

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
September 10, 2019

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.	The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Past Faculty Assembly Meeting</u> Minutes (May 7, 2019) were approved as written	Approved
<u>Items of New Business</u> SUKITS asked if he can add to our agenda the changes to academic calendar, which affected his Monday class this semester. BONNEAU explained that the issue will be discussed later today under the New Business	
<p style="text-align: center;">President’s Report—Faculty Assembly Mtg 9/10/19</p> <p>Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good summer and are rested and ready for a busy semester of shared governance. This summer was very busy for the Officers and that is not just because BOTH Bruce Springsteen AND Taylor Swift dropped new albums. There are a lot of issues that are going to be on our plate this year.</p> <p>First, I want to welcome our new Vice President David Salcido and our new Secretary Gosia Fort. I am looking forward to collaborating with them over the next year.</p> <p>Now, on to the updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When last we met, the search committee for the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences has just been constituted. This committee held two open forums for faculty and members of the Health Sciences from Faculty Assembly met with the Chancellor and the co-chairs of the committee. David will have more to say about this later. The committee is in the process of holding initial interviews and the plan is to have finalists to campus before the end of the semester. • We received some good budget news, with a 2% increase in state funding. The Chancellor and Board of Trustees used the extra money to increase the salary pool for faculty and staff as well as to reduce the tuition increase that had been recommended by the UPBC. • The Pitt Success program, announced in February, has been an early...success. The Oakland campus matriculated about 100 more Pell-eligible students than last year. Given how late in the admissions process this was announced, it is realistic to expect more growth next year. • There are currently 3 proposed policies open for public comment on the website of the Office of Policy Development and Management: 	Report Discussion

Electronic Information Technology Accessibility; Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action; and Pennsylvania Residency Classification. I urge all of you to take a look at these. They will all be coming before us over the next few meetings—the first two are tentatively scheduled for next meeting. In particular, I want to highlight part of the Nondiscrimination Policy that would make all faculty mandatory reporters for these issues as well as apply to faculty when they accept an appointment to Pitt and not when their appointment starts (like typical policies).

- The Chancellor has directed Chief Financial Officer Hari Sastry to develop criteria to screen potential investments and to present these criteria to the Board of Trustees. Additionally, the Chancellor asked Sastry to develop criteria for investment exclusions to the portfolio. No timetable has been given; this is something we plan to discuss at our upcoming lunch with the administration.
- The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board held hearings in July over whether the union organizers from the Steelworkers collected enough signatures for a vote. The union only needs signatures from 30% in order to force a vote. The university has to turn over the list by November 1. Hearings have been scheduled for December to determine the accuracy of the list and the PLRB will then determine whether or not the 30% threshold has been met.
- In October, we will hear a presentation from the new Chief Information Officer, Mark Henderson.
- There has been a big shake-up over in the Office of Human Relations. Cheryl Johnson resigned in June and was replaced by Dave DeJong. Dave will be serving in that role for the next several months. Dave will make a presentation to us at the October meeting.
- And on the topic of HR... if you have been notified that your Child Protection Clearances have expired or will soon expire, you need to begin the process of renewing them **immediately**. Failure to do so will result in your being placed on unpaid administrative leave. It is vitally important for the University to be in compliance with state law, so please be sure to do your part. Likewise, if you supervise individuals who need these clearances, please ensure they begin the renewal process now.
- After much persistent lobbying from the Senate, the Title IX Office has released a report detailing the number of complaints, investigations, etc. These can be found in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Annual Report:

https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Pitt%20Diversity%202018-19%20Annual_ADAcompliant.pdf

- The chairs of all the standing committees will be having lunch with the Chancellor and Provost next Friday. This is a good opportunity for committees to bring pressing issues to the attention of the administration.
- Finally, a reminder to all committee chairs to send minutes of their meetings to Lori once they have been approved. We would like to keep the Senate website up-to-date and be able to refer people to it if they have questions about relevant items. Committee minutes are an important part of that.

Moving forward, this semester we hope to have a report from the committee to examine making Pitt tobacco-free. Additionally, the issue of foreign influence continues to be on the front-burner. The Chancellor made a strong statement in defense of academic freedom and Pitt's commitment to protect our people, regardless of national origin. At the same time, Pitt has temporarily suspended its Confucius Institute in response to guidance by the federal government. This issue is not going away anytime soon.

As you can see, there is a lot currently going on at the university that is going to require our attention. Let's get to work.

