

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
2700 Posvar Hall  
March 20, 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 February 13, 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>  <b>SGB Elections:</b> congratulations on the new slate, and also good luck to GPSG elections as well.   <b>Pitt Success/Pell Match:</b> we are really excited about this initiative; largest restructuring of financial aid for Pitt; looking to really help students, acknowledge Provost Cudd and her team for this initiative; we look forward to impact across all campuses.   <b>Student Applicants:</b> 39,000+ for freshman year; we are looking forward to another extraordinary class   <b>Harrisburg Hearing:</b> appropriation bill under consideration; not hearing many financial issues --- more broad policy issues related to funding and the state system of higher education (PASHE); Governor requested flat funding; we'll see what happens. March 26 Pitt Day in Harrisburg --- please join us for this important event, hope to see you there.   <b>Pitt Day of Giving (3<sup>rd</sup> year):</b> goal to engage people and ramp up giving participation, over 6K new donors, alumni participation up 50%   <b>Searches:</b>                      CIO is continuing, concluding this Spring                      Pitt Bradford and Titusville will conclude this spring                      Pitt Greensburg underway, somewhat behind the others                      Senior Vice Chancellor Health Sciences/Dean School of Medicine – search committee being formed and community engagement forums to begin.   <b>Campus Weather Policy group:</b> looking at policy issues, communication, execution. Personal discretion for attendance, however students may still be penalized. Assumption that students are on campus, though not the case for upperclassmen and grad students. Current academic calendar does not include snow day make up time. We will continue to look at this over the summer to determine next steps.</p>	<p>Report  No discussion</p>

<p><b>Smoking Policy:</b> responded to request to establish a committee to consider policies, execution of policy, and other issues. Dr. Keisha Davis will chair this committee and we will be pulling this committee together in coming weeks to consider issues (though not develop policy).</p> <p><b>Forum for Public Safety Issues:</b> to bring together discussion group --- Dr. David Harris, School of Law to bring together a study group to consider options, policies, needs.</p> <p>See <b>Chancellor’s Report for more specific details on these and additional items.</b></p> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b> None</p>		
<p><b><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u></b></p> <p>The more observant of you will notice something different about me today. That’s right....there was a <b>spring</b> in my step.</p> <p>The faculty selection process for the search committee for the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences is winding down and will conclude on March 25. We had over 60 colleagues express a desire to serve on this committee. Additionally, at least check, faculty voting for this position was among the highest for any position in recent years. This level of enthusiasm is gratifying and speaks to the importance of the position, and none of us who have stood for election during this time period are making inferences about the relationship between faculty participation and the importance of our positions.</p> <p>Since we are talking about elections...elections for Senate officers and Faculty Assembly will begin on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Elections Committee, led by the indefatigable Frank Wilson has been laboring to assemble a high-quality slate of candidates who are willing to serve. Once these elections are complete, elections for Senate Committees will be held. More on that next month.</p> <p>And now it’s time for Senate trivia.....Did You Know...that the Senate Plenary session is next Weds. From 12-3 at the WPU? Well, now you do. And, if you have been paying attention to news in recent weeks, you can see the topic of free speech on campus is not going away any time soon. It is almost like we knew what we were doing when we picked the topic....</p> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>CHANCELLOR GALLAGHER:</b> We expect a statement from the President tomorrow on free speech in academia and will consider it carefully</p>	<p>Report Discussion</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. Introduce Incoming President- Zechariah Brown, run off vice presidential election; divestiture issues were on a referendum and supported (originally preferred scale of opinions, unable to</li> </ol>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>do that, so we went with a yes/no: do you think the university should divest of fossil fuels)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Women's Empowerment Week- happening now!       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Invite to the Empowered Women Empower Women: Leadership Summit</li> <li>b. Saturday 23rd, 2-4 pm; University Club Ballroom B</li> <li>c. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/2237563019667206/">https://www.facebook.com/events/2237563019667206/</a></li> <li>d. At this event, we will be honoring Pitt women leaders from all across campus--staff, faculty, and administration!</li> <li>e. Student attendees will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful mentorship and networking opportunities with the honorees.</li> <li>f. This is also the event where the 2nd annual Patricia E. Beeson Women's Empowerment Award will be presented (students can apply here: <a href="https://goo.gl/forms/g2KjKrqQIR144Rkq1">https://goo.gl/forms/g2KjKrqQIR144Rkq1</a>)</li> <li>g. Hors D'oeuvres will be provided! Dress is business casual to business professional.</li> <li>h. All are welcome, regardless of gender identity!</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Town Hall Progress       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Previous SGB Town Halls-- Facilities Feedback and University Policy focused</li> <li>b. Mechanism for increasing democratic participation and efficacy</li> <li>c. Giving 'regular' students the chance to meet and talk face to face with admin + faculty</li> <li>d. Future Town Halls           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SGB+ RSA Collaboration- Mental Health Mixer + Town Hall               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Jay Darr, Dean Bonner, etc.</li> </ol> </li> <li>ii. Sustainability               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Including the Director of Sustainability Dr. Aurora Sharrard, etc.</li> <li>2. Board Members Jessa Chong, Albert Tanjaya, and SOOS Director Clara Weibel taking lead on this event</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4. SGB Transition Process       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Committee Chairs, Committees, Office of President- Apps due end of this week/next week</li> <li>b. Interview Process early April-- ~50 positions available</li> <li>c. <a href="http://sgb.pitt.edu/joinus/">http://sgb.pitt.edu/joinus/</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Pitt Day in Harrisburg- March 26th       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Engage with PA Government Reps re: Pitt Budget, Higher Education Funding</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Question/Discussion:</b></p>	
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	<p><b>CHANCELLOR GALLAGHER:</b> Students have worked with various administrators across the years. The full Board of Trustees makes these decisions; should we be looking at various investment options; looking at broader investment options. It is not very clear how the issue gets raised to the Board -- -one time --- South Africa apartheid issue. We should create a more well-defined process for consideration; the Board is likely to be interested in student input.</p>	
	<p><b><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u></b>  <i>Dave Levine, President</i>  Not attending/No report</p>	No discussion
	<p><b><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u></b>  <i>Rachel Coombs, President</i></p> <p><b>Upcoming GPSG events:</b>  Saturday March 30th: 8:00PM  GPSG Spring Fling 2019  \$15: Drinks, food, dancing, and photos  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpsg-spring-fling-2019-tickets-52927905791">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gpsg-spring-fling-2019-tickets-52927905791</a></p> <p>Monday April 1st: 2:00PM-5:00PM  Arsenal Bowling  \$5: 3 hours of bowling, heavy appetizers, shoe rental  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-bowling-arsenal-tickets-52927986031">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-bowling-arsenal-tickets-52927986031</a></p> <p>Tuesday April 2nd: 9:00PM-11:45PM  Movies at Rowhouse Cinema  \$5: Movie (Battle Royale), small popcorn and 1 beer or non-alcoholic beverage  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-movies-rowhouse-tickets-52927985028">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-movies-rowhouse-tickets-52927985028</a></p> <p>Wednesday April 3rd: 7:00PM-10:00PM  **Waitlist only, tickets currently sold out**  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-pirates-game-skull-bar-tickets-52927970986">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-pirates-game-skull-bar-tickets-52927970986</a></p> <p>Thursday April 4th:  Professional development lunch and studio portrait headshot session  \$5  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-professional-development-panel-tickets-52927997064">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-professional-development-panel-tickets-52927997064</a></p> <p>Friday April 5th: 7:00PM-11:00PM</p>	No discussion

