Senate Council Meeting Minutes 2700 Posvar Hall Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Topic/Discussion	Action
Call to Order	The meeting
The meeting was called to order by President Frank Wilson.	commenced at
	3:02 pm.
Approval of the Minutes of the February 17, 2016 Senate Council Meeting	None
Minutes were approved as written.	
<u>Items of New Business</u>	None
No items of new business were raised.	
Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher	
Tuesday March 22 nd was Pitt Day in Harrisburg and many were there. It was very important for Pitt to be heard and communicate to our government and build ties between the University and Harrisburg. The Chancellor thanked those involved and those that sent letters. Today, March 23 rd , the Governor concluded a press conference that he announced that the budget package will take effect without his signature (a "pocket signing"). The state-related funding bill will be approved the same way. Budget tables, including our 5% increase, are included. The funding bill will go through. This is good news. The Governor is concerned that the funds are not there to cover this and this does not represent a balanced budget. He does feel he can impose spending freezes to cover these increases, so this is a big positive step forward. The Chancellor felt that the vocal support of the Pitt community was a big reason this occurred successfully.	No comments were raised.
The Chancellor also commented on today's session. He noted that he instigated the conversations of race, diversity and inclusion on our campuses for us to be proactive. The response has been incredibly positive. Questions about how we handle this are fundamental to what we do. This is not easy and is a struggle across the country. The Administration alone could not come up with an answer and the Chancellor asked for faculty, staff and student help. He also noted that he broke rules of order to ask about this task, and these types of discussions need to occur so he acknowledged this change. He would like these conversations to continue to occur and thanked the Senate Council for agreeing to do this in a non-standard way.	
Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson	
President Wilson noted that student and staff reports will be provided in the minutes (see below), and added one announcement that as of March 1 st , the SGB elections completed, and starting April 22 nd , Natalie Dall will be taking over as SGB President. Nasreen was thanked for her efforts and leadership.	Comments are noted below in the minutes.
President Wilson stated that the Senate Council topic and meeting format today is different and that the challenge to Senate Council in November began with Council members (faculty, staff, and students) with Kathy Humphrey and Pam Connelly meeting. The adhoc "Group" has met together, and gone to their constituent groups, to get feedback. The Faculty Assembly on March 15 th hosted this topic, and there has been discomfort, issues raised, and support as well. This will frame today's Senate Council session. This is not a one-time-only initiative; it is ongoing. Specific proposals are not meant for today, and he reminded the Senate that its processes and potential demonstrate the formal structure of shared	

governance. Normal protocol is for documents to move up normal channels and there is little discussion at Senate Council. The Group thinks that this discussion should start with Senate Council and see how this goes. President Wilson noted that some faculty was concerned how this meeting would go, and that he would try to make sure the meeting is productive. Notes from the discussion are below in the **Discussion Topic** section of the minutes. The key recommendations being discussed later are (handout distributed):

RECOMMENDATIONS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Group makes the following four recommendations: (see handout for additional detail)

- 1. Development of a Statement of Values, perhaps inspired by the Pitt Promise
- 2. The Development of a Standing Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council
- 3. The Year of Diversity and Inclusion
- 4. The Senate Council should devote a session to a Diversity and Inclusion Dialog

Report of Student Members of Senate Council

(reports were not presented verbally)

Student Government Board (SGB)

Nasreen Harun, President

On March 1st, the new Student Government Board was elected. The Student Government Board for next year shall be: President Natalie Dall; Executive Vice President Sydney Harper, and Board Members Justin Horowitz, Arlind Karpuzi, Max Kneis, Samantha Jankowitz, Joseph Kannarkat, Alyssa Laguerta, and Rohit Anand. SGB is very excited for them to take office and see the many great changes they will make on campus

No questions or discussion occurred since reports are in the minutes only.

Yesterday, SGB had several representatives attend Pitt Day in Harrisburg. They did whatever we could to convey the issues facing students due to the budget impasse, but are still waiting to hear from the Governor in regards to his decision.

SGB has had many Committee Member and Committee Chair applications available for next year's term, thus they are hosting an SGB Open House tonight to encourage students to talk to us about the open positions and ask questions.

