

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
January 24, 2018

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Call to Order</u></p> <p>The meeting was called to order by President Frank Wilson.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Senate Council Meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u></p> <p>No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>No items</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p>Hope everyone had a good break; welcome back!</p> <p>Yesterday we made an announcement about Pitt Seed program for faculty/staff members to help fund projects to support the Strategic Plan. Alternative pathway for innovative, peer-reviewed process; up to \$50K. Website available.</p> <p>December 20, 2017: Message regarding sexual harassment claims past and present. Wanted to emphasize that our response is completely consistent with how we deal with issues, including this one. Title IX office is investigating the claim. The most important thing is that communication channels are open and that the institution will follow up. We take the claim seriously as well as due process. Our culture and climate must support all people in our community.</p> <p>Today the Provost search committee began through its first meeting. Members were announced: Ariel Armony, Director, University Center for International Studies Janet Asbury, Student, College of General Studies Student Government Board Arjand Assad, Dean, Katz Graduate School of Business Ivet Bahar, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Computational and Systems Biology Kathy Blee, Dean, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Kenyon Bonner, Vice Provost and Dean of Students Doug Browning, Board of Trustees Mary Ellen Callahan, Board of Trustees Christopher Cooke, Associate Professor, Political Sciences, Pitt at Johnstown Susan Fullerton, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Shelome Gooden, Chair, Linguistics Michael Goodheart, Associate Professor, Political Science Tao Han, Distinguished Professor of High Energy Physics, Physics Graham Hatful, Eberly Family Professor of Biotechnology, Biological Sciences</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

Tony Infiniti, Professor, Law
 Maria Kovacs, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology
 Jeanne Marie Laskas, Professor, English
 Clarissa Leon, Student, Graduate and Professional Student Government
 Krishani Patel, Student, Student Government Board
 Fiona Seels, Staff, System Administrator School of education
 Sanjeev Shroff, Gerald McGinnis Chair, Swanson School of Engineering
 Sharon Smith, President Pitt at Greensburg
 Cindy Tananis, Associate Professor, School of Education

Rob Rutenber (Chair, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research) summarized the process (town meetings, position drafting, recruitment, review and interviewing, recommendation to the Chancellor) – hope to conclude the process by the end of this term.

State Budget. Too early to say much, though February 6th, the governor will release his plans and we have a number of meetings scheduled to discuss and respond. The final federal budget bills did not include some of the most costly issues that were first considered, however, we are going to suffer through changes to tax implications for athletic donors. We will continue to consider the situation.

Socially Responsible Investment. The advisory/study group has been formed to consider investment behaviors aligned with the University’s values. First meeting in early February.

Additional announcements can be viewed on the published Chancellor’s Report to the Senate.

Thank you to many volunteers across holidays --- Christmas at Pitt --- 500 volunteers and 2500 meals, MLK 250+ volunteers.

Question/Discussion:

MUENZER: Thank you as a humanist – “seed grant” would only be of interest to engineers and social scientists, and not humanists. However --- I’m delighted to see that the University (from the top) is valuing other projects from a more broad perspective.

KENT-SMITH: Socially responsible investing --- what is the timeline?

GALLAGHER: Not exactly sure since it will be a study group – considering many different criteria and processes; how are our values expressed?; how do they perform? Professor Dennis is chairing the committee and we are willing to support clerical and research support to the group to feed the discussion and determination of next steps.

WILSON: We also need to be educated about how the endowment works – so this is an educational opportunity as well. Suspect this will be an open process and all are invited to participate.

GALLAGHER: the committee will function both to give information and to get information in the form of hearings.

