

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
April 9, 2014

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u> President Spring called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:02 PM</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the, March Senate Council Meeting</u> President Spring asked for approval of the minutes</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> None</p>	
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Mark Nordenberg</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ close to end of academic year but things are not slowing down <p><u>Student News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emily Crabb (junior with double major computer engineering & physics) as 2014 Goldwater Scholar, highest form of national recognition for undergraduate student studying science, math or engineering, 42nd winner at Pitt since 1995. Honorable mention to Andrew Abboud (biological sciences & religious studies), Angela Beck (bioengineering), Alexandre Gauthier (physics) ➤ Undergraduate Student Leaders sponsored student leader’s conference last Labor Day weekend. Last week Pitt hosted a conference that is part of ACC academic agenda: ACC 9th annual “Meeting of the Minds” conference: showcased 109 student researchers from 15 conference schools, 8 Pitt student made presentations in neuroscience, biology, studio arts, psychology, nursing, political science. Many people deserve credit for helping with it but Vice Provost Juan Manfredi was the driving force. This is an example of the academic benefits of Pitt being a part of the ACC. <p><u>Faculty News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 assistant professors from Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences received 2014 Sloan fellowships: Marlene Cohen, neuroscience; Sergey Frolov, physics and astronomy; and Michael Neilan, mathematics. Sloan Fellowships are awarded to early career faculty based on independent research accomplishments, creativity, and the potential to become leaders within their own disciplines. When our more junior faculty members earn these types of awards, it’s a sign that the pipeline of talent continues to flow strongly here at Pitt. <p><u>Continue to attract important external support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$3.5M grant from DSF charitable foundation to support work of new brain institute; Monies from the grant will be used for development of effective drug treatment for neuro degenerative diseases and new imaging technology called high definition fiber tracking for traumatic brain injury, including those suffered by military ➤ \$2M NIH renewal grant for ongoing work of Patrick Moore and Yuan Chang, who have received numerous internal and external awards. They have identified 2 of 7 identified cancer causing viruses in the world and they are pressing forward with that work. <p><u>University</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ranked 22 among all universities in the world, 18th among US universities, 8th among US public universities for the quality and quantity of its scholarly publications; this particular study published annually since 2009 and produced by Academic Performance Research Laboratory in Turkey, part of a trend toward globalization of comparative rankings. We are in very good company in most of the rankings. ➤ Pitt day in Harrisburg: 300 students, faculty, staff, and alumni advocating for higher 	

<p>education; higher levels of funding for the University of Pittsburgh. Has been a very effective and personal way to get the University of Pittsburgh message across.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ University and United Way teamed up for Good Neighbor Day; Pitt students, staff, and faculty working at 13 different locations around Oakland for light landscaping, painting, and cleanup. United Way Day of Caring, Pitt Make a Difference Day, Good Neighbor Day, these days of voluntary community service occurring in good weather months, we should be proud of these initiatives. ➤ Two students, Joshua Yoskosky and Joe Fogiato, honored by Pittsburgh City Council for heroism that they showed when they entered a burning building and pulled an elderly neighbor to safety. City council declared Josh and Joe day in Pittsburgh. ➤ Chancellor elect: Excellence In Public Policy Award for efforts to advance national cyber security at annual RSA conference in California. It is a mark of distinction reflecting well on Pitt, since he is a former graduate and Chancellor elect. He is working hard since he is transitioning out of two important jobs in DC, COO of Department of Commerce and Director of NIST. We are in regular contact and moving forward, every exchange we have leaves me feeling better about him as a person, I am sure he will do a great job. ➤ Commencement in 2014 is a milestone event, another good year for Pitt and thank you for your contributions. 	
<p>Report of Faculty Senate President, Michael Spring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last evening Chancellor Nordenberg received the Elsie Hillman Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service, at an event held at the Carnegie Music Hall. ➤ Senate Plenary. The Senate Plenary “The Research University in the Age of Digital Information” took place on March 19th. I was disappointed that less than 100 people were in attendance. Your colleagues did a spectacular job. <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. <p>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. While it is hard, dare I say impossible, to surprise Chancellor Nordenberg, I am pleased that we generally kept it a secret that I had invited Provost Emeritus Maher to introduce him. If you listen to no other part of the senate plenary, which can be accessed through the Senate Website, I urge you to listen to Professor Maher’s brief but heartfelt introduction.</p> ➤ Senate Elections: I would remind you that they are currently underway. After much internal debate I decided to run again and am very pleased that Alex Vieira of dental medicine will provide a strong a clear alternative. The vice presidential candidates are James T. Becker of medicine and Irene H. Frieze of arts and sciences. Susan Skledar of pharmacy is running unopposed for secretary. ➤ 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 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.

➤ 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 and I am aware that Professor Frieze and the committee have developed a set of recommendations for our consideration as well as a mapping of those issues to various standing committees

➤ Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics: 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.