<u>College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG)</u> *Julia Helgert, President*

In celebration of the Year of the Humanities, CGS sponsored a lecture featuring Michael Roth, President of Wesleyan University and author of the book Beyond the University: Why Liberal Education Matters. Michael Roth gave his lecture on May 2nd in the University Club and it was well attended. Their annual Spring Open House for prospective and current CGS students was held on March 15th. Students had the chance to learn about CGS majors, certificate programs, student government, and more. CGS is hosting their annual CGS Excellence Reception on April 15 in the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. This event recognizes extraordinary CGS students, faculty and staff! CGS students nominate faculty or staff members who have made a difference in their academic pursuits to receive Student Choice Awards, which are awarded at the reception. New CGSSG President and council members will be sworn in and CGS student scholarship awardees are recognized as well.

The last CGSSG-hosted event for the semester is "Make Finals a Walk in the Park" on April 23rd. For this event, a walk is being organized through Schenley Park in hopes to encourage students to take a breath of fresh air to prep for finals week! Students will receive a box lunch and professors & tutors will walk along the trail to teach/help students who may want or need it.

Approximately 200 CGS students have applied for graduation for April 2016. The most popular major is Natural Sciences. Approximately 36 CGS students were honored at the Honors Convocation – University Scholars, Alpha Sigma Lambda members, OCC Honorary Society members, etc.

Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG):

Joe Kozak, President, GPSG

Good afternoon Senate Council members. First, the GPSG elections have concluded. The GPSG will have an entirely new executive board. The following members were elected:

President: Justin Saver- Pharmacy

V.P Committees: Aliyah Weinstein- Medicine (Immunology)

V.P Communications: Rena Jiang- Pharmacy

V.P Finance: John Rossmiller- Katz

V.P Programming: Kathryn Bress- Pharmacy

Their positions will start May 01, 2016.

The GPSG assembly board is very excited about the outcome of the SAAA committee's recommendations, and they are looking forward to the progression of University support for graduate and professional students. One such way that is already happening is the discussion with UCGS about the GPSG Orientation that will occur in the Fall. They will be coordinating with the individual colleges, as well as the incoming board, to organize an extended orientation with the traditional resource fair on top of break-out sessions. Programming events have occurred that include the first installment of the PhD Comic collaborative events with CMU and hosting the creator of the comics who spoke about the graduate student experience, and the art of procrastination. They had about 50 students in attendance from both Pitt and CMU. The first PhD Movie will be screened on campus on Monday April 4th, as one of the Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week events. The first week of April is Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week and there are a number of events, which will be hosted by GPSG. While not during the week, our Spring Formal will be on Friday April 15th, and will be held at the Aquarium. This Saturday (March 26th) is the University of Pittsburgh TedX talks. Recently it was named one of the top things to do in Pittsburgh in March, and there is a screening room where students and the public without tickets can watch the event.

The various student groups have been extremely busy as well. The Biomedical graduate organization has been organizing STEM Academies in partnership with the Carnegie Science Center for young girls on Saturdays. The school of Education hosted their Spring Student Conference which hosted both internal and external students. The Graduate Organization for the Study of Europe and Central Asia hosted their annual conference which had about 50 individuals in attendance. This was open to the public and had cross collaboration between

many schools and departments.

Many schools and groups are also planning and preparing for their own days in Harrisburg to lobby state officials. The schools of Social Work, Dental Medicine, and Pharmacy are taking trips in the near future to Harrisburg, and Dental Medicine is also planning to go to the ASDA National Lobby Day in Washington DC.

GPSG would like to close in recognizing the great efforts of many of the graduate programs within the Health Science fields. The World News Report has ranked many of these programs to be in the top tier of their fields, and Physical Therapy was again awarded a #1 ranking.

Dominique Johnson, President, Graduate Student Organization, Arts & Sciences

The ASGSO recently invited several speakers to hold a discussion forum in the Spring program on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment concerning graduate students. It was a successful event (small and intimate discussion), and there were some great ideas that came from that event. Though the attendance was small, many students expressed an interest in seeing more programming of this theme.

