

**Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
(Hybrid format)  
Thursday March 23, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

President Robin Kear called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of the Past Senate Council Meeting**

On a motion duly made (Chancellor Gallagher) and seconded (Kanthak) the minutes from the Senate Council meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, were approved as written.

**III. Items of New Business**

No items of new business were raised.

**IV. Report of the Chancellor, Patrick Gallagher**

Good afternoon, everyone.

We are in election season for the student government boards and we are going to hear more about the results of these today. Let me congratulate all the students, candidates and students involved as it is a lot of work on the election.

Let me be the first to congratulate President-elect Ann Cudd on her new position. She was recently approved by Board of Portland State University to be its next President. We are very excited and very proud of that accomplishment. She will be here, as Provost, until midsummer. There will be an announcement for an interim Provost. The competition for that will happen after the selection of the new Chancellor. So, I would not be expecting any announcements on this until after the end of term.

Some comments on the events beginning tomorrow. These anti-trans and transphobic events that are happening over the coming weeks have generated a lot of controversy, debate, and concern on and off campus. Ideas are dangerous and powerful things. Universities are places for new ideas. One of the principles that centers a modern university is a liberal education and the liberty we are talking about is the freedom around ideas. We allow enormous latitude by not mandating what is or is not appropriate for discussion. That decider could be an administrator, or government or by popularity. You can also infringe that freedom of ideas by limiting who is allowed to participate. If the university was open to certain individuals but not others that is also limiting that freedom and that is what our diversity programs are all about. Our DEI also support this fundamental liberty, and usually these two values usually support each other. But when the speech is attacking one elements of our community these values go into tension, and this is most challenging. The real test of a value is doing it when it is hard, not when it is easy, and our values will be tested over the coming weeks.

I want to highlight two things: One is, exacerbating this already difficult situation is a community that is not at the University of Pittsburgh this is being fueled by social media, commentators etc. They do not bear responsibility for their actions as they are outside the University and it is important that do not overreact to these actions. The most important point is that, to some members of our community, whether they are trans themselves or have friends or family who are trans, this is not an academic debate about free speech and DEI, it is very personal and it hurts deeply. I don't want us to forget our core humanity and that they are part of our community that we should support and our solidarity towards them is a powerful way to express

and support this difficult circumstance. I hope our community does reach and support by word or deed. It will be a challenging period.

The Chancellor asked Dean Panzella to give an overview of what is coming up:

Dean Panzella: The Office of Student Affairs, with a lot of partnership with the University PD and Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion have really come together over the past few weeks and to discuss the events and how we can support all of our community members. Part of this is giving our specific logistical guidance around these events as well as providing care and support to those who need it.

We are monitoring the location of the events and yesterday we sent out a letter to all students that describes our demonstration policy. We ask all students to review this, so that they understand their rights and responsibilities related to that. Staff are planning location logistics including ticketing, line management, crowd control and counter events.

We met with members of student government boards to talk about issues and I want to reiterate we encourage everyone to trust their gut, understand their personal safety and do what they need to remain safe, both physically and emotionally during this process.

We have done walk-throughs with PD at all locations to make sure we have the best possible outcomes at all events, including crowd control and procedures related to events such as these.

Another message will go out our students related to organizations that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as allies to talk about spaces that we have available for them. The Office of Inclusion and Belonging will host support spaces Monday and Friday evening during the time of the events. University counsellors will be available there as well as at the center to be available for all students.

We know that students planning other events that are positive, and I want to encourage students to participate in these positive activities.

Chancellor continued his report:

The appropriation process for the annual budget has begun. I went to Harrisburg this week to testify to the House, and I will be going again next week to testify before the Senate. These are very early in the season. The governor's proposal had two parts with an inflation-like increase of 2.1% and a one-time increase of 5%, to lead to an overall increase of 7.1%. My message is always the same that all support goes back to PA students. That is the core message we will focus on.

