

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
January 30, 2013

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM	Meeting commenced at 3:03 PM
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the, 2011 Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> No new business.	
<p>Report of Chancellor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best wishes for the New Year • Recent week brought news of changes within the University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patti Mathay has been named university registrar at the University of Pittsburgh, where she will oversee student records, course and classroom scheduling, registration, and transcript verification. Mathay began her Pitt career as a clerk in Pitt’s Computing Services and Systems Development division, becoming a lead systems analyst before transferring to the division of Student Registration and Financial Services to implement an information technology system. She was named manager and assistant to the registrar in 1998, assistant university registrar in 2007, and associate university registrar in 2011. Mathay became interim university registrar in July 2012, when she replaced Ralph Hertel, who retired after 34 years of service to the University. ○ Peter Kracht has been named director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, where he will be responsible for leading the press as it continues to grow its publishing program, enhance its electronic publishing, and navigate the ever-changing environment of scholarly publishing. Kracht joined the University of Pittsburgh Press in July 2005 as editorial director and undertook additional duties as director of electronic publishing in 2007. He succeeds Cynthia Miller, who is retiring after serving as director of the press since 1995. ○ P. Jerome Richey appointed as new director of legal counsel effective March 1. He built a distinguished legal career, first as a partner in a prominent Pittsburgh-based law firm and then in leading the law department of one of the region’s major corporations, CONSOL Energy –. In his new position as the University’s chief legal officer, Richey will succeed Jerome Cochran, who has served Pitt in the dual role of executive vice chancellor and general counsel since 2004. Cochran will continue to serve as executive vice chancellor, the University’s chief business officer. • All the makings of another difficult year for governmental relations and funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Difficulties with state budget over the past several years; victory last year with flat funding but not really flat due to rising expenses ○ Monday evening: Student Governrnt kicked off engagement of students for advocacy; Chancellor attending this meeting that included induction of new officers of student government ○ Currently attending meetings in Harrisburg on budget issues ○ February 12 Pitt Day in Harrisburg; hoping that the process will be less 	

<p>contentious. Need advocacy on our position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State funding declining and/or stagnate. ○ City is trying to obtain more funding from non-profits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imposed by the ICA (state created oversight bodies who monitor city financial condition) ▪ ICA imposed a condition of approval of the budget...the city create a task force to examine how to get more funding from the non-profits into the city ▪ Includes representatives from all Pittsburgh colleges and universities ▪ Paul Supowitz and Renny Clark will be representatives on the committee. ▪ Chair of the Task Force is Don Smith, president of RIDC, for many years was involved in joint developments of Pitt and CMU ▪ Several on task force are not friendly to non-profits and don't recognize the contributions of the universities and colleges to the City of Pittsburgh ○ Washington, DC challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If budget decision is not reached and sequestration is implemented, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in federal aid for students and support for research • Will be a problem not just for the Universities; broader problem for PA and Pittsburgh • PA will be one of the biggest losers; future of commonwealth, city and county are tied to the education of the young and innovation driven by research universities. • Longer term damages that can be irreversible. ○ Impact of the ACA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UPMC has been able to fund research which may be reduced ▪ Real risk of significant pressures from 4 different directions (state, city, federal, health care) • Kiplinger's 100: For the eight consecutive time, Pitt ranks as the top value in the Commonwealth. • University of Pittsburgh researchers are moving forward with projects improving the detection and prevention of HIV using four grants that total almost \$11.5 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. • McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine faculty member Andrew Schwartz, PhD, is a Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh. Recently, Scott Pelley of the CBS News Show 60 Minutes visited Dr. Schwartz's lab to talk about his astounding technology that his team is developing that directly connects the human brain to a computer and his work with a women suffering from quadriplegia, now able to move arm through her own thought. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrates the wisdom of Dr. Levine in recruitment and attraction of • Dr. Andrew Lee performed a double hand transplant on a wounded warrior. He began his pioneer work here at Pitt and is now at Johns' Hopkins University • A first-of-its-kind vaccine developed by University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) researchers led by Olivera Finn, Ph.D., distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Immunology at Pitt's School of Medicine successfully prompted the immune system to respond to early indications of colon cancer in people at high risk for the disease. • The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC) – a joint effort of the University of 	
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<p>Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University together with Westinghouse Electric Company – will host a celebration and symposium Feb. 1 to launch its newest supercomputer, Sherlock designed to discover unknown relationships or patterns hidden in extremely large and complex bodies of information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Pittsburgh, led by Pitt Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill, in association with the Senator John Heinz History Center, will host a private reception and program to highlight the exhibit, <i>From Slavery to Freedom: Pittsburgh and the Underground Railroad</i> at the History Center. The event is Pitt’s annual K. Leroy Irvis Black History Month Program. 	
<p>Report of Senate President, Thomas Smitherman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. This subcommittee was formed, to continue the work of an ad hoc committee which had exhausted its total time limits. There is consensus that its work has been vibrant and productive. 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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, 11th edition. ○ 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 three possible ways forward: (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; (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. ○ Initial responses to my suggestions favor forming an independent Sustainability Subcommittee. Support has also been offered for a University Working Group on Sustainability, with faculty members nominated by the University Senate. I anticipate more responses. ○ Subsequent to the Faculty Assembly meeting last week, I have reopened consideration of merging PUP with the Sustainability Subcommittee. Initial feedback was this was not feasible and that the agenda would be overwhelming. Subsequent feedback disagrees. ○ Any proposal would require approval by the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council and will need the backing of the University Administration. I hope to have a final and formal proposal ready for our February meeting. ○ Alternately, we have considered merging the sustainability subcommittee into the full PUP Committee. There is disagreement as to whether that is feasible and that discussion continues. • 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 date of our one plenary session for this year is now set for Thursday afternoon, April 	