The GSO will be working with the Counseling Center to start a support group for graduates who have experienced sexual assault or otherwise been negatively impacted by sexual misconduct situations at Pitt. While this is not currently possible given staff limitations at center, they are hopeful that their advocacy will produce desired results in the next school year. They are requesting any available resources for making this possible!

The Arts & Sciences GSO Grad Expo will be tomorrow, March 24th 9am-5pm on the 5th floor of the William Pitt Union. More information about the event can be viewed here: http://www.pitt.edu/~gradexpo/

At the April 11 meeting, a new Executive Board will be elected, discussing the future of ASGSO regarding responding to the public campaigns of graduate and faculty unionization (the GSO currently remains neutral and may choose to continue as such), and also setting the agenda for initiatives for SY16-17. Key concerns to be addressed will include the lack of graduate social and communal spaces on campus, recommendations for the SY17-18 ASGSO Policy Committee and the ASGSO Diversity & Inclusion Committee agenda, as well as budget and finance concerns.

The summer research grant application is open for all A&S grads. The reward, started last year, is \$750 and there are seven available. It is competitive, however, and applications are due soon! Please have interested students email asgso.pitt@gmail.edu for more information.

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

Rich Colwell, President

Andy Stephany, Vice-President of Public Relations

SAC website: www.sac.pitt.edu.

SAC thanked Community & Governmental Relations, the Pitt Alumni Association, Pitt Advocates, and all of the organizations that orchestrated a successful Pitt Day in Harrisburg yesterday. Ten SAC members and over 40 staff members were able to attend thanks to Pitt administration's support of staff attendance. Leaders met with elected officials and advisors to the Governor, all of which had nothing but the best things to say about the University of

No further discussion occurred.

Pittsburgh.

SAC has established a taskforce to address how SAC can champion diversity and inclusion within the organization and in the University community. Mario Browne in the Department of Medicine has accepted a leadership role on the taskforce. Mario was thanked for his dedication.

SAC will elect new chairs for each of their four committees in the coming months. The results will be announced at our June 15 meeting and their two-year terms will begin July 1. Matt Richardson in Student Affairs has been appointed to be the Chair of this round of elections. Matt was thanked for accepting this leadership role.

SAC is happy to announce we have secured May 10, 2015 for the Staff Assembly. Chancellor Gallagher will be the keynote speaker. Breakout sessions will address Nutrition, Physical Activity while at your office/work, Mindfulness presented by LifeSolutions, a CPR course, and the Impact of Personality in the Workplace. This year they are offering a networking session following the breakouts. A Read Green will be distributed this week with details and a link for registration.

The 25th annual Pitt Day at Kennywood is set for July 17, 2016. Stay tuned to the social media channels for details in the coming months.

If there is anything to be showcased in the monthly SAC e-newsletter (which has over 1500 subscribers) please send information to sac@pitt.edu. The next open general meeting will be April 20th in 102 Benedum Hall.

Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate No reports scheduled.

N/A

Discussion Topic

Report & Recommendations from the Senate Council Group on Diversity and Inclusion Professor Frank Wilson, Senate President

Last week at Faculty Assembly, it was a very productive and substantive discussion. Faculty raised basic questions of: What are meaning of these terms? (ex. diversity, inclusion). What aspects about diversity and inclusion do we want to explore? The second piece is to ask if we want to try to jointly develop an institutional core value statement that can be understood and stand the test of time. [The report and recommendations of the Group were shared in advance of the meeting and distributed at the meeting as well.]

Weinberg: Brought up at Faculty Assembly was the point of definitions. Important also is what is the diversity definition. **We also need to include diversity of ideas and perspective**.

Tananis: It is important that the **tone of whatever we say needs to be positive, proactive, and inclusive,** rather than deficit-based. People reading a statement of value from an institution come away looking at specific words, but also a feeling about what that institution and community are about. She noted she'd like it to be a positive, inclusive statement.

Smith: We should **start simple** like "we respect and honor differences" to increase understanding and knowledge.