<p><u>Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson</u></p> <p>Pitt Day in Harrisburg: There is outreach to train leaders of groups to better organize our collective efforts. There will be a presentation at the February Faculty Assembly meeting.</p> <p>Reconfiguration of an Advisory Board for the University Times starting to meet next week to consider the Times and overall communication issues for faculty.</p> <p>Senate election: Soliciting officers and members to Faculty Assembly; President’s seat is vacant. Afterwards we will have a second phase for Standing Committees. Both occur in April.</p> <p>Senate Plenary March 27th 12p-3p Planning group has been making progress. Focus on “teaching.” Narrowing in on issues more firmly as we move forward. This is a timely topic in terms of the value and outcomes of higher education.</p> <p>Student Government Board. Passed a resolution related to open access materials (texts and course materials). This is of personal interest as a faculty member teaching mostly undergraduate students. Provost Beeson has been supportive of this process as well.</p> <p>Former Senate President Jim Holland passed away. Important figure in the history of the Senate. Gratitude for his service to and for faculty. Memorial is in early February.</p> <p>Question/Discussion: None</p>	<p>No discussion</p>	
<p><u>Reports of Student Members of Senate Council</u></p>	<p><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u> <i>Max Kneis, President</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Good afternoon everyone, thank you for having us here today. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The new semester is off to a great start! This semester we are looking forward to finishing up some of our initiatives while ensuring we effectivity transition long-term goals to future leadership. We’re less than 100 days away from graduation so the end of the year is close, but who’s counting?? II. Internal Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Two weeks ago we had our first SGB-at-large meeting of the year. This is one of the only times where we have Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members in one room to discuss our various initiatives. My hope was that every felt a little bit more connected to what’s going on internally and that everyone left with a better sense of what’s to come from SGB this semester. The input and collaborative spirit in the room was great and inspired me that we’ll have a great final semester. 	<p>No discussion</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. On the topic of looking to the future, our candidate packets for the upcoming election are due today at 5pm. These packets determine a student’s eligibility to run in our election and include their official platform. We have been working to promote the opportunity to run and serve on the Student Government Board over the past months with info sessions and social media campaigns. c. This semester we will be working to better promote the services SGB provides for all students. Specifically, we offer free legal consultations each week that about 60 students took advantage of during the fall, mainly for lease and landlord issues. We also sponsor the Collegiate Readership Program, which gives all undergraduates, including CGS students, free online access to the New York Times. Almost 2,200 students used this service at least once since its Aug. 1 launch. <p>III. Other Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the University to implement open educational resources during our January 16th meeting. Open educational resources are syllabi, lesson plans, lab books, worksheets, video lectures, textbooks, and full courses published under an Open License that allow for their reuse and repurposing by others and are freely available for anyone to use online. The enactment of this initiative will substantially reduce the costs students face each semester, helping alleviate some of the debt burden many face. Our asks include creating incentives to reward faculty who use, edit, and/or create open source content and the ULS joining the Open Textbook Network. I’m very excited that the Provost’s Office is in the process of forming a committee to make formal recommendations on implementing the initiative and for the support we’ve received from the Administration. I also wanted to thank Senate President Wilson who has been very supportive of this initiative, and who attended our public meeting last week. b. Board Member Callahan has been working with the Office of Public Safety to host the Spring Safety Fair, which will take place on Tuesday, January 30th from 11am to 2pm in the WPU. Departments from across campus and the city will be present, with heavy participation from the Pitt Police. Students will have the opportunity to learn about many resources available to them and partake in hands on activities with the chance to win cool prizes. c. Our Wellness Committee has made progress on a long-term initiative to increase the access to free 	
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	<p>contraceptives on campus. With the support of Student Health, condom dispensers will be installed in the bathrooms on the 3rd floor of the WPU, free to all students. The ongoing costs will be covered through a partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department.</p> <p>d. Lastly, as the date for Pitt Day in Harrisburg has been set, we are working to promote the event amongst students and encourage them to join us on a trip to the Capitol and meet with legislators.</p> <p>IV. Thank you for having us.</p> <p>V. Fly Eagles Fly, and that concludes my report.</p>	
	<p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Dave Levine, President</i> Unable to attend meeting today/No report</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
	<p><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Christopher E. Staten, President</i></p> <p>1) In late September, in wake of the Tax Reform provisions, GPSG assembled a Community & Governmental Relations Task Force to strategize and execute resistance against potential laws that are detrimental to graduate & professional students. Our efforts were joined by hundreds of thousands of graduate & professional students and higher institutions across the nation. We were successful, and the negative provisions were excluded from the final bill. However, the GPSG CGR Task Force is now focused on the proposal to rewrite the Prosper Act. From our research, some of the implications are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Likelihood of reducing contribution to student financial aid (unsure exactly how much, no CBO score yet) b. Reduced commitment to grant aid and eliminates some campus-based aid programs c. Limits graduate student borrowing - eliminates gradPLUS d. Caps yearly graduate borrowing at \$28,500 a year; total graduate borrowing at \$150k e. Eliminates loan forgiveness programs for teachers, lawyers, etc f. Eliminates graduate student eligibility for federal work study g. Eliminates TRIO program h. Eliminates Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) 	<p>No discussion</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Overall, harmful to post-secondary education in the above ways j. Concerns about campus safety/ sexual assault implications <p>2) With these implications, low income and first-generation students are disadvantaged and access to higher education and advanced degrees will decrease. People with means will continue to go to grad school and those who can't afford it will no longer go. We are looking forward to working with the Community Governmental Relations staff to see the options we have to education politicians and legislators on how these implications are dangerous.</p> <p>3) On a lighter note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GPSG is launching our LinkedIn Page to engage with graduate & professional students at Pitt and other graduate student governments b. We are launching our new "Student Spotlight" campaign, to highlight the great work graduate & professional students are doing across campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. We will be highlighting the awards and accomplishments on our Instagram and Facebook. <p>4) We are gearing up for 2018 GPSG elections and we will be accepting applications starting February 15th</p> <p>5) We have spent \$46,085 in travel grants to graduate & professional students presenting at academic conferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have done much more communication to graduate & professional students to utilize travel grants, therefore, the need travel grants has dramatically increased to the point where there may be pressure on how we can allocate to individual students. 	
	<p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u></p> <p><i>Amber Griffith, President</i></p> <p>Our meeting was held on Tuesday, January 16th, where we discussed the upcoming events the GSO will be having for the spring semester. The Grad expo had opened the submission forum for posters and presentations. The GSO teaching awards applications are open and we are accepting them until January 30th. Lastly, the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion will be hosting a diversity resource fair on February 28th. We are working on compiling a list of university and community organizations to invite for tabling at this event.</p>	<p>See comments below</p>

