

Notes from “Pitt Principles” open forum, October 10, 4:30 p.m. in 2500 Posvar Hall (approximately 35 in attendance)

- Social Justice is co-equal to Public Service
- Is there a comparable document that Pitt currently holds? Responses were Pitt Promise, the University mission statement and Board of Trustees documentation
- Related to the “Pursuit of Knowledge” – knowledge is knowledge whether it is socially useful. Public Service is very important with component of social justice
- How did social justice get “nixed” from the debate? Response- The issue that came up from social justice - there had to be a clear definition of social justice
- Seems like a microcosm for this entire document. “Socially useful knowledge” is that worded to avoid research that has hurt people?
- Promote “pursuit of knowledge” – it is core of what the University should be doing, the bold text explains knowledge
- You can stop after rigorous ethical practices (Pursuit of Knowledge principle)
- Remove “socially useful” in knowledge section and public service section
- Directed to the students... “Do you think social justice should have a greater role?” Response ... Definitely, if you want students to feel part of the process and this University, then social justice should be part of it... science is the pursuit of knowledge
- How do we definite social justice? It could divide rather than bring us together. Social justice should be included
- Do you think diversity and inclusion covers what you brought up?
- When you say diversity – diversity of what, very vague term
- Diversity and inclusion involves people, should it be a separate more concrete statement?
- What is missing in totality? It’s embedded in all the principles.
- Is that enough?

- Simple statement of diversity should be clear. The issue goes back to what we mean for social justice. It should be up there beyond diversity and inclusion. Justice is something else
- Doesn't that imply doing something?
- Small groups took six categories and drafted language, we understood diversity in the broadest sense, there may be better statements
- Diversity and Inclusion (principle) ... and sustain... "excellence in university life".
- Possibly bold the 2nd to the last sentence... The work of realizing a diverse and inclusive environment remains an ongoing and unceasing process; therefore, the University commits to an active and intentional process of engagement with diversity that increases awareness and intellectual growth, promotes participation, cultivates empathy and respect, and encourages a greater understanding of the complexity of human experience.
- Would it be a good idea to couple with where could we be doing better to get to where we want to be?
- How is this document related to the master plan? How do we get the job done?
- The Plan for Pitt – there were very few things of value statements, we wanted to add on to what we already had
- This came about for we wanted to be prepared if incidents happened on campus, we would have one voice. This committee was never designed to cover the values of Pitt. The Pitt promise – we ask your students, but we didn't have a document for civility for our campus. How do we agree to treat one another in this environment?
- The document seems more active, what we are reaching for, there seems to be aspirational language
- You picked up on the differences in the committee
- We need to align what is here to what we want to do with the document
- It was sometimes a reactive approach, from watching what was happening on other campuses
- Excellent document with a few edits – "pursuit of knowledge" statement and expand public service with social justice
- Curious about solidarity in "shared governance" – is it solidarity on these topics or in other ways? A purpose of shared governance is to be constructive and critical but in a respectful way

- It recognizes we are all in the same place, but there could be better ways to phrase it
- Solidarity does have different connotations – a single uniformed response, that would exclude people with different points of view
- Suggest.. “university togetherness”
- A sense of community
- The word respect is not prominent, I think it should be at the beginning of the document
- “active engagement” Since it’s a process, make it more part of public service. “respectful engagement” is appropriate in this document
- A review could happen every year, staying on it & coming together annually would be useful. Graduate students can’t take classes in other schools or across disciplines, I think that is something to consider