

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
2700 Posvar Hall  
November 14, 2012

<b>Topic/Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM	The meeting commenced at.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the October 10, 2012 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><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crossed the 2 Billion in capital campaign, 182,000 donors...accomplishment by any measurement. Previously told that we couldn't do it...we just kept going and doubling the amount of target; those that are close to making commitments will have an opportunity so for the time, contributions to this campaign will continue through this academic year.</li> <li>• This is significant given the tough economic times; this is a credit to our professional staff, fundraising professionals, volunteers who have been recruiting commitments, credit to each and every person who made the University of Pittsburgh an institution more worthy of support. There is nothing more important than looking at the great things if provided with additional support. Triumph for the entire community and the attracted support. Psychologically important to put ourselves in the "big leagues" with funding.</li> <li>• Looking at National Science Foundation's research ranking...dramatic demonstration of how far we have come, in 1995 we were ranked 24<sup>th</sup> and in 2010 we were 5<sup>th</sup>. The University surpassed many outstanding other universities to obtain this ranking. This is a telling statement about the progress</li> <li>• Michael Boninger, Jennifer Grandis both of the School of Medicine elected to the Institute of Medicine; significant achievement in an individual's career.</li> <li>• Former faculty member, Alvin Roth, co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Economic based on work he had done here at the University of Pittsburgh. At the recent Board of Trustees meeting Provost Beeson provided information about the work of the Economic Department; Dr. Levine discussed the work and contributions of Boninger and Grandis</li> <li>• Ranked as top in producing Fulbrights...15 in the last year</li> <li>• Dr. Mahmoud Jabril, interim prime minister in Libyan transitional government and received his degree here; participated in the programs of the American Middle East Institute and met with faculty at Pitt; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Professor Ron Linden who was his mentor while a student met with students.</li> <li>○ The evening that he participated in the program: interviewed live on stage; crown prince of Libya interviewed on Skype;</li> <li>○ Interviews with 3 Libyan students from Pitt were interviewed on stage; Egyptian student from CMU...discussed how studying at Pitt changed their lives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attract major grants; transforming facilities; celebrated the renovation of labs in Old Engineering Hall; Dr. Patrick Gallagher, National Institute of Standards and Technology as a speaker; renovation was part of the stimulus program. Did his graduate work in physics under Dr. Mayer</li> <li>• Gene Kelly: celebration of his life; was a Pitt alumnus; brought his wife back to campus to participate in the event.</li> <li>• One Young World; city of Pittsburgh attracted this event. Pitt has such a diverse student body; received a major's citation for participation.</li> </ul>	

## Governor's Commission on Post Secondary Education

- Tremendously demanding and challenging experience due to scope of the work; clear deadline; climate is difficult due to economics of the landscape; fundamental issues raised about higher education
- Work of the commission was formally concluded by phone today to review the recommendations and to vote on them
- Becomes public when the report was posted on line; will be posting my own statement about the report later today.
- Report was supported by all members of the commission (31); not easy to get to this point due to challenges, competitive nature of how people review the world. Commission composed of a broadly diverse cross section of those from post-secondary education and others who at the start were not supportive of higher education.
- Comfortable with the report that has been issued:
  - General statements are more important than the specific recommendations due to questions raised about the worth of higher education. Higher education in Pa is strong, impactful and of high quality; report is a very important starting point;
  - What priorities of support should public higher education institutions have...report specifically identified the health and vitality of our public institutes and they a critical role in the sustaining an infrastructure that provides a quality education.
  - What are the further risks of further cuts in higher education; current budget is the minimum level of funding for post secondary education which is critical to the vitality and make long term commitment to this level of funding will allow institutions to plan. Going forward increase revenues for the state and increase costs
  - Recognition of the special role of research universities and the ability of the commonwealth to compete globally
- Flat funding for next fiscal year. For years 2 and 3 attempts to return to the average level of support preceding the severe cuts that have occurred in the past 2 years. Would be a measureable increase for us.
- General aspiration....commonwealth funded higher education to provide affordable education to PA residents
- Clear committment to cost cutting; have been committed to this and a history that we have been effective in doing that.
  - Language in report provides context for cut costs but with preservation of quality. Difference costs structures connected with difference institutional missions. For example cost of education at public research universities, state system, and community colleges are not the same.
  - Pennsylvania ranks below other states because of higher education costs but lower state support; students are afforded a range of choices and should not reflect of the cost managements that are best practices.
  - Document outlines long term performance based funding program: measures are to be developed consistent with the mission of the institution and in close collaboration; Pitt already does a lot of this; given our mission it gives us a good opportunity to demonstrate our worthiness for state investments in the institution. The goals would be either to maintain performance or improved level of performance
- In 17 years of this position, this has been one of the most demanding undertaking that has come my way; received help from others on the team; brought former vice provost Bob Pack from retirement who was extremely helpful
- Very good product coming out of very challenging circumstances; reinforces on performance measures and cost cutting and is entirely consistent with our climate of assessment which was part of middle state review.