The other part is this is the governor's call for a discussion or a working group to make recommendations about a comprehensive reform of the higher education landscape in PA. I wrote an op-ed about this in the Post Gazette last week. PA is somewhat unique in not having a single state higher education system, but rather three or more separate systems that are separately funded and prioritized. For a state that already ranks near dead last in per capita spending for higher ed the inability to adequately allocate limited resources exacerbates that situation, and it does so at the expense of our students. I applaud this effort and this is an opportunity to put everything on the table and have a state-wide plan.

March is women's history month and there have been many events around campus to celebrate this I want to highlight a great example in our School of Pharmacy. The portrait of Ella P. Stewart was unveiled. She was the first black woman to earn a degree in our School of Pharmacy. She was admitted in 1914, graduated in 1916 and was the first black woman to practice pharmacy in Pennsylvania and one the very first in the country. This story is not widely known and some of our Pharmacy doctoral students are taking the lead to highlight and spread the word. I want to recognize their efforts in this regard.

Our signature event for this month, "HerStory Slam", will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Frick Fine Arts auditorium.

Major Scholarship announcements:

Michael Baker, a senior in the Dietrich School, is the second student in Pitt history to be named a Gates Cambridge scholar. The first was in 2009. This will fully fund his studies towards a Master of Philosophy degree in Clinical Neurosciences at Cambridge.

Four Pitt students earned 2023 Critical Language scholarships. These are very competitive, highly prestigious scholarships awarded by the US Department of State. Each will spend 8-10 weeks abroad in an immersive experience to make rapid language gains and to develop intercultural fluency. Congratulations to Jesse Biltz, Dannial Cardillo, Jordan Kamasa and Hiba Siddiqui.

Also this month congratulations to our SOM students who had match day this week. There were 135 graduating medical students how opened their envelopes to see where they matched for residency. It was quite a spectacle, it is a big deal and Pitt did great.

Julia Santucci, in GSPIA, was appointed by President Biden to the President's Intelligence Advisory Board. This is one of the big standing boards in the government and it is an honor to be selected for this.

Last week, along with Drs Cudd, Rutenbar and Shekhar we had the Faculty Convocation, when we presented multiple faculty awards, including the 2023 Distinguished Chancellor's awards. There is a long list which I will not go through.

We are looking forward to the Senate Plenary on AI in higher ed.  
That concludes my report.

There were no more questions for Chancellor Gallagher.

#### **V. Report of Senate President, Robin Kear** *(submitted in writing)*

##### **Leadership Changes**

- Provost Ann Cudd has accepted a position to be the next President of Portland State University. Congratulations to Ann. We thank her for her service to Pitt and wish her well in this next opportunity.

##### **Access to free exercise facilities at Trees Hall and Bellefield Hall**

- After discussion by the CUPS, Benefits, and Athletics committees, and Staff Council, there was a question of whether the exercise facilities and pools at Bellefield and Trees Halls would remain open and free for use for faculty and staff after the new wellness and rec center is finished. After working with Linda Tashbook, Chair of Benefits & Welfare, David Salcido, Co-Chair of CUPS, and Dave DeJong, SVC for Business and Operations, I am happy to say that yes, these exercise facilities will remain open and free for faculty and staff for the indefinite future.

##### **University Policy Open for Comment**

- There are currently no policies open for public comment.

##### **Union Relations**

- The Union's Council of Representatives has voted to create a standing committee to facilitate senate-union communication. We met on Tuesday for the first time. We are creating a short statement of purpose and determining future meetings. The group right now consists of your Senate

Officers, myself, Kris, Chris, Penny, and Lori Molinaro along with Michael Goodhart, Nick Bircher, Haitao Liu, Gretchen Aiyangar, from the Union of Pitt Faculty, and Robin Sowards from USW.

