

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
2700 Posvar Hall  
December 13, 2017

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>Call to Order</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was called to order by President Frank Wilson.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.</p>
<p><b><u>Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2017 Senate Council Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><b><u>Items of New Business</u></b></p> <p>No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>No items</p>
<p><b><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></b></p> <p>Reflecting on the last year, we've had a number of difficult and turbulent times with budget, and still have to face the federal actions on the tax code. However, we had a "spectacular" year this year. The most qualified freshman classes, our R&amp;D funding has increased, all time new record with start-ups and patent disclosures, high accolades and achievements of students and faculty. We can handle whatever we need to face as we move forward.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Announced an effort to promote translation from laboratories to application; accelerator in Pittsburgh (LifeEx). Will be very novel and catalytic.</p> <p>Staff service awards. Recognize staff members to advancing the university --- 20, 30, 40 and 50<sup>th</sup> years of service to Pitt. One person had 58 years. Incredibly uplifting and inspiring event. 660 years of collective service</p> <p>104 nominees for Chancellor's Awards which will be given tomorrow.</p> <p>Specific accolades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph Kannarkat of our Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences was named a Rhodes Scholar finalist last month. The prestigious Rhodes Scholarship funds graduate studies at the University of Oxford in England, and just 32 American students earn this honor each year. This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years a Pitt student has made it to the scholarship's final review round. Although Joseph wasn't selected, we are so proud of him for being an outstanding representative of Pitt.</li> <li>• Our women's volleyball team earned a share of the ACC title after sweeping Virginia. They share the crown with the University of Louisville, who also finished 18-2 in conference play. This is the first ACC championship in program history and only the second at the University. In addition: Head</li> </ul>	<p>No discussion</p>

<p>coach Dan Fisher was named 2017 ACC Coach of the Year. His career record with the Panthers is 117-44 (.727).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the past 15 years, Pitt Dining has partnered with Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Start on Success program—mentoring high school students with learning disabilities as they learn basic workplace skills. Students main tasks included wiping tables, stocking condiments and removing trash. Last month, Sodexo initiated a process designed to provide a more rewarding experience. Students will now participate with hands-on culinary tasks and learn about human resources, providing a valuable real-life experience to help prepare students for the culinary programs after high school.</li> <li>• Pitt Alumnus Bryan S. Wright was nominated for a Grammy Award.</li> <li>• Kenyon Bonner was named one of New Pittsburgh Courier’s Men of Excellence</li> </ul> <p>Recently made midnight pancakes for students, served students for final exams --- recognize Sodexo, partnering with PPS high school students with special needs sponsoring work opportunities here at Pitt.</p> <p>Know this is a busy time of year --- for all of us --- wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!</p> <p>Good luck to Max Kneiss who is taking his citizenship test tomorrow!</p> <p>Provost search committee: faculty representatives, students, staff --- working get the slate together and then appoint others to provide a balanced committee, with lots of opportunities for input across stakeholder groups.</p> <p><b>Question/Discussion: None</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson</u></b></p> <p>Action underway for faculty representation (Monday Dec 18 election) on Provost Search Committee.</p> <p>Proud to be part of Pitt and Senate with the Executive Committee in support of one another. Relationships among faculty, staff, and students continue to grow and hope we can continue to expand those relationships.</p> <p>Specifically happy about expansion of Open Source materials in use for undergraduates --- helps to lessen the expense of education directly for students for textbooks and course materials. There seems to be a convergence of faculty, administration and students to press forward for more Open Source materials. Thanks SGB for their action and support on this issue.</p> <p>Date for Plenary – March 27, 2018 (Tuesday), focus on Teaching with a variety of perspectives; more detail in the coming new year. Organizing committee is accepting volunteers.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

