

**Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, February 5th, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Call to Order</u></p> <p>The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the Past Faculty Assembly Meeting</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the January 8, 2020 were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u></p> <p>No new items</p>	
<p><u>Report of the Senate President</u></p> <p>I missed you all last month, though I must say that I highly recommend listening to these meetings while on a balcony overlooking the ocean with a cold beer in hand. I could have done without the earthquakes, though.</p> <p>I have a lot of updates for you. February may be the shortest month, but it definitely has the longest report. Buckle up....and let's hope no one rips my remarks in half after I'm done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "end of support" for two Microsoft products, Windows 7 and Server 2008, occurred on January 14, 2020. This means patches for these software products will no longer be provided and this means vulnerabilities in these software products will no longer be fixed. Pitt IT is working across the University to try to help people who have not upgraded from these software products. At the end of March, devices that have not been upgraded will be prohibited from connecting to the Pitt network. The Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee (SCITC) has encouraged Pitt IT to make every effort to make sure people are aware of the importance and urgency of upgrading. Because it is important that faculty not be inconvenienced, the committee asked that an announcement be made at faculty assembly. Departments and responsibility centers have also been alerted. Faculty who have personal machines can access low cost copies of software for personal use through the Pitt software distribution service. There are some sites that suggest ways that free versions of Windows 10 can still be obtained. One such link that describes how to upgrade to Windows 10 for free can be found at: https://www.cnet.com/how-to/you-can-still-download-windows-10-free-you-should-because-windows-7-dead/. Some versions of Windows 7, for example, Windows 7 Enterprise, are not 	

supported. The final date machines with these operating systems will be allowed on the Pitt network has not been finalized, but it is less than 2 months away. The SCITC and Pitt IT are working to share this information widely and repeatedly so none are caught by surprise.

- The SCITC also reports, as you may have noted, that with recent mergers in the structures that support computing at Pitt, the name Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD) has been replaced with the name “Pitt IT”
- I recently met with the Athletics Compliance Office to discuss the formulation of a new policy addressing sports wagering from university students and employees. I have made my affection for sports gambling known, but there are serious concerns when members of the university community participate in gambling involving Pitt teams. There is great potential for our student-athletes to be treated unfairly in the academic content depending on their athletic performance and this should concern all of us. I am hopeful that Chancellor Gallagher, working with Athletic Director Lyke, will charter a committee through the policy office to examine this issue. We would not be the first school to do this; currently, Purdue, Villanova, Butler, and St. Joseph’s have similar policies. However, this is a chance for us to take the lead on an issue of growing concern across the country.
- The Plenary is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th, from 12-3 in the William Pitt Union. The topic is Mental Health at the University and our keynote speaker is Kay Redfield Jamison from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Next month, we will have more details on the panel that will follow the keynote speaker. I would like to thank David Salcido and Linda Tashbook for all of their work in putting together what promises to be an excellent plenary.
- We are excited to announce that we have partnered with the Iowa Democratic Party to use their app for conducting and reporting our election results this year.
- Today, we have Senior Vice Chancellor for Research Rob Rutenbar here along with our own Bill Yates to discuss and preview the new Conflict of Information portal. This is an issue that has become vitally important to all involved in research. Last month, the Chair of Harvard’s Chemistry department was arrested on federal charges for failing to disclose his ties with China’s Thousand Talents program. Others have been arrested at the University of Houston, the University of Texas, Boston University, UCLA, and the University of Kansas, to name a few. Rob and his office have spent scores of hours

<p>trying to ensure that our policies are both compliant with federal requirements without being overly intrusive and burdensome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We also have Nathan Urban, Vivian Curran, Melissa Schild, and Laura Winters here from the Plan for Pitt 2025 team. They will update us on where we are in the process and where we are going. • Finally, we will once again discuss the Electronic Information and Technology Policy and decide whether to recommend its adoption to the senior leadership. My reading of the new Accessibility Policy is that it shifts the burden away from faculty and onto Dean's and the Provost. Moreover, the language surrounding compliance and enforcement is far less draconian. My inclination is that this policy is now palatable and we have done well to make it less burdensome for faculty. No policy is going to be perfect, but this is an improvement over the past version and it still gets us in compliance with federal law. <p>That's all for now. I look forward to good discussion over the important topics we have on our plate for today.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of the Special and Standing Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>No reports</p>	<p>No reports</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration of Electronic COI System Rob Rutenbar, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Bill Yates, Co-Director, Office of Research Protections <p><i>Rutenbar</i> shared the background story behind the new electronic system MyDisclosures and reiterated that there is no change to the policy, that the redesign of the COI form brings it in alignment with the policy, makes it more clear and easy than the paper product and integrates it with UPMC making it one stop shop for those with dual appointments. It is not about preventing people doing anything but about giving them opportunity to explain what they are doing. Currently, it is rolled out as opt-in pilot for certain schools, and the input from 2020 will be used to refine the system. After this introduction, <i>Yates</i> did demo of MyDisclosures product.</p> <p><i>Labrinidis</i>: Do you plan any training for the chairs?</p> <p><i>Yates</i>: Yes. We are doing also a lot of demos. <i>Rutenbar</i> added that there is more dialogue about conflict, more dialogue between supervisors and faculty in the new system.</p>	<p>Discussion and Vote</p>

Scott: I had a demo but I still need clarification what do I need to disclose? NIH study work?

Yates & Rutenbar: No any consulting work for federal government and NIH does not need to be reported.

Scott: What about foreign ties, for example a collaborator who is supported by foreign funds?

Rutenbar: In case of doubt I would err on the side of disclosing such collaboration.

Morel: If companies such as some pharmaceutical companies have a global reach, should they be disclosed as foreign?

