ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT AID COMMITTEE

The primary mission of the Committee is to make recommendations to the Senate on matters pertaining to Student Admissions and Financial Aid bearing on Admission.

Committee Activities
In order to carry out the above mission this Committee shall review and make recommendations regarding:

1. admission’s criteria for the purpose of identifying concerns and possible issues;
2. admission’s trends and their impact on the University;
3. recruitment activities and factors that impede this process;
4. retention efforts and their impact on admissions;
5. student financial aid policies and procedures and their impact on the student body.

While these activities are necessary in order to make recommendation and identify potential problems/issues that need further investigation and/or action, it is not necessary for all these activities to be done yearly. It is the responsibility of the Committee members to identify areas to be dealt with each year.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES

Mission Statement (revised April 2009)

The Anti-Discriminatory Policy Committee supports the overall mission of the University through discussion of the University’s policies, practices, and programs regarding diversity and inclusion. The committee reviews issues relating to fairness and respect for all members of the diverse University community and offers recommendations for maintaining, developing, and promoting anti-discriminatory policies at the University. While the committee establishes its own areas and topics of inquiry, it encourages communications from students, staff, faculty, and the administration on all matters of access, civil rights, and equal opportunity.

ATHLETICS

The Senate Athletics Committee was established in 1975 to encourage and support sports and athletics as an integral component of the academic mission of the University of Pittsburgh. The committee’s primary responsibility is to encourage and review the sports (extramural and intramural) and recreational programs of the University and those matters related to them.

The committee holds that good physical, psychological, and social health stems from a proper balance of athletics and recreation in relation to other campus activities (e.g., formal studies, generating knowledge, artistic creativity, collecting, storing, and disseminating information) that are traditional parts of American universities and colleges. It therefore is concerned with fostering a healthful balance of physical and mental amenities for all university community members. The committee particularly is concerned with the physical and psychological health of all students active in sports and athletics at the University.

The committee recommends policies and procedures relating to standards for athletic participation and codes governing the conduct of varsity sports. It is concerned with the well-being of all student athletes and the successful completing of the requirements for their graduation. Accordingly, its duties include reviewing the standards of admission for scholar athletes, matters relating to their academic performance and standing, and the academic and counseling support services provided to them.

The committee advises on the scope of intramural sports, recreational programs, and the use of athletic facilities for students, staff, faculty, alumni, and organizational and groups outside the University.

The committee will receive annual and/or other specialized reports on budgetary matters pertaining to university sports, athletics, and recreational programs and facilities, as well as on academic status of student athletes by sport and gender.
While the committee must provide an annual written report of its activities to the University Senate, it may at any time make recommendations regarding its purview to Faculty Assembly, Senate Council, and members of the University administration concerned with athletics.

**BENEFITS AND WELFARE**

The Senate Committee on Benefits and Welfare is concerned with the broad areas of health and welfare benefits, wellness programs, retirement programs, and other related matters for active and retired faculty and staff at the University of Pittsburgh. The Committee is an advocate for protecting and advancing a highly competitive benefits program for the University community including students. The Benefits and Welfare Committee functions in a consultative role in the process of shared governance through discussion with Human Resources and the Administration of the University of Pittsburgh.

**BUDGET POLICIES**

The Senate Budget Policies Committee (SBPC) is an advisory body of the University. The Committee meets about every third week in the Fall and Spring terms, less often in the Summer.

The Committee does some of its work through standing or ad hoc sub-committees, composed of those regular and pro tem Committee members who volunteer. Subcommittees report to the full Committee, which must endorse subcommittee recommendations, after review and possible modification, before they are taken to other bodies, usually Faculty Assembly and Senate Council, and/or forwarded to the administration. Committee resolutions are voted on in open meetings. Budget issues and details not suitable for public discussions are addressed in non-public "working" or "executive" sessions.

**Mission Statement**

The primary concerns of the Budget Policies Committee are the fiscal health of the University, the economic welfare of its faculty and staff, and the appropriateness and sufficiency of funds provided for the academic programs of the University. The Committee therefore makes recommendations on such matters as tuition levels, compensation policies, and issues like the creation, merger and termination of academic programs, when budgetary considerations are involved.