Discussion

STONER commented that Pitt has temporarily suspended only part of its Confucius Institute, not all.

BONNEAU Many universities have to deal with it, Pitt seems to be much more protective of its employees.

De VALLEJO raised the issue of clearances for students in the labs. These have associated costs, which may be difficult for students

BONNEAU Costs are about \$40-\$50. We should discuss this with students' organizations

HALL mentioned that in the psychiatry department they have been told that undergraduates can have these costs covered by university, but they argued against since it privileges one group

De VALLEJO pointed out that for students working under grants these costs cannot be covered NIH grants

GRAMM I am on Students Affairs Committee and if we could have this email confirming that University can cover costs, we could bring it up there.

JEFFREY: I work in Students Affairs where we work with programs that require clearances and it depends on function, clearance for volunteers can be free.

There is fee for not volunteers and FBI clearances

BICKFORD asked, while referring to President Bonneau's updates about budget increase, if the budget cuts were unchanged from UPBC recommendations.

BONNEAU explained that UPBC recommendations were in 3 areas: in salary poll the increase was upped to 2.5%, the increase in tuition was reduced to 3% and

<p>overall budget cuts were kept at 1.5% but it is Bonneau’s understanding that budget cuts will be realized through cost savings in expiring contracts and other services. Therefore, the budget cut will be less than 0.5% but he does not know how it would be distributed through different units.</p> <p>STONER reported that Dietrich School received 0.5% budget cut.</p> <p>WILSON added that his campus got also 0.5% cut, so the question is whether it was distributed evenly through all the units or with some variations</p> <p>BONNEAU in response to BICKFORD gave example of EG (Educational General) budget which includes salaries and pointed to increase in tuition revenue, which makes difficult to say what is the final number.</p> <p>GRAMM Gave example of change in hiring practices in Dietrich School cuts in response to the budget cut.</p> <p>BONNEAU closed the discussion by reminding everyone what policies would be under discussion at the next meeting.</p>		
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of the Special and Standing Committees of the Senate</u></p>	<p>There were no committee reports</p>	<p>No Report</p> <p>No Discussion</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p>	<p>SALCIDO talked about the meeting with HS faculty he organized in July to understand their perspective and needs. During this meeting the issue of prioritization in teaching and service was brought up and the dual appointment for SVC/dean of SOM (the search is underway). As follow up of the discussion, the meeting of HS faculty with the Chancellor was held in August. The chairs of SVC search committee and dr Shapiro were there too. We raised the mentioned earlier issues and we got candid answers from the Chancellor. The main goal was to address concerns raised at the original meeting and seek some transparency and accountability from the new SVC. The Chancellor heard the concerns and came back with proposal to include a subset of HS faculty in the interview of the finalists.</p> <p>De VALLEJO: Has the subset of HS faculty will be chosen?</p> <p>SALCIDO: No specifics yet</p> <p>BONNEAU: We will talk with Chancellor when it is closer to interview, but this should be a wide representation of all HS schools not only SOM.</p> <p>BECKER: Chancellor may run into procedural issues to select this group, because election to the Search Committee already happened.</p> <p>BONNEAU: The job of the search committee will be done as</p>	

