

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
2700 Posvar Hall  
February 13, 2019

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>Call to Order</u></b> The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.</p>
<p><b><u>Approval of the Minutes of the January 16, 2019 Senate Council Meeting</u></b> Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><b><u>Items of New Business</u></b> No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>No items</p>
<p><b><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></b> <i>Ann E Cudd, Provost</i></p> <p>See <b>Chancellor’s Report for more specific details on these and additional items.</b></p> <p><b>State Budget Update</b> (Supowitz): Feb 5<sup>th</sup> PA budget with flat funding (\$171M, about where we were in early 2000s) for Pitt and other state-related universities; hopeful conclusion by June 30. Deficit carried forward (billion and a half), though revenue is ahead of pace. Pitt Day in Harrisburg March 26<sup>th</sup> – new members in House --- we encourage your attendance. Pitt as an economic engine for the region and state; good education for our students. Chancellor will be testifying as part of this process.</p> <p><b>Pitt Day of Giving</b> (Founders Day February 28<sup>th</sup>) 3<sup>rd</sup> annual; to promote giving to Pitt; global effort with challenge grants to promote new giving as well as returning. More than \$9M was raised last year. Looking for a record number of people this year.</p> <p><b>Senior Vice Chancellor/Dean School of Medicine Search:</b> Provost Cudd is chairing; Senate election for appointments underway; first phase is campus community engagement to refine search criteria. SVC Levine has done a meritorious job for 20 plus years and will be hard to replace but we think we will have many good candidates.</p> <p><b>Pitt Success Program:</b> discuss with BOT next week, University P&amp;B committee last week, bringing forward a formalized proposal soon.</p> <p><b>Title IX</b> proposal and communication on the Chancellors website.</p> <p><b>Inclement Weather Policy:</b> well-suited for snow, but not as helpful for temperature. Greg Scott will be working on this issue. Considering what happened and how the policy may need to be refined --- key staff, Senate Council --- look at the policy and implementation and consider changes. First meeting was productive example of shared governance. Second meeting this week --- develop recommendations to the</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>No discussion</p>

<p>Chancellor.</p> <p><b>Honors Convocation:</b> Art Levine will present the keynote. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.</p> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b> None</p>	
<p><b><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u></b></p> <p>Ah, February. The shortest month of the year that feels like the longest. It's also the month of love. Coincidence?</p> <p>The Union of Pitt Faculty delivered signed cards to the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (PLRB) on January 18. This represents the next step in the campaign to unionize Pitt faculty. For an election, cards must be signed by at least 30% of the members of the proposed bargaining unit. From here, the PLRB will certify that the threshold has been met. There are still several steps before an election will take place, including the possibility that Pitt will challenge the nature of the bargaining unit.</p> <p>As the official instrument of shared governance, neither the Faculty Assembly nor the Senate Council has a position on this issue. Additionally, while the officers may have their own personal views on unionization of faculty, none of us speaks (or purports to speak) for members of the faculty. I would like both this body and the members of it to assist our colleagues in making an informed decision by providing timely, relevant, and accurate information to the faculty. If you have specific questions about information that is being presented by either side, please feel free to contact any of us. If we don't have the answer, we will work to get it for you. Finally, it is important to keep in mind that while this issue may become highly charged, the vast majority of both supporters and opponents have the best interests of the faculty and university in mind.</p> <p>We have started the search process for the selection of faculty members to serve on the search committee to replace SVC Levine. Over the next few weeks, our nomination committees will be assembling slates of candidates to stand for election. A memo will be going out to all members later this week. Given the high interest in this position, particularly among faculty members in the health sciences, I am hopeful that many people will express a willingness to serve on this important committee. Once the committee has been formed, there will be a series of open forums for faculty to communicate their desires for the position. This is the perfect opportunity for people to help define the scope of the position (or positions) as well as discuss desired characteristics of the next SVC.</p> <p>On March 4 at 8:30pm at Nordy's in the WPU, the Center for Creativity's monthly Open Mic is being held in partnership with Pitt's chapter of Active Minds, a student organization determined to destigmatize mental illness and facilitate more open conversation about the very human feelings we all experience. Members of the University community -- faculty, staff, and students -- are being encouraged to come to this Open Mic to share their work related to their personal</p>	<p>Report</p> <p>No discussion</p>