Wilson: Something happened recently which brings students in differently related to speech, and the incident of an offensive speaker on campus. This caused upheaval. This was a surprise, but was a reminder that when you think you understand perspectives, you may not understand what others are feeling or thinking. Administration, faculty, staff, and students look at things differently. He was happy with the way Administration dealt with the issue. Kenyon Bonner was thanked for how he handled this situation on behalf of the students and some of his thoughts can be incorporated into a values statement.

Colwell: He presented information to SAC recently. He noted that in 2011 or before, there was a Diversity & Inclusion Committee, but it disappeared. He discussed this at SAC recently, and realized the Committee no longer functioned, and SAC wanted to re-initiate the committee. There was **support at SAC** for re-energizing the Committee and members volunteered. It will be further defined after they get it going.

Rodzwicz: The Staff looked at the report/recommendations of the Group, and will discuss how diversity and inclusion means different things to different people, affecting SAC and staff. SAC consolidated their committees 4 years ago, and they will be working on staff and SAC diversity and inclusion efforts moving forward.

Kozak: Joe presented to the Graduate Assembly Board. There was much interest and curiosity. Dr. Humphrey asked "what do graduate students do specifically about diversity and inclusion?" They would like this to be a step going forward. Not many at their meeting even heard of the **Pitt Promise**, so there is opportunity to learn and define tangible steps. This is a way to start centralizing our work and actions.

Johnson: At CAS, definitions came up for us also related to hiding behind demographics and numbers. Transparency needs to occur **beyond demographics and numbers**, and a feeling of growing a community needs to exist. They wanted to highlight **growing and sustaining a community and culture of diversity and inclusion on—campus**.

Kozak: Is there a definition of diversity and inclusion in the Office at Pitt?

Connelly: There is not definition, as that can lead to exclusion at times. We need something fluid enough to address all potential groups.

Spring: In thinking of the history of the Senate back to the 1940's, he noted he supports defining diversity and inclusion as an overarching goal. The personal relations operate at one level and the politics operate at another level. The Trustees noted that the goal of the Senate is to advise the Administration on matters of university concern, to be on the best track that we can be. This initiative is a critical part of that. As a graduate student advisor, in dissecting the language of the recommendations, some of the recommendations are not ours to make (i.e. determining the Year of...). He feels the standing committees could have a greater role in these actions or a new committee could be formed (#2). The dialog (#4) is happening today. Left to talk about then is the #1 recommendation (statement of vision). The Pitt Promise (circa 1997) is deeply buried in Student Affairs area on the website and its first paragraph is notable. [Spring read the first paragraph.] The beginning statements would not be argued or disagreed with in general. He then brought up the signing of the intellectual property agreements last year. The Pitt Promise is a great statement of values and faculty, staff, and students support it. This is an important commitment to establishing values and pursuing new knowledge and disseminating it. The Promise says that and says we will not harm people. The Promise is good to build on, and we can modify the details, which were

designed decades ago. This 2016 Group is charged with bringing to 30,000+ students, 4000+ faculty, and 6000+ staff a document that we can all agree to that represents the best traditions of this great institution. We do need to articulate concerns however. The Plenary is based on academic freedom, related to **how scholars can pursue new knowledge wherever it goes and not feel constrained**. This is different than what we ask our freshman to promise. We need to argue and talk about these items, and people need to be comfortable to speak and raise issues. This has to be encompassed in the values statement.

Wilson: I am hearing (and Kathy Humphrey first said) that we need to **build a platform of basic core concepts that we cannot ignore**. The *Promise* words are not problematic, but that the we need to build a base of **academic freedom**, **freedom of speech**, **respect for others**, and willingness to accept and engage ideas that are not ours.

Humphrey: The bottom line to the Group was that when these instances arise, for example, an uncivil situation, and we are trying to explain who we are as an institution, we have a platform of what we stand on, and who we are and what we stand for. These instances may occur, so we need a system in place that can respond to this in the way we believe in our community as an inappropriate behavior. What do we want our response to be? How do we want the responsible individuals to know their behavior is not what we support or tolerate? We need a **foundational platform for what is means to be respectful in our environment**.