### Senate Plenary

- The Senate Plenary will be in-person on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 pm in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. The Plenary is open to the entire Pitt community and includes lunch. A read green was sent out. It will be livestreamed, and a recording will be available for viewing.
- The topic for this year's plenary will be 'Unsettled: Frames for Examining Generative Artificial Intelligence'.
- Large language models and generative artificial intelligence have growing potential to change many aspects of our lives in higher education, including how we interact with information, teaching, and research. The late 2022 pop culture splash of ChatGPT awakened many of us to the existing permeation of these kinds of AI into our lives and jolted us to the exciting and unsettling aspects of this AI for our future. How do we take a step back and do what we do best? We examine the impact through our disciplinary expertise and experience, and then we imagine and influence the future. This year's Senate Plenary brings together seven Pitt experts in wide-ranging areas - philosophy of science, art, engineering, computing & information, language, english, and law - to present and discuss what comes next.
- The speakers will be:
  - **Colin Allen, Philosophy of Science, Distinguished Professor**
  - **Morgan Frank, SCI, Assistant Professor**
  - **Na-Rae Han, Linguistics, Teaching Professor**
  - **Alison Langmead, History of Art & Architecture**
  - **Michael Madison, Law, Professor of Law and John E. Murray Faculty Scholar**
  - **Annette Vee, English, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Composition Program**
  - **Joseph Yun, Electrical and Computer Engineering**
  - **Novel data science algorithms, user-centric analytics systems, and societal considerations of AI-based advertising and marketing (e.g., privacy, ethics)**
- Please share the information about the plenary with your areas.

### Upcoming Speakers at Pitt

- Last week, I shared with you my personal opposition to the upcoming speakers at Pitt, specifically two that are anti-trans. I also shared that my personal stance does not prohibit these student groups from their ability to host these events.
- I have had many more conversations on this issue since then, including the growing awareness that we should make this a unifying issue, one that unifies us to support our trans community and our LGBTQIA+ community. These speakers do not align with our university values, and anyone in our community should feel free to continue making that known.
- I can see this unification of purpose happening with our student government leadership. They think that more should be done and convened a meeting with administrators and invited Senate leadership to participate. I think that there was progress at the meeting held last night and perhaps Danielle will comment further.

- There are great responsibilities that come with the right to free speech and I think we need to explore them more deliberately. Unfortunately, this will not be the last time that we have speakers brought into the community that seek to divide and inflame.
- I am at the beginning of the process to convene a Senate ad hoc group that will allow deeper discussion of free speech, hate speech, and the responsibilities of our community members, within the obligation of being a public university and an open intellectual environment. As always, please suggest to me the names of those that you think should be involved in this critical conversation.
- Dean of Students Carla Panzella sent a thoughtful email to students yesterday that covered how to protect yourselves and participate in peaceful demonstration.
- We can continue to support our trans community, our LGBTQIA+ community, and others. There are many counter-positive events happening in parallel around the time of these events. I urge to consider taking part in a positive response.

Thank you for your service and dedication to shared governance.

Any questions or comments on my report?

Kanthak: I want to echo what you said about the leadership from our student and our staff organizations. This has been very heartening, and I want to commend them.

**VI. Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:**  
**A. Student Government Board (SGB), Danielle Floyd**

Hello everyone,

I want to start by congratulating Provost Cudd for the move to Portland. You were phenomenal here at Pitt and we have had such a great relationship and thank you for your dedication to the student body, helping with our initiatives and your passion for that.

I want to first acknowledge the distress and anger I know many are feeling about several events that will be taking place on campus over the next few weeks. Many students have made it clear that those who wish to promote hate and exclusion have no place in the Pitt community, and nearly 10,000 students, staff, and community members signed a petition calling for the cancellation of these events. Now more than ever it is important to support trans and the entire LGBTQIA+ community at Pitt, centering and uplifting those voices that are most impacted at this time.

With the first one of these events taking place tomorrow, I encourage those who wish to protest to take a look at the resources that were shared in Dean Panzella's message to students and remind everyone that the Office of Inclusion & Belonging is a resource for students if anyone is finding that they need a space to have support. SGB is also here as a resource, and we met with Senior Leaders yesterday to share concerns from students we're hearing, please know that our door is always open and we can be reached by contacting [sgb@pitt.edu](mailto:sgb@pitt.edu). The next few weeks on our campus will be challenging. I encourage everyone to take care of themselves during these times, and know that our Counseling Center is here to support anyone in need. SGB also posted a statement on our Instagram and on our website, about how we feel about this issue, and I encourage people to check out our statement.