	<p>soon as they identified final candidates. During the provost search Frank and I met with the candidate separately to give feedback to Chancellor. Maybe Nick can comment.</p> <p>BIRCHER confirmed that these are two separate procedures and the election pertains only to the selection of Search Committee. The HS representation to interview does not have any search committee responsibilities just the chance to ask questions and provide additional comments to Chancellor</p> <p>How you elect the subset of HS faculty is a matter of choice. You are not locked into policy which governs only Search Committee.</p> <p>HALL suggested drafting a document which would serve as a reminder and have our thanks, explanation of understanding and proposal of x people present. And maybe after we have the chance to ask the short list candidates our questions about transparency give our impressions as written document to Chancellor</p> <p>BONEAU supported the idea of a document memorializing the meeting and he did not object to other one.</p> <p>DENMAN Face to face conversation is better than written response Denman</p> <p>SALCIDO explained that when HS faculty met with Chancellor, the job ad for SVC has been out, so there was only a chance to mitigate the consequences. But he encouraged everyone to take opportunity and ask questions during Senate Council meetings to interact with Chancellor and University Administration.</p> <p>SUKITS commented that his feeling is that Assembly is a better suited place for asking questions, because Senate Council meetings seemed so scripted.</p> <p>SALCIDO agreed, but he added that it does not have to be like this. The Council meeting should be used to interact with university administration.</p> <p>BONNEAU supported this idea, and added that both meetings are structured the same, but if nobody asks a question there cannot be discussion and the meeting</p>	
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	<p>consists of just reading the reports.</p> <p>LABRINIDIS said that it is difficult to ask question not related to agenda. If there was some section of the meeting that would encourage questions, it would be better.</p> <p>BIRCHER another opportunity to introduce an issue and invoke discussion is to present a resolution for FA which in turn it has to be presented at Senate Council.</p> <p>BONNEAU Jay brought the issue of academic calendar where the decision was made to shorten the fall semester by one extra Monday making it equal to the spring semester which had been always one Monday shorter. SUKITS said it is problematic for him, because he teaches Monday class. Scheduling Saturday class in lieu of the missed class is difficult. He had to modified the course because of inadequate time to fit everything.</p> <p>BONNEAU The decision was made late and there was no time to ask for adjustments to have a different day in the schedule.</p> <p>LANDSITTEL assured Jay that he is not alone, and that this change was made with no notice but even with one Monday less the schedules are within the number of hours required for the credit.</p> <p>SUKTIS The constrain to be within credit requirements is not the same as not being able to fit the content of your course in the schedule.</p> <p>BRATMAN Law School decided not to follow University and hold classes on Monday and Tuesday during Thanksgiving week.</p> <p>BONNEAU the professional schools have their own schedules.</p> <p>DENMAN said that another option instead of trying to find a make-up day for a missed class is to deliver the content online.</p> <p>BONNEAU understands the frustrations, but he personally commends the University for giving the students a whole week around Thanksgiving.</p> <p>DENMAN Will we have time to discuss the policies which are currently open for comments?</p> <p>BONNEAU Yes, two are coming for the next FA</p> <p>LABRINIDIS Accessibility Policy did not come through the SCITC, but it came out of EIDAC</p>	
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	<p>BONNEAU This policy came from Office of Diversity and Inclusion, so EIDAC was the natural choice to send it, but it was my oversight not to send it also to SCITC</p>	
<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <p>MUNRO announced that some newly remodeled classrooms have panic buttons</p> <p>RAUKTIS confirmed but added it is a problem if used unintentionally because they lock the door</p> <p>BIRCHER Hospitals and medical buildings have something similar, they should be easy to use but should not be “open” to any unintentional use</p> <p>LABRINIDIS asked if old rooms will be re-fitted with panic buttons</p> <p>MUNRO says only upgraded rooms</p> <p>BRATMAN asked if this the initiative includes the ability to close all classroom automatically.</p> <p>BONNEAU: Spring Faculty Assembly meetings are moved to Wednesdays</p> <p>De VALLEJO: Parking in Oakland is contracting.</p> <p>BONNEAU: PUP is looking at this issue. Parking will not decrease, but interim period may be problematic</p> <p>Chancellor’s Reception after the Wednesday Senate Council. Please plan to attend.</p>		
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p>		<p>Moved and accepted, 3:59 pm</p>

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

<http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/faculty-assembly>

Respectfully Submitted,

Gosia Fort, Senate Secretary

Members attending:

Aziz, Beck, Becker, Berenbrok, Bickford, Bircher, Bonneau, Bove, Bratman, Brodt, Bungler, Chirimuuta, Cousins, Danford, Denman, De Vallejo, Fort, Frieze, Gramm, Hall, Henker, Infanti, Jeffrey, Judd, Kiesling, Klem, Kucan, Labrinidis, Landsittel, Molinaro, Morel, Munro, Murtazashvili, Poljak, Popovich, Rauktis, Roberts, Salcido, Scott, Stoner, Sukits, Vento, Weinberg, Wilson

Members not attending:

Adams, Almarza, Buchanich, Conley, Darnell, Gaddy, Haley, Jeong, Jones, Kanthak, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kiselyov, Kory, Gregg-Byers, Long, Loughlin, Martin, McGreevy, Mulcahy, Murphy, Nelson, Sant, Smolinski, Spring, Taboas, Triplette, Yates

*Excused attendance:

Anderson, Bachman, Dahm, Goundappa, Irrgang, Kovacs, Mostern, Mulvaney, Potoski, Swigonova

Others attending:

Harrell, Kirsch, Urban

*Notified Senate Office