<p>18th. The title is <i>The Oncoming Cyber learning Revolution in Higher Education?</i> Dr. Cynthia Golden, Director of our Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education, Dr. Charles Perfetti, the director of our Learning Research and Development Center and Dr. Alan Lesgold, the dean of our school of education will be our principal speakers. Our committees on Student Affairs, Educational Policy and Computer Usage will help in planning the session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next scheduled Pitt Day in Harrisburg is February 12, 2013. There will be an event the night before for Pitt Alumni. For information please contact Jennifer L. Poller, Esq. at 412.624.0108 or Poller@pitt.edu. Please plan to go to Harrisburg that day if at all possible. Bus transportation will be provided. • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The presentation on January 22nd was about remarkable cost-containment and efficiencies at the University of Pittsburgh. It was presented by Mr. Art Ramicone and Dr. David DeJong. ○ Upcoming presentations include the student athlete at the University of Pittsburgh and post-graduate education at the University of Pittsburgh. ○ The Provost will present on April the second and will 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. • 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 Committee on Elections has begun its work under the leadership of Immediate Past-President Michal Pinsky for positions on Faculty Assembly and the Senate Officers. We look forward to a robust roster. 	
<p>Report of Student Government Board: Gordon Louderback, new student gov't board president</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitt Day in Harrisburg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Government Relations chair Robert Beecher has been a huge help ○ We have over 100 registered students and that number is expected to get to 200 by the end of registration • Readership Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants undergraduate students daily access to paper copies USA Today and NYT ○ Our contract is up this April and we may be looking to move towards a fully online version • Princeton Review survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A very successful campaign led by Board Member Brause ○ We've been able to get hundreds of students to take the survey • The Big Event Conference - Texas A&M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Myself and 3 other Student Government Board representatives will be traveling to Texas A&M university this weekend ○ They successfully run at 17,000 (44% of Texas A&M student body) student volunteering day compared to our 3,000 (20% of Pitt's student body) • Since the beginning of our term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successfully sat all of our 9 committee chairs ○ Looked into increasing wireless internet accessibility on campus ○ Creating a committee for Cultural Organizations 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exploring publishing OMET teaching surveys ○ Improving the services and logistics of Student Health ○ Creating a service week were student groups collaborate to give back to the Pittsburgh and surrounding communities 	
<p>Report of Graduate Student Government: David Givens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Event in O'Hara Student center for incoming graduate students for September 2013; improve access to services and opportunities ● External Affairs Committee: GPSG's external affairs committee is making notable progress - we are actively promoting Pitt Day in Harrisburg to graduate students and I've been communicating closely with President Louderbach in that regard. We are moving forward with conversations with several government officials and organizations like the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership interested in visiting Pitt and meeting with students ● The Biomedical Graduate Student Association (BGSA) held a bake sale for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts last month. Led by IBGP student Evan Delgado and with promotion by the GPSG, the BGSA raised \$873 for New York Cares, an organization that arose specifically to raise money for Hurricane Sandy victims. The BGSA contributed additional funds to total donations to \$1200 ● Two weeks ago we had a welcome back social event at the Steel Cactus restaurant, and we had more than 840 students rsvp ● GPSG held our annual graduate and professional student leader appreciation event last week, recognizing the work that graduate and professional leaders volunteer to improve their schools, our university, and the experiences and academics of their fellow students. I'd like to thank the many administrators, including Provost Beeson, who were able to join us, and Chancellor Nordenberg for his kind remarks ● Partnered with the JURIST Staff and Supporters Association (JSSA) in the school of Law to host a Marcellus Shale Debate and Networking Lunch for graduate and professional students which will be held tomorrow. Speakers will include professors, litigators, and industry leaders discussing the advantages and disadvantages of fracking. ● Hosting a training day next month for graduate student organizations to not only familiarize them with reservation and planning processes but to stimulate further collaboration and ideas among the different schools' graduate and professional student leaders and planners. 	