Moving right along, the Student Government Board had elections on Tuesday where the student body selected their representatives and President for the school Year. During the election the student body

also voted upon and passed three constitution referendum questions. I am very happy to announce that Ryan Young will be serving as our new SGB President for this upcoming year, and I will pass it off to him to announce the new 2023-2024 Student Government Board.

Young: I am a junior math, physics, and astronomy major and I am thrilled to address Senate Council today as president-elect. This year we had over 2000 students cast ballots in our election and I am really happy with the board elect. Common themes during the campaign include working and sexual misconduct, support for student workers and improving services for trans and gender non-conforming students. I cannot overstate the honor it is to lead the SGB, and without further ado I will introduce the new Student Board:

❖ Board Members:

- Sarah Siddiqui; a sophomore sociology major and current wellness chair of SGB
- Katie Fitzpatrick; a sophomore political science and psychology major and current community and governmental relations chair of SGB
- Sarah Mayer; a sophomore neuroscience and psychology major and current member of the allocations committee
- Katie Emmert; a sophomore political science and law criminal justice and society major and current member of the students against sexual misconduct and community and governmental relations committees
- Olivia Rosati; a junior political science and international studies major and current member of the wellness and the facilities transportation and technology committees.
- Ashley White; a sophomore psychology major and current RA at Sutherland Hall
- Matt Jurich; a first-year philosophy and political science major
- Braydan Issermoyer; a junior political science and psychology major and current board liaison to the academic affairs committee.

This board represents many facets of our student body and I am really happy with the balance we have struck with this board. Thank you and I look forward to working with you all next year.

Floyd: Thank you Ryan! Really excited to see what you will do for next year. Getting into updates from SGB. Highlighting

- This weekend the Board and CGR Committee attended our virtual PASS Conference where we connect with Penn State and other stater-related student government discuss ways to advocate for our state funding.
- SGB has hired a new Student Worker to assist us in converting our website from with the hope of having it complete by the Summer
- SGB has completed the Menstrual Equity Proposal. I want to thank the Student Office of Sustainability and the Divas for collaborating with us on this project. We're hoping to access the Newly created new initiatives fund to pay for these two vending that we're hoping to place in Towers Lobby and WPU.
- Our CGR Committee will be hosting our Women in Politics Panel which will be held on Tuesday, March 28th 6-7pm right here in Nordy's.
- Our Students Against Sexual Misconduct Committee
  - Met with PAAR to talk about how we can leverage them further
  - Met with Dr. Darr to talk about the work he is doing to create Confidential Advocates
  - Finally, we met with It's On Us and going to ahead in the direction of creating a new chapter within Student Government Board

- Gain approval from the Office of Inclusion & Belonging, SORC, and other on a survey we're hoping to send out to gain a better understand of student orgs space and storage needs on campus, and will be launching very soon
- We are continuing to work with Student Affairs and the Student Office on the Sixth Floor to refresh their spaces, and will be meeting with the Office of Planning & Design next Wed March 29<sup>th</sup>
- SGB's process of allocating 85 storage and 11 shared office spaces in the William Pitt Union and O'Hara Student Center begins soon. Applications are open to all SORC-registered organizations, and will be posted on our social media and website when released.

#### Allocations

- Spring budgets information is posted on the Allocations website, they will be held on April 13th.
- Total spent in supplemental requests: \$608,027.27
- Total spent (includes fall budgets and spring budgets from last year): \$936,825.90
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Collaboration Grants
  - Awarded three collaborations grants for this month to the
    - Pakistani Student Association
    - Minority Association in Computing
    - Pitt Dhirana

#### Questions?

Bonneau: I am looking on the SBG website and I don't see the statement.

Floyd: I apologize it is not up yet on the website as our web master was sick this week. It is up on our Instagram, and it will up later on the website

Bonneau: Can you give me a quick summary of what it says?

Floyd: It essentially says what I said before. It also points out that the Pitt Republicans did not go through our allocations process for these events. That is not to say that they could not do so if they wanted, but that they have not used the allocations process.

