

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Posvar Hall
April 1, 2014

Topic/Discussion	Action
Call to Order. President Spring called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.	
Approval of the Minutes President Spring asked for approval of the minutes of the Faculty Assembly meeting of February 18, 2014.	Minutes approved as written.
Introduction of Items of New Business. President Spring asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward. Three items were added and included in the President’s report. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online speech policy 2. Middle States Revision 3. Senate Plenary 	
Report of the President. Senate Plenary. The Senate Plenary “The Research University in the Age of Digital Information” took place on March 19 th . Less than 100 people were in attendance. Thanks to faculty who attended and to speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chandralekha Singh, Physics and Astronomy, • Cynthia Lance-Jones, Neurobiology, • Peter Brusilovsky, Information Science and Technology, • Tony Gaskew, Criminal Justice Program, • David Birnbaum, Chair, Slavic Languages, • Heidi Donovan, Acute and Tertiary Care, Nursing, • Christian Schunn, Psychology, Intelligent Systems Program, Learning Science and Policy, LRDC. We hope this exposition will inform the processes of supporting new approaches to instruction, research, and entrepreneurship as well as other aspects of University operation. The plenary may be accessed through mediasite http://mediasite.cidde.pitt.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=370680d8bd6d4054ad1f552ca30e159a The username and password are stored on the senate portal – my.pitt.edu. ➤ Next Senate Plenary , while a final decision will need to be made once Senate elections are over, I have been in contact with several individuals who have expressed an interest in research data and data management. The Director of the Libraries Rush Miller who has agreed to help organize a plenary on research data management and access. Ken Jordan from the Simulation and Modeling Center has also expressed an interest in the topic. I have little doubt that there are a number of faculty and offices that would share an interest. It is difficult for the Senate Officers to focus on a Fall Plenary given all the things they need to do, especially if they are new. I know that I would welcome help and I suspect that whoever the officers will be next year might welcome help in conducting a Fall Plenary. The Senate bylaws specify that we should have at least one Plenary a year. I would think that it might be possible to schedule two next year. ➤ Senate Elections , I would remind you that they begin this Friday. After	

much internal debate I decided I would run again and am very pleased that Alex Vieira of dental medicine will provide a strong and clear alternative. The vice presidential candidates are James T. Becker of medicine and Irene H. Frieze of arts and sciences. Susan Skledar, pharmacy running unopposed for secretary.

➤ **Ad hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Stream Faculty.** The committee is continuing a grueling schedule gathering data and examples from across campus. I urge you to avail yourself the new Senate website on which are mounted the minutes, agenda and meeting schedule of this committee as well as all the standing committees. I am expecting an interim report from the committee in May.

➤ **Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics,** The Faculty Assembly motion to endorse the recommendation from the Senate Athletics Committee to decline the request from COIA was passed unanimously by senate council. I have issued a letter to COIA from the senate that declines support for their proposal based on the strength of our current involvement but that endorses their general goals. In part I said:

[The SAC] reviewed the proposal from COIA for the creation of a Senate Athletics Representative and recommended to the Faculty Assembly that we not support it. (Unanimously, with one abstention.) In coming to their decision, the Senate Athletics Committee reviewed the history of the COIA efforts and while we are supportive of efforts to make sure that faculty have a voice in the conduct of athletics, we feel that the faculty voice through the Senate at Pitt is clear and respected. ...

We will continue to monitor the situation at our own institution as well as that at other institutions across the nation. We laud your efforts and will continue to work here at Pitt to insure the integrity of our efforts.

➤ **Scholarly publications,** we have no new information to share at this time on how we might implement a plan that would provide better continuity of communications with individuals listed as corresponding authors on published papers.

➤ **Manual of Operations for Cases to T AFC.** I have no new information to share and will be reviewing it with the current T AFC chairs and others in the very near future.

➤ **Middle States Standards,** A special Steering Committee appointed by the Commission has been working to revise the 14 accreditation standards. This process has included “listening sessions” with higher education leaders from across the country, Town Halls throughout the Middle States region, and a presentation at the Commission’s Annual Conference. The result has been the development of a draft containing seven accreditation standards. The draft was shared electronically in mid-December. More information can be found on the Senate Website on the tabbed material on the home page. The revised standards can be found on the MSCHE website at:

<http://www.msche.org/documents/characteristicsdraft120913.pdf>

The Pittsburgh town hall meeting took place on March 27. Vice Provost Manfredi who attended the meeting, could not be here today, but in a note he said in part: *I plan to report [to SEPC] on the Middle States town hall that I attended on March 21 in their April meeting (scheduled for April 21.) I will be collecting comments on*

the draft, for consideration for a possible submission to the Commission, most likely in May.

For the most part, I find the changes to be an improvement on the accreditation process. ... If the Senate has any comments on the proposed new standards, please send them to me.

In a discussion with Vice Provost Manfredi we talked about some of the new compliance regulations coming from the Federal government which will likely also have an impact on how we are evaluated and assessed. SCEP will consider the matter at their next meeting, and I would invite those of you who are so inclined to review the relevant documents and send me and Juan Manfredi in the Provost's office any comments you might have.

➤ **Policy on Online Speech**, there is an evolving discussion about faculty commentary online and in digital form. We have posted a couple stories from the Chronicle of Higher Education on the Senate website to solicit faculty opinion. The TAFC has agreed to put this item on their agenda and I would like to solicit your preliminary thoughts on the matter today.

