

**Senate Council Meeting Minutes**  
**2700 Posvar Hall**  
February 27, 2013

<b>Topic/Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b><u>Call to Order.</u></b>  President Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM</p>	<p>Meeting commenced at 3:05 PM</p>
<p><b><u>Approval of the Minutes.</u></b>  President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes of the January 2013 Senate Council Meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p><b><u>Report of Chancellor Mark Nordenberg</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Flurry of state-related activities: February 1 university representatives were asked to stand with the Governor as he revealed his budget</li> <li>➤ Also with the House of Representatives when Governor delivered budget address, recommending flat funding of higher education and emphasized the need to keep tuition increases to a minimum</li> <li>➤ Pitt Day in Harrisburg: advocates came from Pittsburgh and all of our campuses and created University bonding; great turnout; elective officials were very impressed with presentation made for increased funding of higher education</li> <li>➤ 2 days ago testified before the Appropriation Committee for House and tomorrow for the Senate appropriations</li> <li>➤ Starting point for this year’s formal budget process is different than last 2 years; not facing dramatic cut; last year began with a 30 percent cut. This year flat funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mood has been more positive this year. Some legislative members have been apologetic of cuts that higher education has had to endure; atmosphere at which we can begin to talk more constructively as we can move together to meet challenges</li> <li>○ Flat funding following a year of historically deep cuts, places us in a very difficult position</li> <li>○ Nominal dollars unadjusted for inflation, our appropriation is the same as 1995.</li> <li>○ Over that period of time, our costs to operations have risen.</li> <li>○ We have 3,000 more students than 1995</li> <li>○ Research program attracting 500M of grant support.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Getting through next year with flat funding will be challenging. With the possible federal sequester this will have an impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional pressure for non-profit support to the city of Pittsburgh</li> <li>○ Local, state, and federal cuts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There is also great news.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the last meeting reported that Kiplinger’s rated Pitt, “Top value” as well as Princeton Review and USA Today. We have been able to cut costs while preserving level of quality.</li> <li>➤ Pitt alumna, emerita trustee, and trailblazing educator Dr. Helen Faison is being honored through the creation of the Dr. Helen S. Faison Chair in Urban Education, the first fully endowed chair in the 96-year history of Pitt’s School of Education, where Faison earned her B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. degrees.</li> <li>➤ A paper in the prestigious journal Science coauthored by University of Pittsburgh physicist Sergey Frolov has garnered him and his colleagues the 2012 Newcomb Cleveland Prize, an annual honor</li> <li>➤ The University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees approved the naming of the</li> </ul>	

<p>President Emeritus Dr. Richard and Ruth McDowell Sport and Fitness Center at Pitt Bradford campus. Dr. McDowell became President of Pitt Bradford at age of 29, transformed the campus, making it a 4 year campus and the family have been generous donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 300 Pitt athletes honored for academic achievement at awards breakfast, sponsored by the Pitt Alumni Association</li> <li>➤ Distinguished faculty winners of Research, Teaching, and Public Service awards were announced at the Honors Convocation. These awards convey the breath of faculty at our institution by recognizing faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Jerry Cohon, outgoing president of CMU; distinguished leader was also honored. He promoted a culture of collaboration between our universities which was complementary due to our specific areas of strength. The combined academic power of these universities has been very significant for the region and provides strength for the city of Pittsburgh. National Research Council chose Pittsburgh to hold its first meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Report of the Senate President Smitherman</u></b></p> <p>In recent weeks, there has been much discussion about the status and future of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Plant Utilization and Planning (PUP) Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This subcommittee was formed, to continue the work of an ad hoc committee which had exhausted its total time limits.</li> <li>➤ One could (and I have) argue that both the ad hoc committee and the Sustainability Subcommittee, in fact, operated substantially like a working group. There is consensus that its work has been productive.</li> <li>➤ This subcommittee has shared an administrative liaison with the parent PUP committee and these administrators have found that the requisite work to support both committees, in part because of redundancies, is too time-consuming and difficult to continue.</li> <li>➤ Functioning essentially as a working group, the current form and format of the subcommittee does not to my mind; at least strictly speaking, entirely conform to our Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Where to go from here?</li> <li>➤ After much discussion and thought, I proposed to the many who are interested in the continued vibrant and productive function of this group and the Faculty Assembly possible ways forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (1) A substantial change in the form and format of the subcommittee, which would require special action from the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council, and a request to the administration for administrative liaison difference from that of the PUP Committee;</li> <li>○ (2) Creation of a new Sustainability Committee, entirely separate from the PUP Committee; and replacement of the Sustainability Subcommittee with a new Working Group on Sustainability that would be a function of the University of Pittsburgh, independent of the University Senate;</li> <li>○ (3) Merging of the Sustainability subcommittee back into the parent PUP Committee; and</li> <li>○ (4) Formation of a Sustainability Working Group under the aegis of the University of Administration, to which the Senate Officer would nominate faculty members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Formation of a working group had much support from the University Administration. In a conference call including the Senate officer, the subcommittee co-chairs of PUP and Drs. Irene Frieze and Buck Favorini for the Sustainability subcommittee, consensus quickly emerged favoring</li> </ul>	