Gallagher: I did want to acknowledge that elections are a lot of work, and this was a particularly smooth election. Congratulations to the election committee and who made the elections possible.

#### **B. College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG), Anna Yatsko for Monte Labash**

I wanted to start by thanking you for hearing the concerns I raised last month about the budget committees being slowed down. I was expecting things to take a while to return to normal and I was glad to see the budget committees get back on track so quickly. Thanks for taking these concerns seriously and acting quickly.

- CGS SG has begun the interview process for the 2023-24 board. Per CGS SG constitution, selected applicants will be interviewed next week and we will send out invitations to accept positions on Friday, March 31.
- CGS SG's spring events will include:
  - i. Inductions of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honors Society on Thursday, March 30
  - ii. ASL is CGS's non-traditional student honor society which has been inactive for the past few years. CGS has reinstated the organization and has begun the nomination process.

- iii. Professional Development event for Resume and Cover Letter workshopping with Carol Balk, CGS professional development counselor will be held on Monday, April 3
- iv. CGS SG is set to sponsor Pitt Tonight's "Love on the Lawn" concert this Saturday, March 25 on the Lower Lawn of the Cathedral

No questions.

### **C. Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSSG), Sarah Malone**

I want to start by congratulating Provost Ann Cudd on her new position. We want to thank you for all of the great work you have done here at Pitt and we look forward to seeing the great work you will do in Portland.

We had a meeting yesterday with various upper administrators and senate members in collaboration with SGB & CGSE regarding the anti-trans events on campus. This was a fruitful discussion, but we just wanted to remind everyone that graduate students and leaders are still very concerned about the events taking place especially in regard to public safety. There has been some difficulty with the information being shared by the university regarding guidelines in demonstration and what the correct procedure students should take. We want to encourage administration to create additional safe spaces for the communities that have been affected outside of the various student groups that already provide these spaces. We understand that there is a gray area between freedom of speech and hate speech and we encourage administration to look into these policies further and potentially convene a Senate task force in regard to situations like this.

We thank you for taking this situation seriously and want to continue discussions moving forward.

- GPSG 2023-2024 elections until Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>, if you are a graduate or professional student you are eligible to vote until Friday. Results will be posted Monday 3/27
  - We are having a special election for our VP of Programming position and will call for applications after the official election is over. Any graduate or professional student is able to run, and voting will happen at the April Assembly Board Meeting April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in WPU 548.
- We have finished our interviews for the position of Executive Administrator and will be offering that position by next week 3/27
- 4 students have been chosen for GPSGs Leadership and Service Award
  - Awardees will receive a \$250 grant for their service or leadership at Pitt
  - Additionally, the reception for these leaders to receive their award will be Thursday 4/20 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm in WPU 548
  - Anyone is welcome to RSVP by emailing GPSG for this event to celebrate these students.
- At our March AB meeting many representatives have shared their end of year events and their elections are currently underway
- Our upcoming events:
  - March 22nd - Collaboration with UCC creative & wellness workshop for Grad students
  - March 24 - Festive Friday
    - 7pm at Steel Mill Saloon - \$10 tickets
  - Grad Appreciation Week