Weinberg: These discussions are going on across the country. At University of California, their free speech advocates are infighting with the diversity group over language. The Promise has been criticized. We should **look at the criticism of the** *Promise* and see what it is telling us (it is on the Fire website). We need to see where possible traps and pitfalls are, so we can avoid them. We should not shrug them off. The hardest part of this process is to grapple with the free speech issues and issues of civility and respect and there are places where these conflict with each other. *Obligated* is the concerning word – at Penn State, the word was changed to *encouraged* in their promise. Accountability is another concerning term that came up at Faculty Assembly. There are vague concepts mixed with specific comments in the recommendations. This can be concerning.

Labrinidis: A way to look at this is to **reward departments and programs** that have specific actions that advance this, for increasing diversity, or special events related to improving our community.

Wilson: Accountability is a word that I want to have discussed. We need to get deep into the meaning of this and the right venues where this can be discussed. We need to discuss where to go next with these discussions; it is not clear. Where do we go next to keep these discussions going? An idea that came up is to use Faculty Assembly, Senate Council, and our Standing Committees, to discuss issues. There are voting members on the Standing Committees from SAC and students, so these involve more participants. Our two key Senate committees are Equity, Inclusion, Diversity and Antidiscrimination Advocacy (EIDAC) and Tenure and Academic Freedom (TAFC). The EIDAC is a diverse group and has liaisons from Administration as well. The TAFC generated a question if we should use the existing committee, or a different committee, or create a new one. In this larger discussion, should we defer this to these two Committees, or create a new group, and how do we better involve staff and students? Another idea is to create an adhoc Committee that is appropriately composed that could deal with this issue and dig deeply into it. We have had two adhoc committees that have done important work (eg. non-tenure stream faculty) and they have a two-year charge. This is a possibility and the ad hoc committee could be formed

to include those needed from the SAC, students, and standing committees. It would have a specific charge to carry out.

Goodhart: He noted that we are getting into the weeds too much. He noted three things about diversity and inclusion for the University: 1) we need to recruit and retain more diverse faculty, students, and staff [This is not within the remit of this Group, but could we hear more about these efforts alluded to at a future Senate meeting?]; 2) create an environment in which all members of this community feel fully included, beyond toleration, and understanding and respecting at an individual and institutional level the multiplicity of identities and ways to be in the world and interpreting the world that are represented on our campus and positive measures to enable the success of every member of our community on this campus; and 3) all members of our community can fearlessly pursue knowledge of all kinds in research, classrooms, other learning environments, our residence halls, and throughout our community so individuals can follow their own consciences in their civic lives. #1 is very important, also are #2 and #3. It is possible that #2 and #3 can conflict. We should drill into why #2 and #3 conflict and understand the points of tension. That is the challenge.

Gallagher: Making values explicit is important, as this drives behavior. All organizations have values. We want a deliberate exercise to expose these values and discuss ways we can nuture these. How you nuture these is a separate discussion (example: a promise), and there is a big spectrum of what can be done. What values can really do is describe our mission, to educate and to do scholarship, and the values most important will align and diagonalize with both. We need to be open with this and use new lines of thought and expression to balance the discussions and platform and how they support our mission. We are talking about the environment of learning and discovery we enjoy, individuals, peers, and institutional values. Accountability can create fear, as it signifies the individual's accountability to the institution, but that is bidirectional. We may need the institution to be very cautious at times. We need to look at why these things matter. We are a place of learning and discovery, and if we always come back and touch that, we will make good decisions.

Wilson: We are a public institution, and we have a responsibility of service that comes with that to our society to do these things in a way that satisfies the difficult pieces of this puzzle without losing control, and **model how we do this**. We might even stumble onto something that creates an environment where our personal behaviors are even more collegial.

Connelly: Two issues are here: If we are committed to drafting a statement of values, what should that committee be, versus the ongoing committee?

Wilson: This is where we need to go next.

Becker: This is a large committee with responsibility to spawn more committees. Listening today, there is a year-long discussion solely of what this university represents. There is not committee existing now that can answer this. The committee should be as different as it can be in this process. It is going to fail if it is not organic. Think creatively to get input you need to move forward, and existing structures are not ideal.

Stoner: An adhoc committee could include representatives from the key standing related Senate Committees, and could be beneficial.

