

**Senate Council Meeting Minutes
(Hybrid format)
Thursday, May 19, 2022**

I. Call to Order

President Robin Kear called the meeting to order at 3 pm and asked those on zoom whose names do not appear on screen to use chat for the roll.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Past Senate Council Meeting

On a motion duly made and seconded the minutes from the Senate Council meeting on April 21, 2022, were approved as written.

III. Items of New Business

No items of new business were raised.

IV. Report of the Chancellor, Patrick Gallagher

Chancellor Gallagher started with several comments on current transitions. He thanked Gosia Fort, the outgoing Senate Secretary and welcomed Penny Morel, as the incoming Senate Secretary. He acknowledged the change in the CGSSG leadership and congratulated Monty Labash for winning and thanked Ryan Yeager for his service. He raised the issue of primary elections to indicate a short pause in Harrisburg related activities and our own faculty involvement in primaries (Chris Deluzio and Jerry Dickinson). He also welcomed David Brown as Vice Chancellor for Government Relations and Advocacy. State appropriation – at the moment no news, but we are still concern about the level of support for the bill. We should hear more in June. He thanked everyone who has already involved in advocacy efforts and encouraged everyone to become Pitt Advocate (<https://www.with.pitt.edu>).

Then, the Chancellor shared some news:

- Public Safety Advisory Committee report (expanding their vision beyond preventing the crime and violence to include other conditions for achieving wellbeing in community, launch of the Student Focused Public Safety Concerns)
- Provost Cudd announcement of making the next year of The Year of Emotional Well-Being
- 12 students awarded fellowship programs from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Program (open to senior undergraduates and first and second graduate students pursuing career in science, technology, computers and mathematics with the stipend of 34K and 12K for tuition)
- Mary Rauktis received Fulbright Specialist Program grant
- Hatfull's team studying phages created a effective therapy for a patient in 2018, since then two more reports of successful treatments were published
- Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Picnic returns – June 3, 2022, it will be in new location on Posvar patio and Shenley Drive Plaza

There were no more questions for Chancellor Gallagher.

V. Report of Senate President, Robin Kear (submitted in written)

I looked back over all our activity over the past year, and it has been busy.

- *Specific items we have worked on this year, in no particular order: Interim COVID-19 Vaccine Policy; permanent COVID-19 Vaccine Policy formulation; Pandemic-related Teaching Issues; creation of the Dependent Care Ad Hoc Committee (they will update us in September); various*

efforts around Budget Model ReSTART; Campus Safety issues; Committee Mission Statements to include diversity, equity, and inclusion; Senate Plenary on Community Engaged Scholarship; recommendations for promotion & tenure; broadened Type A interpretation; Removal of the COVID-19 guidelines for Travel; and more.

- *5 resolutions were approved this academic year, including two related to academic freedom.*
- *5 University Policies made it through shared governance this year.*
- *In addition to countless meetings and attending as many Senate Committee meetings as I could, I represented your interests on the University Planning and Budget Committee, the Resilience Steering Committee, during the Middle States Reaccreditation Visit, the Paid Holiday Committee from HR that recommended Juneteenth as a University Holiday, and with the Pennsylvania state-related Senate leadership gatherings.*
- *Thank you all for your time and effort in shared governance, and a big thank you to all of the Committee chairs and co-chairs for their hard work this year.*

Provost's Committee on DEI and Community Engaged Scholarship in Promotion and Tenure

- *Last week, Faculty Assembly passed new recommendations for consideration in Promotion and Tenure. These recommendations have now been passed on to the Provost and the next step will be a Provost's memo to the Deans. After the Deans receive these recommendations, the work will begin in the schools, departments, and units.*
- *Under the leadership of Vice Provost John Wallace, this was a provost level committee that worked through the spring term developing recommendations and guidance surrounding these two areas, Community Engaged Scholarship and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The committee was comprised of around 25 faculty from many areas of the university who are engaged in this work.*

Provost memo on interpretation of Type A transfer policy

- *Working with the EIADAC Committee concerns, clarification on the Type A 'Temporary Transfer Out of the Tenure Stream' is out on the Provost's website and was sent to the Deans.*
 - *This memo recognizes that COVID-19 and resulting pandemic related issues continue to affect some faculty members in their progress toward tenure.*

Union Notes

- *We are not privy to negotiations between the university administration and the union bargaining committee, but we will be monitoring those discussions as best we can over the summer.*
- *We continue to feel strongly that a robust University Senate and a Faculty Assembly that represents ALL of the faculty are vital to shared governance and to ensuring that all voices are heard.*
- *We will be working hard to protect the Senate's role in shared governance as those discussions move forward, and we invite each of you to join in those efforts.*

Senate Elections

- *Thanks to chair Chris Bonneau and the Committee for Elections. Thank you to Lori Molinaro and Linda SantaCasa for running the elections.*