In order to acquire factual knowledge necessary for informed advice, the Committee has initiated or participated in various studies on such matters as budget and compensation history, personnel levels, and revenues and expenditures of cost centers. Much of this information as been compiled by the Office of Budget and Administration and the Office of Institutional Research.

Under the University’s Planning and Budgeting System (PBS) (available at [http://www.pitt.edu/~jdl1/PBSdoc.htm](http://www.pitt.edu/~jdl1/PBSdoc.htm)), the Senate and its committees, including SBPC, are recognized as providing advice to the Chancellor and administrative officers “on all aspects of University planning and budgeting, including long-range planning and budgeting, program plans, operational plans and budgets, gift and endowment spending policies, compensation policies, and design and modification of the PBS” and "may initiate recommendations with respect to broad University policies (such as gift and endowment spending policies, and compensation policies) and with respect to information collection and dissemination, such as the Revenue and Cost Attribution Study."

In addition, the PBS document specifically states that SBPC "is responsible for reviewing whether the PBS processes are followed and whether all constituencies involved are provided adequate opportunities to participate in the process and to be informed of its outcomes. Accordingly, the SBPC may communicate or meet with PBCs as necessary. The SBPC will regularly inform all unit heads and all members of PBCs of its role in reviewing the integrity of the planning and budgeting process."
BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES

The Committee on Bylaws and Procedures serves to generally guide the structural and procedural affairs of the University Senate and its constituent bodies (Senate Council, Faculty Assembly and the Standing Committees). The Committee's principal functions include (i) reviewing the Bylaws of the University Senate, (ii) making editorial revisions to the Bylaws, as necessary, and (iii) reviewing and making recommendations regarding any proposal to amend, repeal or replace the Bylaws submitted to the Committee. In addition, the Committee from time to time may review and provide advice on other matters of concern referred to the Committee. The Committee provides further operational guidance for the University Senate by reviewing and updating the University Senate Administrative Handbook.  revised June 6, 2012

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

The purpose of the Commonwealth Relations Committee of the University Senate is to foster and promote mutual understanding and rapport between the University of Pittsburgh faculty and members of state government. The primary, but not exclusive means of achieving this mission, is through informal luncheons held during the academic year with members of the state legislature, University faculty, and representatives of the Staff Association Council and student government. The Commonwealth Relations Committee also supports interaction with legislators on specific issues and in general through direct contact of faculty and legislators who represent them.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Senate Community Relations Committee observes, engages in, and promotes relationships between the University of Pittsburgh and its many external communities.

Goals:

In the three-fold mission of the University (Teaching, Research and Public Service), community interfaces are frequent and deserve careful consideration and response. Therefore, the goals of the Community Relations Committee are to:

- understand and communicate the mutual needs and benefits of the University and its communities at their points of intersection;
- increase collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh's Community Partners;
- maintain awareness of activities; and
- report its findings and recommendations at least annually to the Senate.

(Revised November 2011)

COMPUTER USAGE

The Senate Computer Usage Committee monitors computing and computer-related activities at the University of Pittsburgh for the University's Senate Council and the Faculty Assembly. The Committee is concerned with both academic computing and administrative information systems issues.

Members of the committee also serve on other committees that assist CSSD in forming policies and procedures that affect students, faculty and staff. The SCUC is one of the standing committees reporting to the Senate
Council and the Faculty Assembly. Its chair or co-chairs are voting members of the Provost's Council for Academic Computing (CAC), the Information Technology Steering Committee (ITSC), and the Faculty Assembly. (Revised Fall/2011)

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Mission Statement

Functions

The responsibilities of the Educational Policies Committee include: 1) initiating proposals and recommendations that will stimulate the development of excellence in the intellectual programs and teaching climate of the University and 2) to study reactions to University-wide issues and proposals related to the educational aspects of academic plans and programs. Specifically, the Committee studies and offers advice on preliminary papers on academic policy and planning that emanate from the offices of the Chancellor, the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences, and other major administrative offices.

