

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
 Skype Meeting  
 March 19, 2020

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>Call to Order</u></b>            The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau at 3 pm. President <i>Bonneau</i> opened with a few housekeeping remarks related to our first virtual meeting and took a roll call.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3 pm.</p>
<p><b><u>Approval of the Minutes of the February 12th, 2020 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>Gallagher</i> opened his report with remarks on the unprecedented situation we face, but also said that we entered it prepared. The University has an emergency plan for a while, but it is the first time we have used it at the highest, pandemic level. The three main objectives are:            -to maintain the core function of the University            -to play our part in responding to pandemic, many of the steps taken are not needed for us but for the good of whole community, to minimize the risks to others            -to support our community wherever they are.            Quick rundown of the steps taken:            - Last Wednesday (March 11) we shifted to online instruction, the large events were cancelled, and classes were cancelled to give an extra week to faculty to prepare for the new format, online instruction will start on Monday            - As of yesterday we shifted from “open but distant” approach to the reduced activities when only essential university activities will be allowed (Office of Research is involved in evaluating research activities which are currently under review)            - Extra steps are taken to assure safety of those who are needed on campus            - Libraries are available remotely            - Services are provided only to the students who stayed in the residence halls            - Access to residence halls will be restricted; students will be relocated to follow the social distancing guidelines and to prepare housing for medical personnel who cannot go home            - Support for critical employees            - Employees sent home will be paid            Come Monday, we can concentrate on students and online classes.</p>	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

The front line will happen in hospitals so it really matters whether hospitals are overloaded when the crisis arrives or whether we can slow it down.

Office of International Studies is involved from the beginning and almost all our students are safely back from the Study Abroad Program.

The situation changes extremely fast. What can we expect going forward? There are more unknowns than knowns. Because of the delay with the testing, we do not know the extension of the epidemic. We do not have any cases on campus, but it is only a matter of time. The challenge is to bend but not to break.

I can assure you that the University is in a good financial situation to withstand the shocks of this disruption.

*Bonneau* asked about funds to fight COVID-19 announced in University Times

*Levine*: There are several groups involved. We have:

1. Paul Duprex's team at the Center for Vaccine Research looking for the vaccine,
2. Team lead by Dimiter Dimitrov who produced antibodies they know can block the virus and they are trying to scale up to produce them in sufficient amount
3. Don Burke – the leader of modeling infectious episodes contributes to our understanding of epidemiology
4. School of Pharmacy group is evaluating existing drugs that could be repurposed to fight COVID-19

*Scott*: Is there a freeze on hiring or can we hire postdocs?

*Gallagher & Cudd*: The searches are going on, but the practical question should be whether we can bring someone on board under this situation. There is guidance from NIH that you can still pay your hires.

*Bratman*: Physical health is our current focus. Has anyone started to think of mental health issues (prolonged isolation)?

*Gallagher*: We need to do something about it in a way that people are not only on the receiving end but they feel they also can contribute.

*DeJong*: We work on providing a strong support for the staff. OHR website has resources useful for supervisors. We want to offer self-education opportunities, participation in projects to lessen the feeling that people's jobs are not essential. We will look into meaningful community engagements.

*Bonner*: The one-to-one counseling cannot be provided for students right now, but the training of counselors is going on right now, we will put a lot of resources for students online. This is our short-term plan; the long-term plan will be developed.

