

Senate Council Meeting Minutes

2700 Posvar Hall
January 16, 2020

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the, 2019 Senate Council Meeting</u> Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>No items</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u> Chancellor Gallagher announced that Strategic Planning refresh process had been restarted and encouraged everyone to engage. He also talked about other exciting news which was the conclusion of the search for the next SVC for Health Sciences and Petersen Dean of School of Medicine. As part of the process the candidates were exposed to the shared governance process at our University, Dr. Anantha Shekhar will start in June. Another personnel announcement about Shelome Gooden who was recently named as the University of Pittsburgh’s first-ever assistant vice chancellor for research for the humanities, arts, social sciences, and related fields. She will be working with Rob Rutenbar. At the request of the Chancellor, Rutenbar said few words about this new position created in effort to assure that research environment encourages creativity and collaboration across the university and is not only STEM focused. Chancellor Gallagher continued by drawing Council attention to success of JoAnn Flynn and Pitt team who identify a better way of administering tuberculosis vaccine (more at https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/researchers-find-more-effective-way-administer-tuberculosis-vaccine) He also singled out several award winners from the full list in highlights distributed to the Senate Council Members. Gallagher mentioned also that in the rankings the Nursing School is doing really well. He highlighted some student achievements and provided an update on the sexual prevention at Pitt, which includes a newly created office devoted to these efforts. Verardi asked where the new office will be. Under ODI? Yes under ODI working with Katie Pope.</p>	<p>Report</p>
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u> I begin my report with the words of Colbie Caillat: January always brought me down All the magic of December Is like a circus leaving town And all I wanna do is to follow it around ‘Cause everybody wishes it was Christmas all year ‘round</p>	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

I was away last week at a conference, so was not at the Faculty Assembly meeting. In a minute, I will turn this over to David Salcido for a brief report on that meeting. Before I do, I want to highlight a few items:

- The Pitt 2025 open forums are underway. This is a great opportunity for members of the Pitt community to provide input to the Steering Committee about the next strategic plans. Please participate in this process; the more voices we have from different areas of the university, the better the end result will be.
- Next month, Faculty Assembly will once again be taking up the Electronic Information and Technology Accessibility Policy next month. Despite the recent article in the University Times how implementation of this is “not unduly burdensome or costly,” several faculty members raised legitimate concerns and objections to the prior iteration of this policy, concerns that should not be blithely dismissed. I am hopeful that the new version has taken these concerns into account and we will be able to move toward an endorsement of this policy. This is a very important issue for the University, and the faculty very much endorse the goals of the policies. But the concerns about implementation and cost are real.

And with that, I would like to turn things over to David Salcido for a recap of last week’s Faculty Assembly meeting.

David talked briefly about the Faculty Assembly meeting and recapped the following:

1. His poorly received attempt to memorialize Chris
2. Steve Wisniewski’s presentation on Pathways (software which streamlines student advising) describing the features and the rollout timeline
3. Dave DeJong’s presentation on the Shaping the Workplace initiative.
4. Frank Wilson’s announcement and appeal to the faculty to engage in the upcoming elections to the Faculty Assembly and Senate Committees
5. His own participation as a faculty representative in Steering Committee for the Oakland Neighborhood Plan.
6. The Executive Committee’s plan to improve the communication mechanisms utilized by the Senate. It will include, as part of it, the creation a series of 3-minute video segments under the tentative title, “Why We Serve” in order to bring attention to the contributions of the Senate.

Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:

Student Government Board (SGB)

Zechariah Brown, President

Brown talked about some changes in appointments within SGB, work on resolution and statement for the P.A.S.S. (PA Association of State Related Students) in support of a legislation that is providing protection for drivers and users, also the work of Diversity and Inclusion Committee to unify all organizations interested in the diversity, interests in participation in Strategic Plan process, and the upcoming election to the SGB Board (more events associated with elections are being

Report and no discussion

planned).	
<p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Selena Eisenberg, President</i> Selena commented on CGS Board’s participation in the National Leadership Conference in Florida as a wonderful event. Then talked about the upcoming Valentine Gala as an opportunity for non-traditional students to socialize on February 14. She mentioned effort to find better ways to communicate with the evening students and improve face to face contact.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Rachel Coombs, President</i> Stephanie Rose on behalf of Rachel Combs announced the Graduate and professional student lounge opening in the WPU and the upcoming Executive Board elections.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u> <i>Anthony Verardi, President</i> Verardi did not have a formal report but he invited everyone to Graduate Expo on Friday March 20 in WPU.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>Schools of the Health Sciences</u> <i>Jacob Khan</i></p>	No Report
<p><u>UPPDA</u> <i>David Gau, President</i> Good afternoon Senate Council, I am happy to report that we are starting to work on a collaborative effort with the Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development, the Center for Mentoring, and Life Solutions to see how we could work to develop existing programming and increase awareness of mental health and resources available for postdocs. Our hope is to integrate these concepts into our line of programing starting in the next academic year.</p> <p>I would also like to put out a save the date for our 15th annual postdoctoral Data and Dine Symposium and networking dinner on May 14th from 5 – 9 pm. This is one of our largest events that provides an opportunity for postdocs to showcase their research and for us to give thanks to those that advocate and mentor postdocs here at Pitt. Last year, we saw our greatest turnout at the event last year with over 100 abstracts submitted and we awarded ten travel grants to the best posters as judged by faculty mentors. These travel grants were made possible by funding support from 19 different departments across campus. Since there is no fee to be a part of the Postdoc Association, we depend greatly on contribution for</p>	Report and no discussion