a dual approach: merging the subcommittee back into PUP and forming a Working Group on Sustainability.

- The PUP committee chairs are forming a task force to determine precisely now to implement the merger. Senior university administrators have begun to think of the mission and role and scope of this working group. Final details will be available by the end of this academic year.
  - As no Senate action was needed to form the Sustainability Subcommittee, there is no need for formal Senate action to approve its merger back into the parent committee. I believe that the outcome will be quite good both eliminating administrative burdens and continuing and perhaps augmenting and enhancing the work this subcommittee has performed in the past.
- The Budget Policies Committee continues to monitor the process of reviewing the status of the three graduate programs in German, Classics and Religious Studies. We can be hopeful that the review will be completed in the near future.
  - The Provost assures us that the review of the graduate programs for German, Religious Studies and Classics are nearing a conclusion. There have been delays because of illness of some key faculty members.
- The date of our one plenary session for this year is now set for Thursday afternoon, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The title is ***The Cyberlearning Revolution in Higher Education: Charting Pitt's Direction for Instructional Technology in the Age of MOOCs.*** Initial planning efforts are underway.
  - This topic continues to remain dynamic, changing almost daily, timely and controversial, attributes that continue to make this topic very appealing. Please plan to come if at all possible.
  - We hope to give you some answers: Why is this occurring? How will it be implemented? How expensive will it be? How will it be supported financially? In the long run will it really save money? How will it relate to current and ongoing on-line and distance education? How and when will the courses migrate from non-credit to credit courses? Will we lose the values of traditional on-site education?
- Pitt Day in Harrisburg was held on February 12, 2013. Dr. James Becker represented the executive committee of the Senate. I understand that many faculty and students attended and that the overall tone was one of strong support for the University of Pittsburgh.
- I am delighted that we have arranged special presentations for all of our remaining meetings of Faculty Senate this academic year. Most of the presentations focus on issues raised by the recent NRC report on Research Universities and the nation's future.
  - The presentation on January 22<sup>nd</sup> was about remarkable cost-containment and efficiencies at the University of Pittsburgh. It was presented by Mr. Art Ramicone and Dr. David DeJong.
  - The status of the student athlete at the University of Pittsburgh was presented at our February meeting.
  - The status of post-graduate education at the University of Pittsburgh will be presented on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Provost will present on April 2, 2013 to discuss what Pitt is about, what we are doing, what are the accomplishments that have pushed Pitt up the academic ladder so rapidly. She has also agreed to add some budgetary information in that presentation.
  - There will be a special presentation for our last meeting in June with more information later. Please try to attend as many of these