- 4/3 Monday: Grad Gifts – **First come, first serve: No registration required!**
  - 10 am – 2 pm: WPU 548 Grad student Lounge
- 4/4 Tuesday: Cookout/BBQ – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/graduate-appreciation-week-cookoutbbq-tickets-594267007617>
  - 11:30 am – 2:30 pm in Posvar patio
    - Food will be served from 12 – 2 pm
  - \$3 Tickets are to hold spot but will be reimbursed after check-in
- 4/5 Wednesday: Coffee & Ice Cream – **First come, first serve: No registration required!**
  - 10 am – 1 pm: WPU 548 Grad student Lounge
  - Need some midweek coffee and ice cream? Grab a voucher in the Grad student lounge for the new Coffee 'N' Creamery on campus!
- Hosted by The Career Center and we are helping promote
  - 4/5 Wednesday: Financial Awareness: Hosted by The Career Center and we are helping promote - [https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273464/share\\_preview](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273464/share_preview)
    - 4 pm – 5 pm: WPU Career Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
    - Join the career center to learn about how to budget, understand student loans and general financial education to help post-graduation.
  - 4/5 Wednesday: Mental Health in the Workplace: Hosted by The Career Center and we are helping promote - [https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273474/share\\_preview](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273474/share_preview)
    - 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm: WPU Career Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
    - Come learn about how to safeguard your mental health as you begin your career journey after graduation
  - 4/6 Thursday: Thriving in a Virtual Working Environment: Hosted by The Career Center and we are helping promote – [https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273490/share\\_preview](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273490/share_preview)
    - 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm: WPU Career Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
    - In today's rapidly changing world, remote work is becoming more and more prevalent. Learning how to be successful remotely now will only benefit you more in the future. We all deserve the time, energy and flexibility we need to do our deepest work, invest in our career growth and build meaningful professional relationships.
  - 4/6 Thursday: Salary Negotiation: Hosted by The Career Center and we are helping promote – [https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273503/share\\_preview](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/events/1273503/share_preview)
    - 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm: WPU Career Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
    - Don't leave money on the table! Join Pitt's Career Center for an interactive, Start Smart salary negotiation workshop geared towards college students.
- 4/8 Saturday: Spring Fling – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpsg-spring-fling-2023-tickets-569986042597>
  - 7pm at Rivers Casino – 777 Casino Dr.
  - \$15 tickets

- Finish off graduate student appreciation week with GPSGs Annual Spring Fling! Enjoy food, drinks, dancing, and celebration of the year at Rivers Casino.
- Continued use of travel grant in February with 5 students funded. We have 20 applicants this month, and our April grants will open on the 1-10th.
- We are looking to increase awareness about our supplemental funds that we provide for our graduate student organizations if they need additional funding for their events, they can apply for up to \$2000 per year for their events.
  - We have had 5 applicants in March and were able to provide additional funding for their events

We are very excited to finish up this year strong and are excited to pass on the knowledge to the incoming board. Thank you all for your time!

#### **VII. Report of the President of the Postdoctoral Association, Stephanie Mutchler**

The UPPDA board drafted a response to the request for information issued by the NIH on postdoctoral affairs. Our full submission is available on our website, but the things we most strongly advocated for were for the NIH to allow training grant recipients to hold an employee relationship with the university they work at, for international scholars to be considered for more training grants to create more equity in the pay and positions available to them, and for mentor-mentee contracts with specific benchmarks to be required as part of training plans.

We have also been fundraising for the professional development awards given at our annual Data and Dine event. We have collected a total of \$6000 and will be able to award 10 grants to the top poster presentations. We encourage postdocs from all departments to participate and compete.

We are sponsoring three postdocs to attend the National Postdoctoral Association's Annual Meeting next month in Philadelphia where they will be presenting on career development plans and early career mentorship for postdocs and research faculty members.

And finally, elections for our board will be held at the end of April, with voting open from April 24 through the beginning of May. We will begin seeking candidate statements the first week of April, and again encourage postdocs from across campus to consider getting involved so that we may increase the representation of postdocs outside the health sciences in our governing board.

#### **VIII. Report of the President of the Staff Council, Lindsay Rodzicz *(submitted in writing)***

We echo congratulations to Provost Cudd and thank her for her work at Pitt and her support of Pitt staff.

We also echo sentiments regarding the upcoming events on campus. Staff Council as an organization recognizes the intersecting identities of its members and the greater Pitt community, and stands in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. We commit to protecting and championing inalienable human rights, especially during times of targeted persecution. We respect the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and recognize that opinions and perspectives can be complex. We appreciate good faith dialogue. However, we are concerned that upcoming events on campus may promote exclusion and hate. We understand these events are not representative of the University's point of view;

however, the events held on the University campus do not represent the Pitt Promise which seeks to cultivate "...an environment of Mutual Respect, Diversity, Concern for Others, Academic Integrity, Inclusion, Civility."