➤ Middle States Standards: A special Steering Committee appointed by the Commission has been working to revise the 14 accreditation standards. A draft was shared electronically in mid-December. More information can be found on the Senate Website on the tabbed material on the home page including reference to the revised standards. Vice Provost Manfredi, who is coordinating the Pitt response will report to SEPC at their next meeting scheduled for April 21. In a note to me he indicated:

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. We have been using the Senate Website to solicit opinions and discussed the matter in what turned out to be a spirited exchange at Faculty Assembly. The TAFC had a meeting earlier this week in which they discussed the matter and agreed to form a subcommittee to review policy and make recommendations. I encourage those of you interested to visit the Senate website and share your thoughts.

<p><u>Report of SGB (Michael Nites)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3 resignations in board due to differences in expectations; replacement have been chosen; continuing to work on our project ➤ March 18 attended Pitt Day in Harrisburg; students met with legislators and their staff ➤ 4 of leadership at ACC lobbying day held in Washington, DC to attract additional funding for higher education especially ACC schools ➤ Decrease the number of water bottles sold on campus ➤ Revising the allocations manual ➤ Recreation committee; conducting a survey of student, summarize results and improve recreation ➤ Student tobacco ➤ Green the quad <p>College of General Studies, Brady McCormick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ March 22 student leadership dinner at the PAA, discussion with several talented speakers ➤ Excellence reception this Friday for student, faculty and staff ➤ Recap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mentoring program ○ More successful events in quantity and quality ○ Expand reach of organization and positive experience with social media ➤ Travis Ritter will take over in May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McCormick will be working in Maryland for the Transportation Authority Police Department <p><u>Report of GPSG (Report given by Mitali Patil)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GPSG held its elections in the past month and I'm pleased to announce the new executive board: President (Dave Gau, Swanson), VP of Committees (Mitali Patil, Swanson), VP of Communications (Ravi Choudhuri, GSPH), VP of Programming (Jessica Brubach, GSPIA), and VP of Finance (James Dalton, Katz). ➤ While the semester is coming to an end, we have not slowed down with our goals. We have been working with various schools to pilot a "Dean's Hour" event similar to that which Dean Humphrey hosts but for each school. The idea is to bring together the students of the school at least once a year (if they do not do this regularly already) to meet with the dean and other students in their program. ➤ Some schools have taken their own initiative to build a community with other schools such as a recent networking event between Public Health, Social Work, and GSPIA. ➤ In sync with this community initiative, we will be hosting the 2nd Graduate and Professional Student Orientation on August 18th, 2-5 pm, at the O'Hara Student Center and open to all graduate and professional students in collaboration with the Office of International Services, the Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development, and the Post Doctoral Association which includes an informal marketplace with all University, community, and student organization resources located in one place. The Trailblazers will also be offering campus tours during the session. Speaking of campus tours, we have fulfilled over 40 tour requests this semester from GSPH, Katz, Swanson, Dietrich, IS, Education, and Social Work. We are still a very small volunteer organization with about 8 members but are hoping to expand in the coming academic year. ➤ Attended the AAU/AAAS CASE Advocacy Workshop along with Nathan Glasgow from Neuroscience. The purpose of the workshop was to educate young scientists on the importance of advocating for science and how to do that successfully. We met with the chief of staff Cliff Shannon and Dahlia Sokolov from the majority and minority Science & 	
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<p>Technology Committee and had very productive conversations about the status of research funding and the overarching budget issues in the US.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We also had the honor of meeting with Congressman Doyle. ○ Decided that we need to continue this effort year round and will be forming a public policy student organization in the next few weeks. ○ There are many graduate students who are interested in science policy; this will be a great opportunity to bring our voices together. <p>➤ Our Spring Formal is coming up this weekend. We have just about 600 students joining us on the Gateway Clipper for the themed formal “Pirates of the Monongahela”.</p> <p>➤ We will be in the process of transitioning; I will be able to present to you all the GPSG 2013-14 reports at the next Senate Council Meeting and a brief overview of our goals and initiatives for the 2014-15 year.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Rich Colwell</u></p> <p>➤ 2 SAC officer participated in Pitt’s Day at Harrisburg....asked to increase funding for higher education.</p> <p>➤ Spring assembly, focus on technology, Jinx Walton was presenter</p> <p>➤ April 17, medical benefits brown bag lunch</p> <p>➤ In light of events at Franklin Regional, each department can arrange how to handle a shooter with the Pitt Police</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business</u></p>	
<p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 4:01 PM</p>	

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

Members attending:

Abboud, Beeson, Butterworth, Colwell, Costantino, de Montmollin, Flynn, Frank, Frieze, Humphrey, Juhl, Klein, Lyon, McCormick, Meyer, Molinaro, Nites, Nordenberg, Ramicone, Rosen, Skledar, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Song, Spring, Tananis, Withers

Members not attending:

Burkoff, Caldwell, Cauley, Chiarulli, Clark, Clermont, Erickson, Gibson, Gleason, Hughes, Karp, Kory, Lewicka, Majumdar, McKinney, Mulcahy, Munro, Neft, Nisnevich, Slimick, Smolinski, Tisherman, Vieira, Wilson

*Excused attendance:

Beck, Cochran, Gaddy, Gau, Levine, Lipschultz, Lunsford, Rodzwick, Savun, Shafiq, Sukits, Supowitz

Others attending:

Balaban, Clark, Frisch, Harding, Moore, Oltmanns, Patil, Ritter

*Notified Senate Office