	<p>Mega Grad Collab                  Join us as we welcome grad and professional students from Duquesne University and Chatham University                  5\$: Food, drinks, dancing, and games!  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-mega-grad-collab-tickets-52928002079">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngaw-mega-grad-collab-tickets-52928002079</a></p> <p>If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to either the <a href="#">VP of Communications</a> or the <a href="#">VP of Programming</a>. Thanks!</p> <p>Unionization vote to occur week of April 15<sup>th</sup> and we all encourage full vote by graduate students.</p> <p><b>Questions/Discussion:</b>                  CHANCELLOR GALLAGHER: we want to endorse Rachel’s statement that we really support all students to become informed and vote in the upcoming election</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>Good afternoon members of Senate Council. I hope everyone is bracing for the onslaught of events and workshops in the coming weeks, particularly the annual Graduate Expo which will take place this Friday, March 22 in the William Pitt Union. The A&amp;S GSO would like to extend its heartfelt thanks again to all parties who have assisted in organizing and supporting this event, and we look forward to collaborating with everyone again next year. We also, of course, hope to see some familiar faces at the poster sessions and presentations!</p> <p>Last month, I joined other student leaders from across the University to meet with Dr. Nathan Urban and discuss a variety of topics that are pertinent to a range of graduate students at Pitt, including ways to improve opportunities for faculty mentorship, both within and outside students' home Departments; the availability of funding to graduate students and restrictions thereon; mental health resources and policies; and workshop topics for the future. Of particular import to the members of the A&amp;S GSO were concerns regarding restrictions on the availability of scholarships to non-US citizens, such as those available through the Nationality Rooms program. Among other notable insights was a desire to see an increase in codified avenues for mentorship with non-tenure/tenure-stream faculty in the Dietrich School.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>On a different note, the A&amp;S GSO Committee for Diversity and Inclusion is preparing for a meeting with Associate Dean Holger Hooch and Director of Diversity Initiatives and Academic Affairs Philippa Carter to discuss graduate student participation in the upcoming Dietrich School diversity review, to which we very much look forward to giving our input.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to take a moment and address some issues that have been directed to me by my constituents regarding the tone of recent communications to both eligible and ineligible voting members of the graduate student body regarding unionization efforts. A concern has been expressed about the wording of the following paragraph:</p> <p>"To be clear: The University takes your privacy very seriously. Many graduate students might consider this release of information an invasion of privacy, but it is required by Pennsylvania law. The United Steelworkers may use this information to contact you. These representatives may also pay you a visit—both announced and unannounced—at your home or on campus. You have a right to decline any of these solicitation attempts."</p> <p>We recognize that students fully have a right to refuse to interact with Union organizers, but question why the University finds it prudent to employ language that is perhaps misleading and anxiety-inducing in its scale, given that this is indeed a legal requirement from the State of Pennsylvania and not a case of Union organizers attempting to collect the personal information of potential voters in order to target them. We invite the University to consider that wording in the vein of 'many graduate students might consider/might think/might be of the opinion that' may be presupposing the outlook of graduate students and hence questionable in its neutrality.</p> <p>In the coming weeks we look forward to seeing what direction the graduate students of this University will decide to go, and regardless of the outcome of unionization efforts, the A&amp;S GSO remains committed to bringing the insights, concerns, and hopes of graduate students in the Dietrich School to the members of Senate Council. This concludes the A&amp;S GSO report.</p> <p>All the best, Anthony</p> <p><b>Questions/Discussion:</b>  <b>BONNEAU:</b> May I ask what part of the paragraph you read was unclear or unfair?  <b>TOUSKI:</b> concerns about privacy.</p>	
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	<p>The concern is the tone, not the information --- because it is factual  <b>CUDD:</b> we have not illegally released the info to the Steelworkers -- we were required to do so and wanted to inform students.  <b>COOMBS:</b> We have also heard from some grad students with concern and misunderstanding, as well.  <b>TOUSKI:</b> As an international student, this can be unclear and  <b>CUDD:</b> We needed to let each student know whether they were in the voting group or not  <b>WASHINGTON:</b> we were trying to communicate that we did not violate FERPA; we may need to more clearly communicate that --- but we were only intending to say we responded within legal limits. This feedback is helpful to us clarify for next steps.</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>Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Staff Professional Development Award in Honor of Ronald W. Frisch, 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 have received nearly 200 applications and seek to expand the award program to fund more staff opportunities.</p> <p>One method to do so is through dedicated fundraising mechanisms, like the Pitt Day of Giving. We are happy to report that we raised over \$2,300 in donations during this year’s campaign, which will directly benefit the Staff Professional Development Award. Thank to you all our donors.</p> <p>Another method is via targeted investment, through opportunities like the Chancellor’s Seed Grant. Staff Council submitted a 2019 proposal which if approved which would expand award opportunities for staff, facilitate wider institutional promotion of the award, and synthesize three years of applicant data to better inform institutional discussions around quality of supervision, performance appraisal, and staff mobility.</p> <p>Thank you to Provost Cudd for attending our February general meeting and offering her candid perspective on priorities, and opportunities, facing the University, as well as taking questions from staff members.</p> <p>During today’s Staff Council general meeting we were joined by Angie Bedford-Jack, the University’s Digital Accessibility Coordinator, who provided an overview of her role and institutional digital accessibility initiatives staff should be aware of.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