Wilson: If there is no objection, the original Group needs to keep this in motion, and move

this faster with more faculty involvement and that we do the same thing we have been doing to go back to constituents and get ideas and keep this going for rest of semester, and include others to explore venues we can create to get more discussion going. I can create an ad hoc committee to do this.

Frieze: Could you come back and report to Senate Council at our last meeting of the year?

Wilson: Yes, we can do this. For those of us who are trying to push this along, it is important to incorporate changes and do our own analyses to find rough points.

Labrinidis: In addition to what happens at Senate level, could the diverse community come in and speak, or could we have events or forums where others can come and share opinions and people feel more included?

Weinberg: Could we have some **structured focus** groups in every unit, and perhaps to the unit level, to provide concrete input from the bottom up? That could supplement the working group actions.

Spring: I'd like to suggest that if the Provost makes next year the Year of Diversity and Inclusion, there is not objection to that. I would suggest that item #2 (advisory committee) be tabled a bit. The recommendation #4 is taken care of. The #1 (vision and values) can be worked on and Professor Goodhart has suggested a three-stage question that helps elucidate what that is. From existing structured groups, and expanding this as much as possible, we should solicit input from the structured groups, and then come back to the appropriate group with an elaboration of #1 based on the three-part structure, and how we get to this notion. Discuss definitions, and conflicts. Events of the Year could be tailored to gather information, focus and provide clarity so it all focuses on #1 (values). This is the core of what this is all about. How are the values statements qualified for a researcher, student, staff member, positively, not negatively. We should focus on #1, expand the group, get to the three focused questions from Professor Goodhart, and move forward with the planning. We should expand the questions and move forward on this.

Wilson: I like the simplicity of the three points. I pledge to do this.

Spring: Find a new name for the "Group" that is a great acronym.

Leers: I only see one problem. A few months ago, it was pointed out that the Faculty Assembly and Senate are not very diverse groups. There are people already disenfranchised. This should be considered.

Wilson: The sociological way is that we need to mindful and creative with this. **Diversity is** *ideas* in addition to demographics and numbers. The Senate and Assembly are very diverse groups and we are able to hear ideas we normally would not hear otherwise. He would like to reach out and find receptive persons who are not already on the Group, Committees, or on Council.

Gallagher: A helpful suggestion is **to ask Administration to help, by running a parallel focus group discussion** approach to get more input. This would augment what you have and make sure student groups and other organizations can be engaged.

Flynn: Sometimes we can just "do something." Females in general are paid less than males.

You could fix that at the Chancellor level quickly. Maybe you already did that. Salaries could be made adjusted. You don't need a committee always to do this.	
Gallagher: There are a number of things that can be done quickly and administration should be held accountable as well. Whether it is equitable hiring, pay, or other consequences we could do. The values that really matter are the ones that are exposed by how we behave.	
Smith: In the statement of values, we should not make a laundry list of outcomes. We need to write the spirit that inspires our behavior in what we say and what we do so it becomes a much more clear and simple statement.	
Adjournment: President Wilson adjourned the meeting.	Adjournment at 4:35 pm.

University Senate website: http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Members attending:

Alarcon, Beeson, Bonner, Cohen, Colwell, Costantino, Dahm, Dall, Flynn, Fort, Frieze, Gallagher, Goodhart, Groark, Harun, Helgert, Humphrey, Johnson, Kaufman, Kear, Kozak, Labrinidis, Leers, Levine, Molinaro, Murphy, Ramicone, Rodzwicz, Skledar, Smith, Spring, Stephany, Stoner, Supowitz, Tananis, Washington, Weinberg, Wilson

Members not attending:

Ataai, Beck, Buchanich, Fusco, Gleason, Green, Helbig, Hravnak, Kaynar, Kearns, Kory, Lin, Mulcahy, Poloyac, Ramsey, Savinov, Savoia, Schmidhofer, Scott, Triulzi, Vieira

*Excused attendance:

Donihi, Kovacs, Miller, Morel, Novy

Others attending:

Barlow, Becker, Browne, Connelly, Czerwinski, Kirsch, Marra, Mauk, Moore, Olanyk, Smart, Walker, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office