<p>special presentations as you can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Committee on Elections is hard at work under the leadership of Immediate Past-President Michal Pinsky. Their work is nearing completion. Please spread the word to your faculty colleagues to “throw their hats” into the ring for membership on Senate Committees, positions of the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Offices.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Report of Student Government Board: Louderback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pitt Day in Harrisburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 130 students along with faculty, staff, and alumni joined us 2 weeks ago in Harrisburg</li> <li>○ We had the best retention rate ever for students getting 130 out of the 160 that registered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ The Big Event Conference – Texas A&amp;M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Successfully traveled to Texas A&amp;M University for The Big Event Conference to learn how we can improve our Pitt Make a Difference Day in the fall semester.</li> <li>○ We were able to benchmark from the Nation’s largest one-day-of-service event as well as their student union and other campus facilities.</li> <li>○ We took the information that we gather, molded it to allow it to fit in at Pitt, then presented our goals and changes to Dr. Humphrey and the current PMADD planning team.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Other projects that the board has been working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John a week long advocacy week in April will culminate on Schenley Plaza where there will be local restaurants, bands, and community members.</li> <li>○ Tom has been working closely with OMET to ensure that they fully online system will transition smoothly</li> <li>○ Amelia has been successful in helping rebrand and create new program with the Healthy U campaign</li> <li>○ Finding a better way for students to transport to/from the airport</li> <li>○ Successfully assisted Student Health into switching to online appointments and move to the new Nordenberg Hall.</li> <li>○ Restructuring and reorganizing our allocations process</li> <li>○ Giving input with Dr. Humphrey and Kenyon Bonner on the renovations to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Union</li> <li>○ Working on the traditions committee; more unified student section at Heinz field.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Report of Graduate Student Government: Givens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We continue our student advocacy work, including conversations to bring politicians to campus, we were happy to be able to work with SGB again this year for Pitt Day in Harrisburg. We engaged in a wider range of recruiting strategies for graduate and professional students this year, resulting in a more than 200% increase in the number of graduate students attending. I think special recognition here goes to the school of social work, which in our unofficial count I believe sent more graduate students than any other school.</li> <li>➤ We have also hosted a number of student events over the past month, most of which have centered on our upcoming elections. The registration deadline for candidates is this Friday. Voting for next years’ officers, who will take office in May; will run through all of next week on the My Pitt portal. We have a number of very qualified candidates.</li> <li>➤ We are also accepting applications for the GSA administrative assistant position funded by our office and the office of the Provost, so I hope if you</li> </ul>	

<p>know any qualified students who need funding you will encourage them to apply. The deadline for applications is March 8<sup>th</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To promote voter turnout, we will be sponsoring a free lunch buffet to whichever school has the most per capita votes in next week's election.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Report of Arts and Science Graduate Students: Moriarty-de Biasi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Office of A&amp;S Graduate Studies will be hosting the second installation in its Professional Socialization workshop series entitled "The Futures of the Academy: Prospects &amp; Problems in Graduate Study". This is topic that is very dear to many students at this moment and we expect a big turnout.</li> <li>➤ On Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the A&amp;S GSO will be hosting its 18<sup>th</sup> annual GradExpo in the William Pitt Union. There will be over 90 presenters participating in 3 poster sessions and numerous paper panels. This is interdisciplinary conference that helps our graduate students to gain the experience and critical feedback from both student and faculty judges. From each poster session and paper panel, the participant who was judged as having the best poster or presentation will receive a \$50 prize that may be used towards conference attendance or research materials.</li> <li>➤ We are still looking for faculty, particularly in the natural sciences. The time commitment is minimal and we will accommodate your schedule.</li> <li>➤ On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Office of A&amp;S Graduate Studies hosted a workshop entitled "Resources and Issues for Graduate Who are Parents or Thinking of Becoming Parents". It was very well attended with over 60 people in attendance. We are grateful to the presenters, especially Stephanie Hoogendorn, as well as to the University committees that have worked diligently over the years to set in place policies for parents who help them juggle their studies and their families.</li> <li>➤ A&amp;S GSO has formed an ad hoc committee on OMET evaluations. There have been difficulties in getting students to fill out these forms since they have gone online. They are essential to our future teaching portfolios and the committee is working on strategies to promote them to their students.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Report of Staff Association Council (SAC), Arnold-Blais</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ February 16 training on "FMLA"</li> <li>➤ Spring Assembly, March 11, "effectively using technology in your job"</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> No new business.</p>	
<p><u>Announcements.:</u> None</p>	
<p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN  
 Senate Secretary  
 Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing  
 Graduate School of Public health

Members attending:

Arnold-Blais, Beeson, Brause, Butterworth, Cochran, Cordier, Costantino, Flynn, Frank, Givens, Hravnak, Humphrey, Jabro, Juhl, Kear, Kovacs, Louderback, Lunsford, Molinaro, Moriarty-de Biasi, Neft, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Savoia, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Tananis, Wendell, Wilson

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Chiarulli, Clermont, Culley, Daley, Gaddy, Gallagher, Gleason, Kearns, Kory, Lin, Majumdar, Mulcahy, Neufeld, Savinov, Skledar, Slimick, Vieira

\*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Beck, Becker, Buchanich, Coleman, Hartman, Humphrey, Levine, Lyon, Matychak, Miller, Ramicone, Singh, Song, Walker

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Bonner, Clark, Harvith, Moore, Sbragia, Supowitz, Wilds

\*Notified Senate Office