<p><i>Sant</i>: Any guidance on how to advise the foreign student intern? The problem is they are afraid to talk to OIS immigration specialist because they are afraid they will be asked to leave.</p> <p><i>Gallagher &amp; Stoner</i> suggested OIS resources and guidelines. Someone from OIS will contact Sant to talk to her and the students.</p> <p><i>Sant</i>: What to do if a person showing signs of COVID refuses to be tested?</p> <p><i>Gallagher</i>: We cannot make them, but we should recommend that they need to self-isolate themselves</p> <p><i>Kovacs</i>: Can we hear some update on supply of masks and protective equipment? How are hospitals prepared?</p> <p><i>Levine</i>: UPMC is more than adequately prepared. Supplies are available and because we are a relatively small city, the ratio of beds and ventilators is very good.</p> <p><i>Brown</i> raised the issue of petition from students to allow the pass/fail grades for the online classes.</p> <p><i>Gallagher &amp; Cudd</i>: The decision has been made, but we are working through how to communicate it. Petition is not the best way to bring the issues to our attention right now, too many important other priorities.</p> <p><i>Bonneau</i>: There is a worry that Zoom might not be able to handle traffic if all the classes are online.</p> <p><i>Doty</i> shared the School of Engineering IT perspective that since we do not know how zoom will behave, we should have a plan B (like having prerecorded lectures, slides with voice over and making yourselves available for questions via message board, skype, MS Teams, etc.)</p> <p><i>Bonneau</i>: Any rules for recording?</p> <p><i>Washington</i>: Under PA law, people have to be advised that they are recorded and we are working on a script, which would be ready for all who want to record.</p>	
<p><b><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u></b></p> <p>I do not have a report. A lot of things that happened have already been mentioned in the Chancellor’s report. We were discussing among other things: moving our classes online, support for faculty moving courses online, grading mentioned by Zechariah, tenure clock. For now, know that we want to deliver a high quality content in the best possible way we know and we want to support and take care of our community.</p> <p><i>Cudd</i>: We are getting messages to faculty very soon about use of offices, with clear</p>	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

guidance on teaching issues, pass/fail grading, OMET evaluations, and tenure clock issues.	
<b><u>Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:</u></b>	
<b><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u></b> <i>Zechariah Brown, President</i> We modified the Fix It Pitt system so we can field better problems reported by students. We plan to continue our public meeting via zoom with student’s comments and feedback. We put a proposal to Dean Bonner about the use of reserve funding for student needs.	Report and no discussion
<b><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u></b> <i>Selena Eisenberg, President</i> <b><u>No report</u></b>	No report
<b><u>Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u></b> <i>Rachel Coombs, President</i> No report	No report
<b><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u></b> <i>Anthony Verardi, President</i> It is a second time that I am finishing a year with online classes. It’s ominous that I started during the year of bomb threats and I am ending it the same way. I do not have a report, but I would like to acknowledge how proud I am with Pitt response and especially that the students were allowed to stay on campus.	Report and no discussion
<b><u>Schools of the Health Sciences</u></b> <i>Jacob Khan</i>	No Report
<b><u>UPPDA</u></b> <i>David Gau, President</i> There are no updates from UPPDA at this time, but I would like to thank you for all the communication from administration.	Report and no discussion
<b><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u></b> <i>Andy Stephany, President</i> I appreciate all the communication on available resources for staff, thanks for the empowerment of supervisors, but mostly I would like to give shout out to the Center for Teaching and Learning, IT, and all the medical staff who are on the front line	Report and no discussion
<b><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></b>  <i>Bonneau</i> said that there are no reports from Senate Committees at this time, but they are working, meeting virtually and the attendance is amazing.	

<b><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></b>	No Business
None	
<b><u>Announcements</u></b> Our elections begin on April 1. They will be held online. You will be able to vote from my.pitt.edu page. Our next meeting will be on April 16 also online.	Announcements
<b><u>Adjournment</u></b> Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm	Adjournment at 4:18 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort

Members attending:

4 Agarwal, Aziz, Bachman, Becker, Bonneau, Bonner, Bratman, Brown, Buchanich, Conley, Cousins, Cudd, Dahm Denman, Doty, Fort, Gallagher, Gau, Goundappa, Gregerson, Guterman, Humphrey, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kleebank, Kohanbash, Kovacs, Kucan, Labrinidis, Levine, Loughlin, Molinaro, Mulvaney, Peterson, Poljak, Rutenbar, Salcido, Sant, Sastry, Stephany, Stoner, Swigonova, Unger, Verardi, Washington, Wilson, Wood

Members not attending:

Coombs, Eisenberg, Infanti, Kanthak, Khan, Kory, Landsittel, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Mostern, Mulcahy, Munro, Nelson, Sukits, Weinberg, Yates

Others attending:

Ayers, DeJong, Dostilio, Harding, Harrell, Jeffrey, Jones, Lalo, Lea, Leifsen, Manchin, Moran, Pope, G. Scott, M. Scott, Seldin, Service, Spring, Staresinic, Supowitz, Tuttle, Walker, Washo, Zwick

\* Notified Senate office