Rutenbar: Pre-populated form can help with this decision making process, because the system will know if this is a foreign company.

DeVallejo: If you get invited to speak at the international conference which is also supported by an academic institution in a foreign country, do you need to disclose every participation in international conference?

Morel & Labrinidis: Yes, if you get honorarium.

Rutenbar: The maximum protection for you academic freedom, is to disclose foreign engagements. Every scary headline started when things were not disclosed.

Yates: However to answer Abbe's question, if you are paid to go to conference by your university, you do not need to report.

2. Electronic Information and Technology Accessibility Policy **Tom Hitter**, Asst. Vice Chancellor for Policy Development & Management, **Fran Yarger**, Committee Chair and **Angie Bedford-Jack**

Hitter explained that after being asked to clarify responsibilities during the first presentation, the committee reconvened, consulted with the Faculty Affairs Committee, and made changes to the policy. Angie Bedford-Jack was asked to summarize them for the Assembly.

Bonneau clarified that we are asked to recommend the acceptance of this policy and asked for questions and comments

Bircher: How the budget making process ties to it? And what resources will be available?

Bedford-Jack: It does not, but we have money to support implementation. Other resources include: workshops and training, individual consultations,

Ally pilot, currently in Blackboard (software to help identify the non-compliance problems and to fix them), accessible PDF remediation software in each school.

Bircher: Shouldn't the PDF software be available university wide?

Bedford-Jack: It's a budgetary issue. Currently, licenses will be for each school, but if funds are allocated for this in the future, the individual licenses could change to one enterprise license.

Scott: Do you have the timeline for this?

Bedford-Jack: It will be published in the guidelines, currently any public facing software should be in compliance in 2 years, course materials in 4 years. Not including them in policy and procedures gives us flexibility to move these deadlines if needed.

Loughlin: Are we talking about the compliance of individual course or course web level? Will somebody be monitoring course web and telling us what to do to be compliant?

Bedford-Jack: The Ally software gives faculty the individual feedback about the course but also the bird's-eye view of where we are in the compliance.

Loughlin: How compliant we are right now? Will this policy be a big burden?

Bedford-Jack: We have some sense, but we know that University is not compliant with the federal rules.

Labrinidis suggested to build directory of helpful resources and build best practices for Pitt.

Bedford-Jack: Yes, there will be templates and checklists developed.

Bonneau called the vote: Do we recommend this policy for adoption?

Vote:

For – 27

Against – 0

Abstain – 2

EIT Accessibility policy passed.

3. Digital Accessibility Coordinator Plan for Pitt 2025 **Melissa Schild**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning & Performance and **Vivian Curran** and **Nathan Urban**, Plan for Pitt 2025 Co-Chairs

<p><i>Urban</i> reviewed what was happening with the Plan. He discussed timeline (currently we are in the gathering input phase through meetings, workshops and web forms; the information will be synthesized and tested by April).</p> <p><i>Curran</i>: We want the process be transparent and inclusive. We welcome your input.</p> <p><i>Urban</i>: Next step is to form committees (one for each goal), with the job to take the gathered feedback and use them to build a set of objectives and initiatives around each of the goals. When we have a set of major themes for the Plan we will go back to the community to solicit feedback (early April). Then over the summer we will draft the Plan.</p> <p><i>Stoner</i>: Do you want to reach out to faculty that had not engaged yet?</p> <p><i>Curran</i>: Yes, we are very interested in engaging more faculty, because currently they lag behind other groups. Any help to encourage faculty would be appreciated.</p> <p><i>Urban</i>: If you know of groups that should be engaged we are prepared to offer more workshops.</p> <p><i>Curran</i>: we have also focus groups and a survey.</p> <p><i>Urban</i> spoke more on the importance of this process.</p> <p><i>Scott</i>: How will you form committees for goals if they have not been formulated yet?</p> <p><i>Urban</i>: We are building our work off the goals from the current plan.</p> <p><i>Bonneau</i> closed the discussion and encouraged all to participate and engage in the Plan for Pitt.</p>	
<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <p>For February only, the Senate Council meeting will be held on <u>Wednesday, Feb. 12</u></p>	<p>No questions</p>
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm</p>	<p>Moved and accepted at 4:18 pm</p>

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort
Secretary, University Senate

Members attending:

Anderson, Aziz, Beck, Bircher, Bonneau, Bove, Brodt, Bungler, Conley, Dahm, DeVallejo, Fort, Frieze, Goundappa, Henker, Infanti, Jeong, Judd, Kiesling, Klem, Kovacs, Kucan, Labrinidis, Landsittel, Loughlin, Molinaro, Morel, Mostern, Mulvaney, Murphy, Poljak, Rauptis, Roberts, Salcido, Scott, Spring, Stoner, Swigonova, Vento, Wilson, Wood, Yates

Members not attending:

Adams, Almarza, Bachman, Bratman, Buchanich, Chirimuuta, Hall, Irrgang, Jeffrey, Kanthak, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kiselyov, Kohanbash, Gregg-Byers, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Miller, Mulcahy, Munro, Nelson, Popovich, Potoski, Smolinski, Taboas, Triplette, Weinberg

*Excused attendance:

Becker, Berenbrok, Cousins, Darnell, Gramm, Haley, Jones, Murtazashvili, Sant, Sukits

Others attending:

Armony, Balaban, Baughman, Bedford-Jack, Britt, Cooper, Culley, Curran, Harrell, Hitter, Horwitz, Huber, Jenkins, Kirsch, Lalo, Manges, O'Connor, Pil, Pope, Rutenbar, Saxena, Schild, Tenney, Urban, Wilcox, Yarger, Zwick

*Notified Senate Office