<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u> <i>Andy Stephany, President</i> <i>Alex Toner, Vice-President of Public Relations</i></p> <p>We were pleased to welcome 16 new members during an orientation this past December. A full list of active members and their respective departments can be found on our website.</p> <p>This addition brings our current voting-member count to 74, all of whom serve on a volunteer basis. We are continuing to explore methods for expanding representation across as many University departments and staff constituencies as possible.</p> <p>These 74 members are required to serve on one of four staff council standing committees, as well as encouraged to participate in ad hoc initiatives, programming and events, and University committees as necessary.</p> <p>In partnership with the Office of Community and Governmental Relations and the Pitt Alumni Association we are hosting a Pitt Advocates Brown Bag on Tuesday, February 6 at 12pm in the O’Hara Student Center Ballroom. The session will overview the state budget process, highlight year round advocacy opportunities, and promote collective participation for this year’s Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 20th.</p> <p>Over the past month our executive committee has meet with Vice Chancellor Johnson, Assistance Vice Chancellor Kozar and Office of Human Resources representatives to learn more about the expansion of retirement investment options, upcoming benefit communications, and proposed background check enhancements to assist in facilitating the information to staff.</p>	No discussion
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p>	No reports
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p>	No business
<p><u>Announcements</u></p>	
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p>	Adjournment at 3:46p

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:

Balaban, Becker, Beeson, Bonneau, Bonner, Bratman, Brodt, Fall, Fort, Gallagher, Griffith, Haley, Henker, Humphrey, Kanthak, Kear, Kent-Smith, Kiselyov, Kneis, Kory, Levine, Loughlin, Manem, Molinaro, Muenzer, Mulvaney, Munro, Perry, Phillippi, Rigotti, Rohrer, Rutenbar, Scott, Smith, Spring, Staten, Stephany, Tananis, Toner, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Betru, Bilodeau, Bromberg, Clark, Deitrick, de Vallejo, Harries, Horne, Jones, Mulcahy, Nelson, Sukits, Swanson, Thorpe, Van Nostrand, Weikle-Mills

*Excused attendance:

Czerwinski, Gaddy, Goldberg, Lyon, Washington

Others attending:

Connelly, Costanza, Di Palma, Farwell, Fike, Henderson, Labrinidis, Moore, Schackner, Sereika, Walker, Washo, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office