of 22 different organizations across campus life, including the Black Action Society, the Campus Women’s Organization, and the Rainbow Alliance to name a few. Diversity on college campuses is at the forefront across the nation. Students at Pitt have adopted the mentality of fostering inclusion and preventing events before they occur.</p> <p>The national awards and recognitions of scholarships are exciting. We have two Goldwater Scholars (Juniors) awarded for their research; these Scholarships recognize students in engineering, mathematics and natural sciences. These two students are Pitt’s 44th and 45th winners since the award’s inception. Two Pitt students were awarded the Humanity in Action Fellowship Awards for 2015. The Udall Undergraduate Scholarship was awarded (one of 50 in the nation) in research and environmental studies this year; this is our 8th such scholarship. We also had two runners-up with Honorable Mention designations this year. This scholarship recognizes sophomores and juniors for their leadership, public service, and commitment to the advancement of American Indian Nations or the environment.</p> <p>Communities and businesses also are getting recognitions. Pitt was the highest ranking corporation in the region in the Forbes Magazine “500 Best Employers” for this year. Pitt was ranked 91 nationally, 15th among any universities, 1st in the region, and 4th in the state. The Health Sciences Programs, School of Nursing, and Nurse Anesthesiology Programs were recognized by US News and World Report. Pitt was designated an innovation core (“Icore”) site by the National Science Foundation. Pitt’s Innovation Institute was launched in November 2013. NSF funds awarded will go to 30 innovation teams at Pitt for their entrepreneurship, commercialization, and discovery. Pitt was named as a Beckman Scholar</p>	<p>No questions were raised.</p>

Program institution from the Arnold Mabel Beckman Foundation, for the 4th time is its history. These three-year institutional grants award students for careers in Life Sciences, and supports faculty-supervised independent student research projects. Monies of \$156,000 will be divided among 6 undergraduate scholars. The 2015 Chancellor’s Distinguished Awards were distributed this year in Teaching (5 faculty), Public Service (2 faculty), and Research (5 faculty). The distinguished faculty were honored with a celebration. The Bellet Teaching Excellence Award was given to two honorees; these awards are recommended by students. The Randall Big Idea contest was held on April 2nd at the O’Hara Student Center, with over 100 teams participating. A total of 35 interdisciplinary teams were in the finals participating in this contest. Student athletes are continuing to succeed. A total of 120 senior student athletes were recognized from our teams and groups; with the Blue Gold Award going to one male and one female: Tyler Wilps [wrestling] and Brianna Kiesel [basketball]. This is for academics and athletics.

A new Pitt Business Dean has been named for the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business: Arjang Assad. He has over 20 years of experience and comes to us from the University of Buffalo (SUNY). Carey Balaban will be stepping down as Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs, and he will return to School of Medicine. He was thanked for his service and leadership. Cliff Brubaker, Dean of School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, will be stepping down. He was recognized for increasing enrollment and increasing research funding.

News from Pitt Bradford has announced a milestone in their capital campaign to celebrate their 50th anniversary. They raised \$20 million in a multi-year project, including donations from over 4,000 donors. This has led to 81 new scholarships, 3 new buildings, and the new Chapel.

Report of Senate President, Michael B. Spring

- **Regarding the 2015 Senate Elections** – elections end at midnight tonight. Please vote if you have not already done so.
- **Regarding the my.pitt.edu Portal** –The Senate Computer Usage Committee has been discussing the matter of including access to UMPC data and Retirement account data under the single sign-on (SSO) umbrella. The committee was told by CSSD that they are unable, or unwilling, to make access to UPMC or retirement information an option. Given the technological limitations raised by CSSD, the SCUC moves that the issue of SSO and federated access to sensitive information including retirement accounts and medical information be returned to discussion of the benefits and welfare committee in conjunction with the SCUC and that a global policy on these issues be reconsidered and potentially amended to consider the technical issues raised.
- **Regarding University Travel** – The Provost has proposed changes in the University’s travel policy that would increase requirements for reporting travel abroad by faculty and students. The Executive committee endorsed the changes and raised the matter for an Assembly vote last week. After discussion, the matter was tabled until the May Faculty Assembly meeting. During the last week, 18 faculty have commented on the policy with the majority opposing the change. President Spring will be sharing the comments with the Provost. Provost Beeson may wish to provide clarification related to some points that were raised, and President Spring noted that he is still supportive of the policy change and it will be brought back to Assembly for an

No questions were raised.