Smitherman: Congratulates Chancellor Nordenberg on his work

Nordenberg: This report provides recommendation to the Governor; legislature has to allocate the funding. I believe in Pitt and I also believe that there is lots of other fine institution of higher education. Higher education institutions should be in this together in a climate of mutual respect and support.

Report of the President of the Senate, Dr. Smitherman

- All of our committees have met at least once. Three reports came from the committee at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty Assembly. Dr. John Baker gave a brief updated report on the A&S Suspensions of three graduate programs. Professor Dennis Looney gave a detailed report from the Library Committee. Ms. Patricia Weiss, co-chair of the Plant Utilization and Planning Committee asked for information on any problems faculty members may have had in scheduling an appropriate room for scheduled classes. After the data have been gathered, a full report will follow.
- 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 Oncoming Cyberlearning Revolution in Higher Education?* As mentioned at our meeting last month, Pitt has announced that it will be participating in several of the on-line lecture series organized by the new company, Coursera, a company founded by two professors from Stanford University. Pitt will be among an elite group of universities, getting in on the ground floor, of this particular early effort in cyberlearning on a mass scale.
  - A recent special Education Life issue in the New York Times included two articles on this topic. One was entitled, the Year of the MOOC, massive open online courses.
  - Coursera has now enrolled more than 1.7 M students. Its head, Stanford professor Andrew Ng, quipped that it is multiplying faster than Facebook.
  - EdX, the non-profit start-up from Harvard and MIT have enrolled 370,000 students so far. After a course, “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence” enrolled 150,000 students for this one course; the course directors founded a third company, Udacity.
  - Google has released MOOC-building online tools and Stanford has begun Class2Go with two courses so far.
  - 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.
- Dr. Irene Frieze of the Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee forwarded a proposal which originated in the Gender Subcommittee related to non-tenure stream faculty. Dr. Frieze and the committee graciously consented to our request that this proposal also be sent to the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee for their review on November 13<sup>th</sup>, as these topics have historically been considered to be within the purview of the committee. A revised report was developed at that meeting and will be presented at the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Assembly.
- There are two upcoming lunches with Pennsylvania legislators sponsored jointly by the Commonwealth Relations Committee and the Community Relations Committee.
  - State Representative Mike Turzai will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - State Senator Tim Solobay on November 30.
  - Deadline to respond to the meeting with Representative Turzai has passed
  - Members wishing to attend the meeting with Senator Solobay must respond to Lori Molinaro by this Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The special presentations to the Faculty Assembly have been well received so far. I am delighted that the Provost has agreed to present at one of our special presentations to Faculty Assembly this year. Provost Beeson has agreed to on April 2 to the achievements of the University of Pittsburgh and our rise up the academic ladder so rapidly. She will also include data about the financial challenges facing us.

- Provost Beeson has also agreed to help us organize special sessions on graduate programs at Pitt and findings cost savings and efficiencies at Pitt, growing out of our discussions about the National Research Council’s report on the nation’s research universities and the 10 vital steps necessary to strengthen these universities and to assure the nation’s security and prosperity. The speakers/dates will be announced soon.
- Dr. Lou Fabian’s report on the Student Athlete at Pitt has been rescheduled from January to February.
- Letter of Commendation to Chancellor Nordenberg and presented at the meeting

*Dear Chancellor Nordenberg,*

*As the members of the Executive Committee of the University Senate, we feel that it is particularly timely to write to you a letter of thanks and commendation. For several weeks, we have planned to write to you; several recent events led us to believe that now is the time. We were delighted that the Board of Trustees recently named the newest dormitory and the naming of a scholarship fund for undergraduates in your honor. We were equally pleased to hear you are the recipient of the Exemplary Leadership Award from the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership.*