	<p>experience with mental health. In addition, information and resources related to mental health will be available at this event. There will be two featured performers and then anyone present will be invited to share their own work -- spoken word, music, interpretative dance.</p> <p>Question: What are you doing March 27 between 12-3? Answer: Coming to our spring plenary on Free Speech in the University. Professor Sigal Ben-Porath from the University of Pennsylvania will be our keynote speaker, and this will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Jules Lobel (Law), Kris Kanthak (political science), and Kenyon Bonner (Dean of Students).</p> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b>  <b>TONER:</b> Unionization – Staff Council attempts to convey a wider view of shared governance for people who may not be directly involved. Some frustration has been attributed to “failed” shared governance. While we don't take a stand on this, we wonder if we might use this process to consider how to strengthen shared governance and find ways of increasing engagement.  <b>BONNEAU:</b> This is a great opportunity and your points are well-taken.</p>	
<p><b><u>Reports of Student Members of Senate Council</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u></b>  <i>Maggie Kennedy, President</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FUNDING (as of 2/12/19)             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Total allocated thus far: \$754,308.49</li> <li>b. Including 104 programs, 121 competitions, 38 conferences, and 96 purchases</li> <li>c. 12 Undergraduate Conference Travel Grants: \$3,000</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. SGB Election             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Election on Tuesday Feb. 19th</li> <li>b. Vote at elections.pitt.edu</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Events             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sexual Health Awareness Week-- Feb 6th-14th, happening now!</li> <li>b. ACC Advocacy Days, Feb. 24-26                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 6 Board Members + CGR Chair</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Healthy Masculinities Week- first week of March</li> <li>d. Women’s Empowerment Week-- March 18th-22nd                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Including specific attention to gender non binary folks, intersectionality of race, sexuality, and more</li> </ol> </li> <li>e. Pitt Day in Harrisburg                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. March 26th</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Grad/Faculty Unionization             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Meeting with GPSG + GSO + CSAW</li> <li>b. Discuss SGB support</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Chancellor’s Lunch coming up             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Discuss student health, divestment, transportation services</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>6. Otherwise, all of our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members are hard at work with their various initiatives and we're really excited about what's to come!</p>	
	<p><b><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u></b>  <i>Dave Levine, President</i>                  Not attending/No report</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
	<p><b><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u></b>  <i>Rachel Coombs, President (Not attending)</i></p> <p>The mission of the 2018-2019 GPSG Executive Board (EB) is to improve the way we represent graduate student interests and better understand the concerns of graduate and professional students at Pitt.</p> <p>Graduate Health and wellness and Community building:                  Mental Health First Aid: GPSG and Student Health Services were able to provide a mental health first aid courses to graduate and professional students. (This is a free 8-hour course that will give you the skills to help someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis. This course provides participants with a 3-year certification).</p> <p>Dedicated graduate student space: We have a new study room in the Hillman Library that is a quiet space for Graduate students. Students with a valid Pitt ID submit their 2P number and have card access. We are currently working to create a graduate student lounge as well.</p> <p>Events: Thus far, GPSG has successfully planned and executed seven events. In total we plan to offer 13 events for academic year 2018-2019. Each new academic year we begin the our Hofbrauhaus welcome back which is typically highly anticipated and sells out each year – last year was no exception. New activities that were provided this year included but are not limited to more holiday activities such as Halloween, Gradsgiving, and a holiday happy hour. Due to funding, we needed to decrease or completely cancel traditional GPSG activities such as recurring professional headshots and the annual fall formal – as well as our partnerships with the Pitt Program Council. Our events range from social happy hours/game nights to coffee hours with professional development components.</p> <p>Professional development and Advocacy:                  SAGE: GPSG is working with other Graduate and Professional Student Governments at other Universities to advocate for Graduate Education on a state and national level. We are active members in the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) Coalition. We</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>sent 3 delegates to the SAGE fall summit, are interested in sending a Pitt delegation to the SAGE Day on the Hill to advocate for the following issues:</p> <p>Working group topics: Student Finance, Immigration, Gender Equity and Sexual, Harassment, Research Funding, Student Health, and Data and Security. GPSG has representation in the immigration and Student Health working groups and is chairing the gender equity and sexual harassment group.</p> <p>Title IX: GPSG hosted an information session to inform for the title IX comment period. We were also the primary author of the comment submitted for SAGE and circulated to all SAGE coalition schools.</p> <p>Grants: From May 2018-February 2019 GSPG has had 157 students apply and we have been able to offer funding to 119, totaling \$47,619.44. This year, GPSG created a new advocacy and professional development grant. The Goal of these grants is to: 1) provide advocacy opportunities to graduate students or 2) further the professional or academic development for students at Pitt. Students must submit a grant narrative, a letter institutional support, and letters of recommendation</p>	
	<p><b><u>Schools of the Professions</u></b></p> <p>No representative/No report</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