<p>Report of Colleges of General Studies: Brian Coleman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CGS Student Gov't held our annual end of term bowling event, Friday, December 7th. Students were invited to bowl at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association as a means of stress reduction. ● CGS SG End of term bags were distributed the week of December 10th, with nutritional treats and studying and exam tips for students to use. ● On January 20th, All 8 Peer Mentors contacted their 10 students and invited them to participate in a social giveaway night scheduled on January 25th. Despite bad weather conditions, 2 Peer Mentors and 7 students conducted arrived and participated in the mentoring session. That Friday evening, I spoke with a handful of students about leadership opportunities, and one student interested in studying abroad opportunities-specifically, French language emersion courses. ● Day in Harrisburg: Tuesday February 12th. We are actively looking for CGS students to participate in this event; some will be writing letters, while others are tentatively scheduled to make the trip. Those plans are currently being made, and we are awaiting confirmation from interested students. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our “Call to Leadership” seminar is scheduled Monday February 18th 4-6 PM, in William Pitt Union RM 548. This seminar will invite all students in the College of General Studies to meet with CGS SG council to discuss merits of running for CGS Student Gov’t office and other student leadership opportunities on campus. • CGS Student Gov’t Elections is the week of March 25th-30th. March 8th is the deadline for CGS council applications. The newly elected CGS Student Gov’t members will be inducted at the Excellence Reception at end of spring term. • CGS SG Scholarship Applications were turned in on December 15th. Awarded applicants will be notified of selection prior to the Excellence Reception scheduled April 19th. The scholarship winners will receive awards at this end of term event. • CGS Student Gov’t invited students to participate in CGS excellence in teaching awards- student nomination applications which are due April 5th. All University Faculty is eligible, but only CGS students can nominate their teacher for the award. Faculty will be given awards at the Excellence Reception on April 19th. 	
<p>Report of Arts and Science Graduate Students: Katie Moriarty-de Biasi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday is the deadline for the Elizabeth Baranger Teaching Award, which is a peer-selected teaching award for TAs and TFs in the Dietrich School. Students, Faculty and Staff may nominate a TA or TF for their teaching excellence through a short form that is available on our website. After the nomination process is closed, nominees will complete a rigorous teaching portfolio for the selection committee’s review. As of 2 days ago, there were 66 nominees. • We are organizing panels for our GradExpo to be held on March 21st, 2013 in the student union. This year we will have over 110 participants and a major uptick in the number of poster presenters compared to years past. • The Office of the Graduate Deans of A&S will be more directly targeting our students’ needs by organizing a series of Professionalization workshops to be held in February and March. The first workshop will be “Resources and Issues for Graduate Students who are Parents or who are thinking of becoming Parents”, while the second workshop “The Futures of the Academy Prospects and Problems in Graduate Study”. The latter will focus on more global trends in graduate study and job prospects throughout academia and how we can better adapt our path to meet the future. 	
<p><u>Report of Staff Association Council (SAC), Deborah Walker</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New By-laws were adopted at our December meeting. The new by-laws will make the organization more efficient and effective. • SAC will sponsor their 2nd Technology Assembly, Monday March 11. Jinx Walton will be the keynote speaker. • Representatives of SAC will attend Pitt Day in Harrisburg • SAC Benefits committee will sponsor a brown bag workshop FMLA and other Options, Tuesday, February 19 at 12:00-1:30 in room 548 William Pitt Union. 	
<p><u>Announcements.:</u> None <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:

Beck, Becker, Beeson, Brause, Butterworth, Clermont, Cochran, Cordier, Costantino, Daley, Flynn, Frank, Gaddy, Givens, Hartman, Hravnak, Humphrey, Jabro, Kear, Levine, Lin, Louderback, Matychak, Miller, Molinaro, Moriarty-de Biasi, Neft, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Ramicone, Savoia, Singh, Skledar, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Song, Walker, Wendell, Wilson

Members not attending:

Arnold-Blais, Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Buchanich, Chiarulli, Culley, Gallagher, Gleason, Kearns, Kory, Majumdar, Mulcahy, Neufeld, Savinov, Slimick, Vieira

*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Juhl, Kovacs, Lunsford, Lyon, Tananis

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Bonner, Clark, Hill, Hoogendoorn, Mohamed, Moore, Supowitz, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office