<p>departments and units to provide opportunities like travel grants. In addition, we awarded Dr. Nathan Urban, the UPPDA Postdoctoral Advocate Award for his visible support of the UPPDA; Dr. Kimberly Payne, Instructor in the Department of Biological Sciences received the UPPDA Postdoctoral Alumni Award for her leadership while serving on the UPPDA board as a postdoc and her continued support as a faculty member at Pitt; and Dr. Ronald Buckanovich, Professor of Medicine, received the UPPDA Mentor Award based upon the enthusiastic nomination of his postdoctoral trainees. If anyone here would like to nominate someone for these awards this year, please feel free to contact me at dave.gau@pitt.edu. This event is jointly sponsored by UPPDA, the Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Office of the Provost.</p> <p>Thank you and I look forward to sharing more positive reports in this new semester.</p>	
<p>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC) <i>Andy Stephany, President</i></p> <p>Good afternoon President Bonneau, Chancellor Gallagher, members of Senate Council.</p> <p>This new year trumpets in a time of engagement at the University. Several different areas are asking for our ideas and opinions on shaping the institution. We, as staff, are positioned to provide feedback about their experience at the University like never before. And I suspect very few employers will offer its employees direct access to shaping the strategic goals of the entire organization, much less specific details about human resources and information technology processes and outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shaping the Workplace Environment. The Office of Human Resources is asking staff to provide insight into how we can transform our experience as a Pitt employee. You can put yourself on the waitlist for newly scheduled engagement sessions, provide written feedback on any or all of the 5 pillars, ask questions, and find Vice-Chancellor DeJong’s recorded Kick-Off Announcement through the HR website. - Pitt Information Technology is seeking your input as they transform Pitt’s information technology resources to align with Pitt’s goals. The website for IT Vision and Strategy is https://itvision.pitt.edu/. You can find the most recent IT report, vision, and opportunities to provide written feedback there. - The Provost’s office is developing the Plan for Pitt 2025. The plan is setting the stage for confirming the goals established five years ago and quantifying and establishing accountability to meet them. The website 	<p>Report and no discussion</p>

<p>https://www.planforpitt.pitt.edu/ is where you can find details about opportunities to provide your feedback in person or written.</p> <p>Staff will have the opportunity to see this feedback grow as well. All three groups are offering transparency and accountability as part of a well-organized process. There is a significant commitment on behalf of the University to listen and synthesize our collective thoughts into substantive change and growth here at Pitt. I hope that the staff feels they have the opportunity to attend these sessions with release time.</p> <p>Staff Council is hosting a lunchtime session to discuss best practices and successes on remote work and flexible scheduling. University leaders, such as Michele Montag from the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, Thomas Youngs from University Purchasing Services, and Dr. Jennifer Woodward from the Office of Sponsored Projects, will be sharing their experiences and processes with establishing a more progressive work environment. We're hoping to broaden the conversation on campus and open new opportunities for staff. The session will take place on February 20, at noon, in the O'Hara Ballroom.</p> <p>We are also gearing up for Pitt Day of Giving on February 25. We're going for one of the bonus prizes to support the Ronald W. Frisch Staff Development Award.</p> <p>Our next general meeting is Wednesday, February 19, at noon, in room 102, Benedum Hall, All are welcome to attend. This concludes our report.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>No reports</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p> <p>No new business</p>	No Business
<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <p><i>Salcido</i> announced that the Senate Plenary topic will be mental health. The Plenary will be held on March 24 from 12-3:00 pm in WPU. The keynote speaker will be Kay Redfield Jamison, the author of the <i>Unquiet Mind</i>.</p> <p><i>Bonneau</i> added that lunch will be provided.</p>	Announcements
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm</p>	Adjournment at

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort

Members attending:

Agarwal, Becker, Bonneau, Bonner, Brown, Cousins, Cudd, Dahm, Denman, Doty, Fort, Gallagher, Gau, Gregerson, Guterman, Humphrey, Kaynar, Labrinidis, Molinaro, Munro, Peterson, Poljak, Rutenbar, Salcido, Sant, Sastry, Stephany, Sukits, Swigonova, Unger, Verardi, Wilson

Members not attending:

Bratman, Conley, Coombs, Eisenberg, Goundappa, Kanthak, Kaufman, Kaynar, Khan, Kleebank, Kohanbash, Kory, Kovacs, Kucan, Landsittel, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Mostern, Mulvaney, Nelson, Stoner, Weinberg, Yates

*Excused attendance:

Aziz, Bachman, Buchanich, Infanti, Levine, Loughlin, Washington, Wood

Others attending:

Baughman, DeJong, Harding, Harrell, Hayt, Johnson, Leifson, Moran, Pope, Rose, Seldin, Staresinic, Tenney, Toner, Walker, Zwick

*Notified Senate Office