We extend solace and safe spaces to all who are sexual and gender minoritized people, with particular emphasis on those identifying beyond the gender binary and those who identify as transgender people.

We will help plan, promote, and support parallel activities that are in keeping with the Pitt Promise and encourage caring and inclusivity, creating safe spaces for our community during the derisive scheduled events.

We are in the process of finalizing our formal organizational statement and will further direct members of our community to policy, procedure, and support resources (many of which have already been shared by OEDI and other groups).

#### **Staff Council Upcoming Events:**

1. **Save the Date for the next virtual Staff Council Spotlight information sessions for Spring 2023:**
  - a. Pitt Police and University Counseling Center (HEART TEAM) Spotlight on Wednesday, April 12, at 12noon.
2. Our **Staff Council Spring Assembly** will be a hybrid event held on Wednesday, May 10 at 10am in-person at the O'Hara Ballroom and also via Zoom. The theme surrounds the year of Emotional Wellbeing and our co-presentors will be Dr. Michelle Schein and Dr. Laura Deitz from the Department of Counseling and Behavioral Health in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
3. **Save the Date for Pitt Day at Kennywood** on Saturday, June 17. More details to come on purchasing discounting tickets and the picnic at the pavilion!
4. Staff Council joins the **University in Celebrating Women's History Month** – there are several great events happening in the next week before the end of March. You can find several on the OEDI website: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/events/monthly-celebrations/womens-history-month>

We also wanted to recognize the work of two of our members Tammeka Banks and Christine McClure in their work on new workshops will focus on 'under-acknowledged' single moms in higher ed. The next event is:

COPING STRATEGIES WHEN MOM DOESN'T KNOW BEST

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 12-1:30 PM

School of Education, Room 5601, POSVAR HALL

RSVP: [https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cRMQ00EZ28rwaug](https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cRMQ00EZ28rwaug)

Our next **General Meeting** will be on Wednesday, April 19 at 12 noon. It will be a hybrid meeting – in person in Benedum 102 and online via Zoom. Tom Hitter, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy Development and Management will be our special guest speaker. Our elections committee will also be discussion the opening of the process for officers for the next 2-year term.

**All are welcome to any of our events and you can register through the Pitt Events Calendar.**

Last but certainly not least, we are excited that HR's work on **Compensation Modernization** project continues to progress and hope that all had the opportunity to read about it in the [PittWire](#) on Thursday, March 16.

And want to reinforce the message direct those who are interested to: [Learn more on the Compensation Modernization project SharePoint site](#).

**This concludes our report. Thank you.**

**IX. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate**

None

**X. Unfinished Business and/or New Business:**

None

**XI. Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Documents from the meeting are available at the University Senate website:

<https://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council>

Respectfully submitted,  
Penelope (Penny) Morel  
Secretary, University Senate

Members attending: Bonneau, Buchanich, Burton, Chagantipati, Conley, Cudd, DeJong, Denman, Doty, Floyd, Gallagher, Kanthak, Kear, Kleebank, Labrinidis, Maier, Melnick, Molinaro, Morel, Mutchler, Newman, Nguyen, Paljug, Reed, Rodzwick, Rutenbar, Sant, Sastry, Schuster, Shafiq, Swigonova, Taboas, Tashbook, Young, Zack

Members not attending: Archibald, Bench, Bonner, Cilli, Damiani, Gregerson, Jones, Kamasa, Kohanbash, Lam, Lewin, Mahboobin, Massanelli, Oyler, Songer, Tudorascu, Wood, Yearwood

\*Excused attendance: Kovacs, Labash, Pacella-LaBarbara, Paterson, Shekhar, Washington

Others attending: Anderson, Ayars, Brown, Caldwell, Corn, Dostilio, Culpepper, Finder, Frieze, Harding, Hitter, Jones S., LaBar, Lancaster, Malone, McCormick, Panzella, Pelt, Pickett, Rai, Ringler, Roadman, SantaCasa, Staresinic, Stonesifer, Supowitz, Wells, Yatsko

\* Notified Senate office