<p>Also thank the committees of Senate that are doing very productive work across the years.</p> <p>We also appreciate deeply, Lori Molinaro – she is the consistent presence of the Senate and doing much of the work behind the scenes.</p> <p>Have a happy and safe holiday season and hope we get our grades in the system on time!</p> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Announcement from Chancellor</b></p> <p>Provost search committee: faculty representatives, students, staff --- working get the slate together and then appoint others to provide a balanced committee, with lots of opportunities for input across stakeholder groups.</p>		
<p><b><u>Reports of Student Members of Senate Council</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u></b>  <i>Max Kneis, President</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Good afternoon everyone, thank you for having us.</li> <li>II. Updates             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Things are winding down for the year since Finals Week is upon us! I’m our sole representative today as the other SGB representatives all have exams today.</li> <li>b. Last week our Elections Committee introduced edits to our Elections Code to make sure the all the rules around the spring election are clear. That bill will be voted on at our first Public Meeting of next semester, and this year’s SGB campaign will begin January 31<sup>st</sup> with Election Day on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>c. After Thanksgiving break I met with all of my Committee Chairs and Board Members to do individual check-ins. I’m using these to assess how everyone feels about our office environment, how they are doing on their projects, and how we can improve our operations for next semester. These meetings have been generating a lot of good ideas and I’m excited to put them into action!</li> <li>d. On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> we hosted our semester Panthers and Politics event. This fall we brought in Adam Gismondi from Tufts University who led a discussion on voting trends among college students, media exposure to various political viewpoints, and left everyone feeling more civically engaged!</li> <li>e. Over the past week our Academic Affairs and Wellness Committees have been tabling in Hillman library, handing out stress balls, hand sanitizers, and study tips to students focused on their exams. A big thank you</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>goes to all the departments across the University helping students through this week with coffee, snacks, and stress relieving activities, especially Student Affairs &amp; Sodexo.</p> <p>f. Speaking of finals, our Facilities, Transportation &amp; Technology Committee finished compiling and released a comprehensive list of hours for all campus buildings. In addition to advertising extended hours for finals, we hope this helps students find spaces all over campus to study.</p> <p>III. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the New Year!</p> <p>IV. Also want to support President Wilson’s comments regarding Open Source --- we very much support a move to open source.</p> <p>V. This concludes my report.</p>	
	<p><b><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u></b>  <i>Elizabeth Estes, Vice President</i>                  Greetings Senate Council:</p> <p>Finals Kits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As usual, we created and distributed End of the Semester Finals Kits to our students. The initiative was, as always, quite popular. 73/75 students picked up kits to help them work through finals.</li> </ul> <p>Summary of Last SG Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- During our last meeting, we continued discussion of our Excellence Reception, which we host every year in April. There were some concerns about the usual date coinciding with Passover, which we resolved by switching the date. We will be finalizing preparations with our new host, the Wyndham, early next semester.</li> <li>- We also began discussion on a new initiative for the spring semester, which would entail assisting with local food banks to host a food drive. We will look into using this to help both CGS students and our broader community.</li> <li>- Finally, we are looking towards SG election season, and with the loss of several key members of SG, our first priority will be to begin the process of publicizing the election and ensuring student participation.</li> </ul> <p>Transition into next semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the loss of several members of SG and the suspension of our president due to multiple complaints regarding her behavior both in and out of official SG business, we are heading into a</li> </ul>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>transition period. As vice president, I am working with our business manager and our advisors to ensure that this transition occurs professionally and quickly.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u></b>  <i>Christopher E. Staten, President</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax Survey in collaboration with Swanson School of Engineering             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Average hours worked 43 hours</li> <li>○ 74% of PhDs work 30 hours or more</li> <li>○ Average tuition is approx. \$25,000 and stipend approx. \$20,444.13</li> <li>○ Average tax liability of an Engineering PhD will increase over 200% if new tax provisions of the House of Representatives come to fruition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Governmental Relations Committee assembled in late September             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Call Day - November 29, 2017, 2-5 p.m. - Panera Bread</li> <li>○ PA Call Day - December 5, 2017 - Panera Bread and Hillman Library</li> <li>○ Tax Reform Bill Awareness Workshop - December 6, 2017, 4-5:00 p.m. Kurtzman Ballroom                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Nathan Urban and Michael Ringle from Community &amp; Governmental Relations to educate graduate &amp; professional students of the next steps of the House and Senate and what we can do as students to have our voices heard.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Partnership with National Association of Graduate and Professional Students, CMU GSA, Student Advocates of Graduate Education Coalition</li> <li>○ Joint letter from U. Penn GAPSA and CMU GSA sent to Governor Wolf</li> <li>○ Reviewing the Prosper Act and its implications to universities and graduate and professional students</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coat Drive from November 13 through December 1<sup>st</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collected over 50 coats</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>No discussion</p>
	<p><b><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u></b>  <i>Amber Griffith, President</i></p> <p>A&amp;S GSO December Report</p> <p>Our GSO meeting was held on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, where we had Katie Pope from the Title IX office talk with GSO representatives about the office and what resources they offer. In terms of career development, a short list of available resources was sent to the grad</p>	<p>See comments below</p>

	<p>students of the school of arts and sciences. The purpose of this list was to provide students with career development resources that they could use immediately as Dean Hoock works on long-term changes to the curriculum to enhance career development. This list included links to the Center for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Career Development, Lynda online learning, Versatile PhD and the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance. A short list of resources on updates on the tax reform was also sent to the grad students from the GSO.</p> <p>The CDI Meet and Greet event was held on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was small but we were able to have a good discussion with Dean Hoock, Philippa Carter, V. Chancellor Connelly, V. Provost Urban and Chris Staten. We are currently working on 3 events for the spring, a facilitated discussion on the report of the graduate diversity climate survey, a diversity resource fair (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>) and a workshop on navigating difficult discussions. We are also putting in efforts to revive the alliance group Pitt Lambda for the LGBT grad community. A happy hour was held with CMU Allies Grad group and Pitt Outlaw for the LGBT community with a great turnout. We are hoping that this will be the catalyst to help revive the graduate LGBT student group that has been dormant for a few years.</p> <p>A&amp;S GSO also hosted a town hall on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> with V. Provost Urban, V. Chancellor Connelly and Dean Hoock. Although the group was small, were able to engage in a lively discussion on the tax reform, Title IX, Diversity at the University, professional development and grad students unionizing.</p> <p>Lastly the A&amp;S GSO is gearing up for Grad Expo and teaching awards in the spring. We look forward to sharing the turnout of the events that we plan.</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION:</b></p> <p><b>Chancellor Gallagher:</b> On the tax situation – the leadership has reached an agreement however we do not know the details of the conference bill. Support for higher education issues seems to have been supported, however we need to wait to see the details. The situation is moving very quickly; may be pushing for implementation as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will share info as soon as we get it. Thank you for advocacy efforts --- they have made a difference.</p>	
<p><b><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u></b>  <i>Andy Stephany, President</i>  <i>Alex Toner, Vice-President of Public Relations</i></p>	<p>We would like to begin our report by acknowledging and thanking the staff members who were recognized at Monday’s Chancellor’s Staff Recognition ceremony. Dedicated staff are the backbone of the University, and those long-term employees</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