*In an interview with Tamar Lewin and published in the New York Times on June 25, 2012, Mark G. Yudof, President of the University of California, was quoted as saying, “Is it possible to be a successful president of a public university? I’m not willing to say these jobs are impossible, but these are very difficult times.” In our view you have proved that it certainly is not impossible. We admire and appreciate your leadership and marvel at the accomplishments at the University of Pittsburgh as you have led us, in fewer than twenty years, from a “good” university to a “great” one; one truly worthy of being considered “world class”. You led us and the entire state-related university system through the difficulties created by much reduced state support in the last two academic years. With grace and diplomacy you led us through the crisis created by the multiple bomb threats to our campus. We thank you for your tireless efforts to build a coalition of students, faculty members, staff members, Trustees and members of the community to advance the mission of the University of Pittsburgh. We sincerely value your humanity and style in working with students, faculty and staff. It is easy for us to understand why members of the University Senate are desirous to work with the senior administration in a collegial and cooperative manner, a goal that we know is important to you. Please accept our genuine and profound thanks and our most hearty commendations. We all sincerely hope and look forward to your leading us for many years to come.*

*Thomas C. Smitherman, MD, President  
James T. Becker, PhD, Vice President  
Linda R. Frank, PhD, MSN, FAAN, Secretary  
Michael R. Pinsky, MD, Immediate Past President*

**Report of Student Members of Senate Council.**

**Student Government Board:** James Landreneau, President

- Readership Programming – Featuring NYT journalist John Broder speaking on Deep Water Horizon (Board Member Hallinan is heading this project)
- SGB Town Hall – Updates/Take Away Thoughts
- SGB Elections (Nov 15-16, 2013) – 16 Board members are running as well as 2 presidential candidates, both of whom are sitting with us today. Polling locations will be placed on upper and lower campus to increase student turnout for the election
- Other events over the past month:
  - SGB Debate during the General Election

- SGB Campaigning for all of the candidates who have received multiple endorsements from local businesses and student organizations
- Meet the candidate events in both Market Central and the Perch
- PASS Retreat
  - Board Members Murdoch, Genus, and Samudzi, as well as Governmental Relations Chair Robert Beecher and I went to Temple University this past weekend to talk about the future of the Pennsylvania Association of State-Related Students (PASS).
  - We discussed the future of PASS rallies as well as strengthening and better utilizing the SGA's/SGB's of each respective school to advocate for higher education in the state of Pennsylvania. The next conference will be held at Penn State University in late January with the new 2013 SGB Board
- 100 Nights Before Graduation
  - A meeting on November 12 to incorporate a new program at PITT which will celebrate all of the outgoing seniors through a dinner service in mid-January, the time at which seniors will have 100 days/nights before they graduate. SGB is pairing with OCC to determine logistics prior to Winter Break
- Readership Program
  - Got extended into April 2013 for the incoming 2013 SGB to have an adequate amount of time debating whether the program is popular on PITT's campus
- Bus Shuttle Markings
  - Board Member Genus and Transportation and Safety Chair Richard White have submitted a proposal to Dean Humphrey, Provost Beeson, and Transportation Chair Kevin Sheehee (sp) to have the entire 10A bus shuttle stops marked in the Oakland area. I am happy to say after 4 consecutive years of SGB members running on this initiative that Provost Beeson has accepted the proposal

Board Member Activities

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly:

Prepared by President Givens, presented by Vice President Preston Thomas

- In our advocacy efforts, we continue to see positive progress with the Sociable City initiative. Representatives from the city of Edmonton and the office of the Chancellor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln spoke with our committees as the project works to develop long term strategies and outreach that will help young people remain safe and less disruptive while enjoying the nightlife in Oakland, Southside, and beyond.
- We have continued to strengthen our partnerships with offices that provide valuable services to students, in particular the Office of International Services and the office of Career Development in the Health Sciences. We are looking forward, in fact, to establishing a permanent student liaison volunteer with OIS to better serve international graduate students and coordinate our own services and resources and those of our graduate student cultural groups with OIS.
- GPSG President Givens' Executive Committee on Governmental Relations has also been convened - in part thanks to student nominations culled from the UCGS - and has begun preparations for Pitt Day in Harrisburg, Harrisburg Day at Pitt, and our Pancakes and Politics series. GPSG looks forward to working with our constituents, the university, and our friends at SGB to advocate for the exceptional work, education, and resources that Pitt provides students, faculty, staff, and community.
- We have also been very active in coordinating events both social and academic as part of our mission to enhance the graduate and professional student experience at the university. GPSG has hosted our annual Masquerade Ball, a graduate and professional student art competition and gallery showcase and fundraiser, and has provided support for ANKUR's Diwali celebration, Pan-Af's Africa Accelerates event, the Health Science's Halloween Party.
- Graduate student participation in the Mylan Smash Hits Elton John AIDS Charity