<p>Our second Women in the Workplace panel takes place tomorrow at 12pm in the Lower Lounge of the William Pitt Union. Presented in partnership with the Women’s Affinity Group and in celebration of Women’s History Month, the panel includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherdina Harper, Cross Cultural Programming Coordinator and Advisor</li> <li>• Dr. Jennifer Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Research Operations</li> <li>• Valerie Njie, Officer and President Elect of the Pitt Alumni Association</li> <li>• Samantha Balbier, Director of the Institute of Politics and the Elise Hillman Civic Forum</li> </ul> <p>Our next general meeting is Wednesday, April 17 at 12pm in Benedum Hall room 102.</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><b>TONER:</b> Since there tends to be no new business, I’m wondering what kinds of issues might end up under new business</p> <p><b>BONNEAU:</b> If new business emerges, anything could be put on the agenda</p> <p><b>TANANIS:</b> You could have indicated a need to discuss the “nature of new business” <i>as new business</i>. It would have then been brought up for discussion at this point in the agenda.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<p><b><u>Announcements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 3:40p</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:

Bonneau, Bonner, Brodt, Chong, Coombs, Cudd, Dahm, Dort, Gallagher, Henker, Humphrey, Infanti, Kear, Kennedy, Kiselyov, Kory, Molinaro, Rutenbar, Salcido, Smith, Stephany, Stillman, Stoner, Tananis, Toner, Washington, Wilson

Members not attending:

Arkush, Bachman, Betru, Bilodeau, Bromberg, Buchanich, Conley, Deitrick, Denman, de Vallejo, Gaddy, Harper, Harries, Horne, Jones, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kovacs, Labrinidis, D. Levine, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Mercer, Morel, Mulcahy, Sant, Triplette, Van Nostrand, Weikle-Mills, Weinberg

\*Excused attendance:

Becker, Goldberg, Haley, A. Levine, Scott, Verardi

Others attending:

Brown, Connelly, Dostilio, Harding, Harrell, Hitter, Moran, Staresinic, Touski, Washo, Zwick

\*Notified Senate Office