The Committee also may initiate proposals and recommendations related to the academic programs or the intellectual climate and image of the University. Such proposals or recommendations usually will be channeled through the Senate for further discussion before being brought to the attention of the University administration. This, however, does not preclude the possibility that in some instances the Committee will explore the feasibility of a proposal directly with administrators before it is transmitted to the Senate.

Some examples of initiatives and issues that have been considered by the Committee during the last few years are: developing a statement re: classroom recording; explore issues related to ADD/DROP deadlines and policies; collaborate with the Senate Committee on Admissions and Student Aid to address issues related to retention; and working with the Registrar’s Office to suggest changes to the Pitt transcripts.

Sub-Committees

The chairperson may appoint sub-committees as needed to fulfill the responsibilities of the Educational Policies Committee. Such sub-committees will be chaired by a member of the EPC, but sub-committee members may be recruited both from within and outside of the EPC. Sub-committees may be appointed to study proposals received by the Committee and to recommend possible courses of action to the Committee, or they may explore other matters on the Committee's agenda.

(Revised November 2011)

LIBRARY

The purpose of the Senate Library Committee is to discuss resources, policies and procedures of all of the libraries at the University in order to assure that the research and information needs of all members of the University community are met and that the highest standards are maintained. The Committee's mandate extends to future library services and facilities.

The Committee’s chairperson serves as a member of the ITSC (Information Technology Steering Committee) and the Committee also appoints one of its members to LANIS (Library Automation and Network Information Services).

Normally, meetings of the Committee are held four to six times during the academic year and are open to all members of the University community. Minutes are distributed to all Committee members as well as to the Senate Office.

In addition to the Committee's annual written report to the Senate, special reports are made to the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council from time to time in order to keep them informed of Committee concerns or, when appropriate, to present the resolutions for action by those bodies.
PLANT UTILIZATION AND PLANNING

The Plant Utilization and Planning Committee advises the University Senate on matters concerning the physical plant and environment of the University. Its responsibilities include: reviewing the capital budget and plans for new construction; monitoring the renovation and maintenance of our present facilities; investigating the utilization of space and energy; encouraging and monitoring prudent use of all physical resources; reviewing the design and renovation of classrooms; and advising on projects that affect the quality of life of students, faculty, the University and associated communities. The Committee provides for faculty, student, and staff involvement in carrying out its mission and reports to, as required, the Faculty Assembly, the Senate Council, and the officers of the University Senate.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Student Affairs Committee serves as a channel through which student concerns may be brought to the attention of the faculty, the University administration, and the University Senate. It facilitates communication between students and the University Senate. The Committee reviews policies related to student affairs within the University. The Committee offers counsel to students, the University administration, and the Senate on matters regarding student relations and student services within the University. The Committee formulates recommendations to the University administration and to the Senate on the implementation of University policies affecting students.

TENURE & ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The contemporary concept of tenure in U.S. colleges and universities can be traced to the "Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure," which was adopted in 1940 by both the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Association of American Colleges (AAC). The basic principles of tenure as a system to protect the academic freedom of faculty members were articulated in this 1940 AAUP/AAC "Statement" and in the chapter on "Appointments and Tenure Policies" in the University of Pittsburgh's Faculty Handbook.

In the three-fold mission of the University (Teaching, Research and Public Service), the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee (TAF) offers counsel under the University grievance procedure 02-03-01 to faculty members relating to denial of promotion or tenure; nonrenewal of contract; notice of termination; actions inconsistent with university policy, and allegations of retaliation, or academic misconduct. In addition, the Committee works through the university governance system with faculty, administrators, staff, and students on policy issues involving the academic freedom of individuals or of the institution.

Revised March 22, 2013

UNIVERSITY PRESS

The mission of the Senate Committee of the University Press is to ensure the quality of the books that are published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. The Committee carries out this mission by evaluating book proposals and manuscripts submitted for publication, the reception of published books, and the performance of book series and series editors. The Committee provides advice and consultation to the Executive Director of the Press, and may when called upon forward the best interests of the Press to the University community and members of the University administration. The Committee reviews annually in general terms the financial condition of the Press, and reports annually to the Senate on its activities and the Press's performance during the preceding year.