Special Presentation by Athletics Department

Justin Acierno, Assistant Athletic Director, Ticket Sales and Operations

Dan Bartholomae, Associate Athletic Director, Compliance and Sport Services

2013-14 Season Review

- Pitt's 125th football season
- Second season in the ACC
- 6 football student-athletes from Pitt were names to the Academic All-ACC Team (2nd highest in the conference).
- Football placed in top 30% of Division I in NCAA's Academic Performance Ranking.
 - Strong upward trend which will continue in 2014 as academic profile rises.
- Student-Athletes completed over 3000 hours of community service; Football recognized by mayor's office with a proclamation for their commitment to community service.
- Other Sports:
 - Men's Basketball places highest amount of student-athletes on Academic All-ACC Team; Cameron Wright recognized as ACC Scholar Athlete of the Year.
 - Pitt student-athletes granted 3 Post-Graduate Scholarships by ACC.

2014 Home Opponents

- Delaware, Iowa, Akron, Virginia Tech, Duke, Georgia Tech, Syracuse

Employee Benefits

- 20% Discount on Season Tickets
 - Up to \$68 off per ticket
 - Tickets starting as low as \$80
- Payroll Deduction Payment Plan
 - Season tickets

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mini packages - VIP Training Camp Experience <p><u>2014 Ticket Packages</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Season tickets packages: same seats, can purchase parking pass 2. Three game mini package: choose any 3 games 3. Single game tickets: on sale now <p><u>Corporate Ticket Packages</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pricing structure 2. Internal Corporate package: only available to university department; no donation is required; use for development, constituents <p>Contact Information 1800-643-7488 tickets@athletics.pitt.edu Pittsburghpanthers.com/facultyandstaff</p> <p>Sukits: As Pitt Business School faculty, I am proud of students who received athletics scholarships, are we tracking athletes after they graduate. Bartholomae: Through our varsity letter club, we are tracking our students athletes. Nationally, college athletics has not done a good job at discussing the success of the student athletes. This is a priority going forward for Pitt. Smitherman: congratulation on the scholarship of our Pitt student athletics. Are the basketball tickets sold out?</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p> <p>Committee shown Senate website on the screen. <u>Middle State Standards Revision (7 slides)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Mission and goals</u> 2. <u>Ethics an integrity</u> 3. <u>Student learning opportunities</u> 4. <u>Support of student experience</u> 5. <u>Educational effectiveness assessment</u> 6. <u>Planning, resources, and institutional improvement</u> <p>Munro: all standards focus on the educational mission with no focus on research Spring: focus on education Baker: doesn't it focus on undergraduate Balaban: it would be a good idea to have the Provost office provide information Novy: Provost said that everything was good except for transparency Balaban: included under Standard VI Tananis: what was the impetus for the change? Spring: the institution spends a year preparing for a 4 day visit. ...I think that there is simplicity for preparation. Focused on education rather than governance or management. I feel that it is critical importance that we should be knowledgeable about what is going on.</p>	

<p>“Online Speech Policy Discussion”</p> <p>Spring: scary incidents that occurred and were featured in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Last year, there was discussion in Education Policy Committee about taping of classes. T AFC has agreed to put this item on their agenda.</p> <p>Spring: should the Senate be pro-active in response to these issues?</p> <p>Kovacs: this is already on the agenda for T AFC; form a special subcommittee; legal implications, many issues to be addressed; if others are interested, please attend the meeting.</p> <p>Goodhart: big mistake if we start making policies. Precise way to answer, resist worries of lawyers, faculty should not be censored.</p> <p>Smitherman: there are indeed existing policies; align social media with existing policies in Faculty handbook on proper ways to discuss university affairs with the media. We should begin to look at those again.</p> <p>Balaban: We have university statement on use of University affiliation. This should be reviewed to determine if it covers social media and if anything else is needed. The issue is when can you has a faculty member use your University title.</p> <p>Munro: I don’t think it’s OK for faculty to say anything they want. There are limits to what professor can do...this should be addressed also.</p> <p>Sukits: important to have all the freedom of speech and we must know our audience. It’s really their fault.</p> <p>Spring: Please review what is posted regarding this issue on the Senate website. Send information to Maria Kovacs as the T AFC will be reviewing this issue. We don’t want an adhoc policy imposed upon the policy after the fact.</p>	
<p><u>Adjournment.</u></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned</p>

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Senate Secretary

Members attending:

Aggelou, Alarcon, Alexander, Atai, Baker, Bircher, Butterworth, Clark, Cohen, Costantino, de Montmollin, Fort, Frank, Frieze, Goodhart, Groark, Hravnak, Hughes, Jackson-Foster, Kovacs, Lewicka, Lyon, Molinaro, Morel, Munro, Neft, Nisnevich, Novy, Poloyac, Ramsey, Riccelli, Skledar, Slimick, Smith, Smitherman, Song, Spring, Sukits, Tananis, Vieira, Weinberg, White, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Ansell, Caldwell, Chiarulli, Clermont, Daley, Fusco, Gibson, Gleason, Gold, Jones, Karp, Leers, Lin, Lunsford, Majumdar, Mauk, McKinney, McLaughlin, Mulcahy, Nelson, Savinov, Smolinski, Tisherman, Weiss

*Excused attendance:

Beck, Buchanich, Burkoff, Cauley, Chase, Erickson, Flynn, Gaddy, Irrgang, Kear, Labrinidis, Miller, Savun, Shafiq, Withiam

Others attending:

Acierno, Balaban, Bartholomae, Fedele Oltmanns

* Notified Senate Office