<p>Tennis Tournament. We have been pleased with the success each of these events; in our Masquerade event at the O’Hara Student Center, our attendance increased from 250 students last year to over 600 at the same event last month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights of our upcoming events are the Pittsburgh RED Student Rally for World AIDS Day December 1<sup>st</sup>. GPSG Vice President Doan has organized and is coordinating with nearly 30 organizations, including undergraduate student groups, graduate organizations ranging from the health sciences to the Pan-African Union and the LGBTQ graduate student organization, Pitt’s health services, prevention specialists, university and city police, and the mayor’s office to organize a march from CMU to our campus. The mayor himself will be speaking at this event, which will culminate in a march to the William Pitt Union. There events, an HIV testing van, student group displays and activities, and after- parties will be waiting. Additional information about this and all our events is always available on our website.</li> </ul> <p><u>CGS SG – Brian Coleman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National non-traditional student week was November 4-10, 2012 and over 400 students participated</li> <li>• Sponsored and hosted “meet and greets” where council engaged constituent in Hillman library and members spoke about student leadership</li> <li>• Co-sponsored with Alumni Association, an event” An Evening in Paris” regarding study abroad and programs that exist for non-traditional students; guest speakers included representatives from the Study Abroad office</li> <li>• CGS Study Abroad scholarships are still being accepted on a rolling basis until December 14, 2012. One of 3 scholarships CGS SG is sponsoring</li> <li>• Participating in Veteran’s Day National Roll Call; on Tuesdays Pitt News, CGS SC council member, Kim O’Connor and her son were part of the cover story</li> <li>• Student Veteran Association is to participate in the Student Veteran’s of American National Conference in Orlando Florida in January 2013.</li> <li>• Alpha sigma Lambda, the CGS Honors Fraternity inducted 34 new members</li> </ul> <p><u>Arts and Science Graduate Student Association: Katie Moriarty-de Biasi</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grad Expo is set for March 21, 2013</li> <li>• Discussing space issue on campus for graduate students; Hillman library dissertation space is now full, 12 more cubicles will be added. Currently in talks to discuss additional space for graduate students</li> <li>• Event held on Nov. 9 raised \$1000 for the Pitt Aids Task Force</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Deborah Walker presented JP Matychack</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October the benefits committee held a brown bag on stress management, great turnout, 40 attendees; series will continue in December with topic of financial planning</li> <li>• Technology in the work place planned for the spring term, examine additional uses of technology in the workplace to reduce long term costs</li> <li>• Past 18 months working a revision of the bylaws of the (SAC) organization; draft proposal of the bylaws presented to make the organization more effective. Bylaws will hopefully approve at the December meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Announcements.: None</u></p> <p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN

Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing  
Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology  
Senate Secretary

Members attending:

Beck, Becker, Beeson, Buchanich, Butterworth, Clermont, Cochran, Coleman, Costantino, Frank, Gleason, Hartman, Humphrey, Juhl, Kear, Landreneau, Lin, Louderback, Lyon, Matychak, Molinaro, Moriarty-de Biasi, Murdoch, Neft, Neufeld, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Ramicone, Rothenberger, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Song, Tananis, Wendell, Wilson

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Chiarulli, Daley, Gallagher, Kory, Majumdar, Miller, Savinov, Savoia, Slimick, Walker

\*Excused attendance:

Arnold-Blais, Bartholomae, Culley, Flynn, Gaddy, Givens, Hravnak, Kearns, Kovacs, Levine, Lunsford, Mulcahy, Singh, Skledar, Vieira

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Clark, Fedele, Harding, Hill, Hoogendoorn, McLaughlin, Mohamed, Moore, Sahni, Supowitz, Thomas, Wilds

\*Notified Senate Office