	<p><b><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u></b>  <i>Anthony Verardi, President</i>  <i>Presented by Golnar Touski, Vice President</i></p> <p>Greetings <i>in absentia</i>! Due to a class conflict, I (Anthony) will be unable to attend the Senate Council meetings for the Spring 2019 term. Golnar, feel free to pause here while Geovette weeps. In my absence, my Vice President, Golnar Touski, will be delivering reports on my behalf and reporting back to me on matters discussed during Senate Council. On to the report: members of the A&amp;S Graduate Student Organization convened yesterday evening for our monthly meeting, during which time we discussed the recent Graduate Studies Retreat; the formation of the <i>ad hoc</i> committee to evaluate the University's tobacco policy; the upcoming survey on sexual harassment, misconduct, and assault; and efforts the University is making to solicit feedback on the extreme weather policy.</p> <p>With regard to the Graduate Studies Retreat, we are happy to see the University continuing to seek input and participation from its graduate student body, and made note to remind</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>attendees about upcoming workshops and the graduate expo. Anthony will hopefully be attending a feedback session with Vice Provost for Graduate Studies Nathan Urban in order to discuss ways the retreat, and graduate student government in general, can be improved going forward.</p> <p>Members of the A&amp;S GSO were curious as to what "public" grounds will be covered under the University's tobacco policy, if it should be expanded to cover new areas, and also whether e-cigarettes, which technically do not burn tobacco but rather vaporize nicotine and other chemical compounds, would be included in a potential "tobacco" ban. We understand that these issues are likely being discussed, and look forward to hearing the Committee's conclusions.</p> <p>On the topic of feedback, while we are all very much suffering from survey fatigue (does anyone ever actually win those \$50 gift cards?), we are well aware of the importance of data collection in guiding policy at the University, and the A&amp;S GSO remains committed to reminding our constituents that their opinions <i>do</i> matter and have discernible impact on campus. That being said, we would encourage the administration to perhaps consider a centralized portal where students can find surveys (much in the same way that student government elections are conducted on the MyPitt portal), instead of having to hunt through their emails for hyperlinks.</p> <p>Finally, we discussed the efforts the University has made, in light of the recent <i>Frozen</i>-level cold spell, to solicit feedback on the extreme weather policy. Graduate students are concerned about when they have the ability to cancel their classes in order to avoid a potentially dangerous commute to campus, particularly in situations where they are unable to receive a response from their faculty supervisors before leaving their residences or are otherwise concerned about the repercussions of canceling class without explicit permission. We realize that this conversation is likely to be ongoing, but are interested in finding out how we can voice our concerns on the issue through official channels. This concludes the A&amp;S GSO report.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Biomedical Graduate Student Administration</u></b></p> <p>No representative/No report</p>	<p>No discussion</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>Our first Brown Bag of the year, “Embracing the World at Pitt” was a success. We collaborated with the University Center for International Studies, and in particular, Dr. Belkys Torres, who presented an overview of the Year of Pitt Global and the value Pitt staff can provide in building welcoming environments on campus.</p> <p>The <i>University Times</i> recently featured a great story highlighting the work of Pitt’s Women’s Affinity Group, which is growing and facilitating a number of excellent programming initiatives across the Oakland campus. Staff Council member and co-chair of the Women’s Affinity Group E.J. Milarski-Veenis is coordinating a Staff Council-sponsored panel discussion for March to align with Women’s History Month.</p> <p>Staff Council will be participating in the Pitt Day of Giving on February 28 by seeking support of our Staff Professional Development Award, which is designed to help defray the cost of professional development opportunities for eligible University of Pittsburgh staff members. Since its creation in 2016 we’ve received nearly 200 applications but have only been able to distribute two awards. Our aim is to expand the program to fund more staff opportunities.</p> <p>Following the submission of our letter of intent last week Staff Council is working to submit an application for a 2019 Chancellor Seed Grant to help advance and expand professional development opportunities for Pitt staff members across all five campuses.</p> <p>Staff Council encourages all staff members to register and attend this year’s Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 26. We encourage the University to communicate to deans, directors, departments, and thus appropriate supervisors, that participation in Pitt Day is considered a paid, approved absence based on the business needs of the office.</p> <p>Our next general meeting is Wednesday, February 20 at 12pm in Benedum Hall room 102. We are looking forward to having Provost Cudd join us for a portion of the meeting, which is open to all staff members.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
<p><b><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></b></p>	<p>No reports</p>
<p><b><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></b></p>	<p>No business</p>
<p><b><u>Announcements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitt Day in Harrisburg flier on the back table --- please take one</li> <li>• FREE SPEECH IN THE MODERN UNIVERSITY March 27, 12-3 P.M Assembly Room, WPU</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Adjournment</u></b></p>	<p>Adjournment at 3:35p</p>

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

Respectfully Submitted,



HAIL TO PITT!

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

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

Members attending:

Bachman, Bonneau, Bonner, Brodt, Cuddy, Dahm, De Vallejo, Fort, Haley, Henker, Humphrey, Infanti, Kear, Kennedy, Kiselyov, Mercer, Molinaro, Rutenbar, Scott, Smith, Stillman, Stoner, Tananis, Toner, Washington, Wilson

Members not attending:

Arkush, Becker, Betru, Bilodeau, Bromberg, Buchanich, Chong, Conley, Coombs, Deitrick, Denman, Goldberg, Harper, Harries, Horne, Jones, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kory, D. Levine, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Morel, Mulcahy, Salcido, Sant, Stephany, Triplette, Van Nostrand, Weikle-Mills, Weinberg

\*Excused attendance:

Gaddy, Gallagher, Kovacs, Labrinidis, A. Levine, Verardi

Others attending:

Ayars, Connelly, Harrell, Hitter, Miksch, Rosenberg, Supowitz, Touski, Walker

\*Notified Senate Office