<p>endorsement at our May meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Regarding the Standing Committees of the Senate – Today we will hear of three changes that have been reviewed and voted upon by the Faculty Assembly. The formation of a Standing Committee on Research and the merger of the Admissions and Financial Aid and Student Affairs Committees were unanimously endorsed. The vote on the dissolution of the University Press Committee passed with a vote of 34 in Favor and 2 opposed, with 7 abstentions. This vote was a reaction to the 6-3 vote by the Standing committee suggesting dissolution and reformation as a Provost Appointed committee. The Provost has considered the matter and agreed to form such a committee should the Senate vote to dissolve the committee. After discussion with committee members, the concerns some have had have been satisfied by the Provost’s agreement to form a committee. Usually, the University Press Advisory and Oversight Committees at other institutions are normally appointed by the Chief Academic Officer and are not Senate Committees. The motions to Council will be presented for consideration under reports of the Standing Committees. President Spring thanked Dr. Thomas Smitherman for his extraordinary efforts in working through all the details of this reorganization. Without his efforts and those of the other officers, it would not have been possible to accomplish this reorganization this year.</p> <p>Regarding Research Initiatives, Faculty Assembly discussed suggestions about policy issues appropriate for the new Research Committee. Michael Goodhart placed the open letter to Chancellor Gallagher, which was reprinted in the University Times last week, on the floor for consideration by the new Standing Committee on Research. Thomas Hales placed a motion on the floor suggesting that the University examine its emerging policies in the area of commercialization in light of AAUP publications and policy recommendations in this area. Should the Senate Council approve the new Standing Committee on Research, these documents will be transmitted to the Research Committee for their consideration. President Spring also has transmitted these two documents to Provost Beeson for dissemination to existing groups in research.</p> <p>Regarding Senate Standing Committee Elections – Committee elections will begin this week. Dr. Smitherman and the Committee on Elections have done a great job of finding people to serve on the various committees. Most notably, they were able to secure a group of 18 individuals willing to serve on the new Senate Research Committee if you approve its formation. The Committee was thanked for their hard work on these Committees, especially with the proposed Committee changes.</p> 	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council</u></p> <p><u>College of Graduate Studies:</u> Kimberly O’Connor, President Julie Helgert, incoming President</p> <p>Julie Helgert has been sworn in as the new President, as well as new council members. The CGS continues to seek student leaders to grow council. Sherry Miller-Brown is retiring in the end of May. She has been the Director of the McCarl Center, as well as held other administrative positions. She will continue to teach “Mastering the University” and in the</p>	<p>No questions were raised.</p>

Public Service department.

Regarding activities, the CGS held their Open House on 3/18. There were 78 students, both graduate and undergraduate, in attendance and 40 new applications. A total of 15 students attended the first annual Career Networking Event on 3/25. It was said the informality was beneficial to students, as they felt more comfortable. Students were given the opportunity to meet with potential employers and the informal “meet and greet” atmosphere encouraged students to be more confident in their search for work after graduation. They are revising their constitution and by-laws. They have been re-submitted and will be examined for approval, hopefully, by Fall. The Excellence Reception was held on 4/17. The entire advising staff won awards, as well as professors and staff members. It was a wonderful way for alumni, faculty and students to relax and enjoy good food and good company. They continue to search for new ways to serve the community and should begin working with Nobel Hour in the Fall to afford our students service opportunities that fit a student’s busy schedule. They are in the process of reviving Lambda Alpha Epsilon, a national Criminal Justice fraternity, for our Legal Studies and Administration of Justice students.

Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG):

David Gau, President

David noted that this is the last time he will report at Senate Council. With the end of the semester coming and National Graduate Student Appreciation week in the middle, March to April is one of the busiest times for GPSG. On March 27th, the GPSG held their Spring Formal themed Seven Deadly Sins at the Omni Penn Hotel. Perhaps one of the best parts of the event was a photo booth which was heavily used throughout the event. April 6 – 12 this year was National Graduate Student Appreciation week. Throughout the week, many events were held including fitness classes on Monday (Zumba, Hip Hop Aerobics, Yoga, Self Defense), paint night on Tuesday (painting Pitt and a paw; and a Pittsburgh Starry Night), Laser Tag on Thursday, hosting the Northeast National Association for Graduate and Professional Students on Friday/Saturday, a comedy show at the Arcade Comedy Theater on Saturday, and finally ending with our joint TEDx event on Sunday with SGB. The diverse programming efforts this year has allowed us to reach a unique attendance of just over 15% of the 10,000 graduate students here at Pitt. This is an improvement from the past couple years and demonstrates that our efforts to reach a broader student population is making headway.

This time of year is also award season for graduate students. First, the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program is a very prestigious fellowship awarded to 2000 applicants each year. Pitt this year had 14 winners and 10 honorable mentions. Natalie Austin (ChemE), Jenna Dziki (BioE), Maritza Jimenez (BioE), Carly Sombric (BioE), Elyse Stachler (CivE), Colin Wright (Biol), Nicolas Pabon (CompBiol), Travis Mavrich (Biol), Kimberly Lockwood (Psych), and Nicole Forrester (Biol) were all graduate student winners. There were also 2 graduate student Fulbright awardees: Lauren Cirrincione (Pharm) and Jonathan Sherry (History). The Foundation for Global Scholars has also awarded Pitt medical student Arpan Prabhu with the Global Changemaker Legacy award this past month.

David reflected on the accomplishments of the GPSG council over the past two years. He noted that in these two years, “we developed an environment, a foundation, for a graduate community. We showed incoming graduate students the opportunities and resources available through the newly developed University-wide Graduate and Professional Student Orientation (which as a reminder, last year we had about 500 attendees from across the 14 graduate schools). We shared our stories and Pitt experience with these students as well

with the newly developed Pitt Trailblazers which this year we gave 115 tours to prospective students and also gave tours to special visiting groups like representatives from Bloomsburg University learning about how Student Affairs works here at Pitt.” Aside from social programming to bridge the gap between the graduate silos, they also helped graduate students develop networks and tools to help them with their career and professional development. These can be seen in the development of the “Panthers and Politics” series where students learn about federal policy and how they can help develop such policies. They helped provide feedback for the creation of the Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development, which will in the next few months have their website up and running. A centralized calendar for all career/professional development events on campus will soon be advertised. The website will track sign-ups and attendance for graduate students. This software will fill in the Individual Development Program (IDP) that graduate students funded by NIH must complete. They also hosted recently a “Versatile PhD” career panel, STEM edition, which brought in professionals like Hank Safferstein, Executive-in-Residence from Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse, Cetin Mericli, Senior Robotics Engineer from the National Robotics Engineering Center at CMU, Megan Bowers, Patent Agent at Pepper Hamilton, and Philip Stone, Lead Engineer at GE Energy Power Conversion. All of the panelists have PhDs from a STEM field and found themselves working outside of the academics and each with their own stories on how they found that career.

David noted that they have done a lot in the past 2 years but their job is far from done. He noted that he is extremely proud to be a member of this community, of this University. There are just under 10,000 graduate and professional students here at Pitt, and for the most part, each of these students enter into their program and vanish into that school. The graduate and professional schools are expected to take care of their graduate students. Our theme next year is “Pitt Pride.” That’s not to say there are no resources on the University level to help these students, there are a lot of resources here, but the path to find help is not always clear. Some schools and programs help their students well, some programs need help. He noted that as a community, we all need to be aware that the graduate student experience varies a lot based on the program they are in. What has been established these past two years is to make sure graduate students have the tools and knowledge of what they have available to them here. They want graduate students to have that sense of *Pitt Pride* when they finish. Graduate students are the people who are working on cutting-edge research alongside faculty members and will become the next generation of our society from scientists to entrepreneurs. What we’ve started and helped develop for graduate students is a good start, but much more can be done. Communication (14 graduate schools and roughly 10,000 graduate students), sense of belonging and integration, and professional development will be three important areas to further develop and our next president, Joe Kozak, has already started thinking about these areas.

Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC):

Rich Colwell, President
Lindsay Rodzicz, Program Administrator

Officer terms end in June and elections are underway for the five officers. During the May 13th closed meeting, the presidential nominees will be interviewed. In May at Senate Council, the SAC will provide a summary of their past two-year terms.

The SAC next Brown Bag event is Monday, April 27, 2015, in the William Pitt Union, with John Kozar, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Benefits. He will be presenting content on medical benefits. Registration for the event can be completed on the SAC website at <http://www.sac.pitt.edu>. The Spring Assembly Development event is happening on May 19th.

No questions were raised.

<p>This will be in the William Pitt Union from 11:30-3:30pm, and the keynote speaker is Chancellor Gallagher. The annual Pitt Kennywood day is 87 days away, and is on Sunday, July 19th. Tickets are available and activities are many. SAC has been expanding its social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. As part of Administrative Professional Appreciation Week, SAC recognized all of the amazing Administrative Professionals who support our university.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees</u></p> <p>Motions for Reorganization of Standing Committees <i>Professor Michael Spring</i></p> <p><i>A handout was provided with the language of the three draft resolutions. President Spring briefly summarized the resolutions and asked for a vote separately for each item.</i></p> <p><u><i>Resolution #1: Creation of a Senate Standing Research Committee</i></u> Ongoing work has identified the need for a Senate Research Committee. The work of the Committee will complement the existing University Research Council. President Spring asked for any questions: None were raised. Unanimous vote in support.</p> <p><u><i>Resolution #2: Merging Admissions/Student Aid and Student Affairs Committees</i></u> Both committees have concurred that merger provides a reasonable portfolio. For a period of time, there will be more than 9 elected members so all current members of both committees can continue to serve. President Spring asked for any questions: None were raised. Unanimous vote in support.</p> <p><u><i>Resolution #3: Dissolution of the University Press Committee</i></u> The Senate Committee on the University Press has been integral in advising and reviewing manuscripts; their work is confidential in nature. After much discussion, the Press, the University, and the faculty have determined that the work of the Press Committee would be better served by moving the Committee out of Senate requirements and into a Provost's Committee. There was a 6-3 vote in favor months ago, and now all are in favor, if the Provost will handle this. This is in line with the rest of Universities across the country. Pitt is the only university with their Press Committee functioning as Senate Committee. Other institutions have it function as a Provost Office Committee.</p> <p>President Spring asked for any questions: None were raised. There were 2 opposed to the resolution; all the rest in favor.</p>	<p>The three resolutions passed as written.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p> <p>No issues were raised.</p>	<p>No issues were raised.</p>
<p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>No issues were raised.</p>
<p><u>Adjournment:</u></p> <p>President Spring adjourned the meeting.</p>	<p>Adjournment at 4:00 pm.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Skledar, RPh, MPH, FASHP
Senate Secretary
Associate Professor of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy
Department of Pharmacy & Therapeutics

Members attending:

Beeson, Colwell, Fort, Frieze, Gaddy, Gallagher, Gau, Goodhart, Groark, Hughes, Humphrey, Juhl, Kear, Levine, Molinaro, O'Connor, Poloyac, Ramicone, Richey, Rodzwick, Rosen, Savinov, Savoia, Skledar, Smith, Smitherman, Spring, Supowitz, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Alarcon, Ataa, Brubach, Buchanich, Caldwell, Cauley, Clark, Dewar, Erickson, Gibson, Green, Harun, Hravnak, Karp, Kearns, Kory, Lewicka, Lin, McKinney, Meyer, Miller, Mulcahy, Munro, Murphy, Nisnevich, Novy, Ramsey, Ritter, Shafiq, Smolinski, Sukits, Weinberg

*Excused attendance:

Burkoff, Fusco, Kovacs, Morel

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Bonner, Kracht, Meislik, Mohamed, Sahani, Service, Walker, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office