have been part of some of the most dramatic transformations in growth, status, and technology at any point in the University's history.

We are pleased to announce that we received almost 80 nominations of Pitt staff members for our inaugural Staff Mentor Award. The award was created to acknowledge the impact that staff mentors make within our Pitt community. This year's recipient is Megan Soltesz, Deputy Director of Finance at the Institute of Politics, who was publicly recognized at Monday's Staff Recognition ceremony.

Staff Council has been honored to distribute our annual Endowed Book Fund Award since 2001, providing financial assistance towards the purchase of books or supplies to Pitt undergraduate students whose parent or guardian is a staff member at the University. Our five 2017 recipients, announced at Monday's ceremony, are as follows:

- Benjamin Brownfield, senior at the Oakland campus and son of Todd Brownfield in the Office of University Counseling.
- Celina Celmo, senior at the Oakland campus and daughter of Lisa Celmo from the Office of the University Registrar.
- Catherine Dawson, a senior at our Johnstown campus and daughter of Margaret Clements-Dawson from Financial Records Services.
- Lauren Puccio, a junior at the Oakland campus and daughter of David Puccio in the University Center of Teaching and Learning.
- Andrew Stofesky, a senior at the Greensburg campus and son of Robert Stofesky from Student Health Services.

Staff Council congratulates this year's Chancellor's Award for Staff winners. We commend the positive impact that these ten individuals have made on the University and within the community. We are particularly proud of Lindsay Rodzicz, Staff Council member and recent executive committee member, and were pleased to support her nomination for the award. She joins a long list of Staff Council members to have won a Chancellor's Award, including four out of our 75 current members.

We would like to congratulate Rich Colwell on his decision to retire from the University, which took effect December 1. Rich led Staff Council for multiple terms spanning several decades, and established a strong voice for Staff with University leadership through shared governance. He was a tireless advocate behind the scenes and he truly made a difference in the staff experience at Pitt, championing staff concerns and needs. In addition to his dedication to Staff Council, Rich has also been a committed volunteer, as evidenced by his 2005 Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service to the Community. His presence on campus will be missed, and we wish him nothing but the best.

In the coming weeks, Staff Council offices will be moving from their current location in Craig Hall to B39 in the Cathedral of Learning, where we will have more office and conference space than in our current location. We look forward to having a more centralized presence on the Oakland campus.

Staff Council's first meeting of 2018 will be open to members only. We plan to use

<p>the closed January meeting to discuss organizational goals and direction for the New Year. We encourage as many new staff members as possible to attend our next open meeting – February 21, 2018 at noon in 102 Benedum Hall.</p> <p>We wish everyone on Senate Council and all staff, students and faculty across our campuses a happy holiday season and a safe and relaxing winter recess, a unique benefit to the Pitt community and one that our predecessors on Staff Council endeavored to preserve for all to enjoy.</p>	
<p><b><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></b></p>	No reports
<p><b><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></b></p>	No business
<p><b><u>Announcements</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>Adjournment</u></b></p>	Adjournment at 3:43p

University Senate website: <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council>



Respectfully Submitted,

**Cindy Tananis, Ed.D.**  
**University Senate Secretary**

*Associate Professor*  
 Administrative and Policy Studies, Education Leadership  
*Director*  
 Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity

HAIL TO PITT!

Members attending:

Balaban, Becker, Beeson, Betru, Bonner, Bratman, Brodt, Bromberg, Czerwinski, Dewar, Fort, Gallagher, Griffith, Haley, Henker, Kear, Kiselyov, Kneis, Levine, Lyon, Molinaro, Muenzer, Munro, Perry, Phillippi, Rigotti, Rutenbar, Scott, Smith, Spring, Staten, Stephany, Tananis, Toner, Washington, Wilson

Members not attending:

Bilodeau, Bonneau, Clark, Deitrick, Goldberg, Gross, Jones, Kanthak, Kory, Mulcahy, Nelson, Rohrer, Swanson, Thorpe, Van Nostrand



\*Excused attendance:

De Vallejo, Fall, Gaddy, Harries, Horne, Humphrey, Kent-Smith, Loughlin, Manem, Morel, Mulvaney, Sukits, Weikle-Mills, Withers

Others attending:

Costanza, DiPalma, Dostilio, Ducar, Estes, Farwell, Fike, Harding, Henderson, McClain, Urban, Walker, Wilds

\*Notified Senate Office