- *Officer and Faculty Assembly elections have closed. Congrats to Penny Morel, our next Senate Secretary. Congrats to all those elected to Faculty Assembly.*
- *Thank you to Gosia Fort, our fearless Senate Secretary, for her wise counsel and faithful representations of our deliberations over the past 3 years.*
- *Senate Committee elections have closed. Thank you all for your service and congrats.*

Diversity Forum Submissions

- *The 2022 Diversity Forum, Rewiring Our Systems: Transforming the Intersections of Inequity, will take place July 25-28 and focus on engaging the intersections of social identities impacted by systemic oppression. Registration opened May 16.*

Pitt Advocates

- *It is state budget season, and we need to communicate the value of Pitt to our state government representatives. As the Chancellor indicated in a campus-wide email, consider joining the Pitt Advocates network from the Office of Government Relations.*

2022 Senate Service Award – Congratulations to David Salcido

David was an elected member of Faculty Assembly and the Senate Research Committee beginning in 2017. He served as Senate Vice President from 2019-2021, during the beginning of the pandemic. He is a current co-chair of CUPS. He is credited with establishing the quarterly H.S. Faculty Assembly meetings with the Dean/SVC of the HS. David is a Senate Appointee to the Risk and Compliance BOT Committee since 2019, serves on the Oakland Plan Steering Committee and is the resident chair of the Oakland Biking and Pedestrian Committee. David is a wonderful person and someone we are lucky to have in shared governance. Congratulations David. Let's get a photo.

Chancellor Gallagher, Robin Kear and David Salcido stepped out for a moment off the screen (for those on zoom) to take photos to record the moment for posterity.

Bonneau jokingly commented on David's participation in many meetings from his lab, monitoring pig's performance during research experiments.

Kear thanked David for his service. She concluded her report with invitation for comment and questions.

No questions.

VI. Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:

A. Student Government Board (SGB), Danielle Floyd

I hope you all are doing well, and things are hopefully winding down as we look towards the summer.

As background, SGB does not typically operate at a full capacity during the summer months, as our members are usually taking up other commitments, such as a job, internship, or study abroad. However, many of us are now taking the opportunity to start working on our initiatives and getting things set up operationally for the start of the fall. Since I last introduced myself, we have been keeping quite busy, and I'd love to share some updates.

- *SGB Attended our first in-person meet retreat in 3 years!*
 - *This retreat is vital to preparing and introducing newly elected board members to serve in SGB, where we talk about the history of SGB, heard words of wisdom/ advice from past presidents, and training on allocations*
 - *To highlight a few initiatives for the board and I will be working on*
 - *Communications!*
 - *More Safe Spaces throughout campus building for LGBTQ+ and POC students at Pitt*
 - *Safety OCL and Walnut Capital, OPDC*
 - *Sustainability*
 - *More Quiet Study Spaces*
- *SGB will continue sponsoring free, 20-minute legal consultations for Pitt undergraduate and graduate students. Students should call or email our office to schedule a consultation at sgb@pitt.edu. In the past, students have largely utilized these services to assist with Landlord and tenant disputes, so I encourage anyone who is looking for help to connect with this resource.*
- *Applications have closed for storage spaces and office spaces in the O'Hara Student Center and William Pitt Union. These spaces are to assist student groups in accomplishing their mission. We have 50 WPU lockers, 35 OSC cages, and a dozen office spaces.*
- **Allocations**
 - *Recently, the Allocations committee has commenced its summer operating procedures during which they will review and approve requests from student groups regarding essential funding for the summer months. Furthermore, as members of student government settle into their new leadership roles, we are constantly assessing and evaluating any ways that we can improve the Allocations process, which we acknowledge is essential to the maintenance of a diverse variety of activities available to the student body. Some proposals that we are looking into include a service cap for student organizations whose mission bars them from funding under the current wording of the Allocations manual as well as clarifying phrasing throughout the manual that is either vague or contradictory to SGB's Allocations philosophy. For now, these, among other, potential revisions are in their infancy, and more updates are to come regarding the improvement and enhancement of this critical aspect of student government's mission. No questions.*

B. College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG), Monte Labash

Labash introduced himself as part time student and staff at the Dental School, who would be transitioning to full time student in the fall. He plans to complete a degree in natural sciences and works toward physician assistant path. As a non-traditional student, he has experience balancing job, higher education and family life and staying involved and he hopes to foster the culture that students with full lives can still be involved in student organizations. Updates:

- CGS have full Board with all chair positions filled, all are excited to start their service
- Still searching for faculty advisor
- In the fall, he plans continue with the non-traditional student week and work with SGB

No questions.

C. Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSSG), Senti Estrada

With the support of her baby, sweetly cooing in her arms, Estrada's updates included:

- The Board members are getting to know each other and are planning for the summer retreat
- Strategizing goals for the academic year. Top goals: supporting student-parents (caregivers), supporting first generation graduate students, supporting mentoring programs for graduate students, networking between different graduate schools
- Though separated geographically, the Board members communicate constantly to be on the same page before the start of a new academic year

VII. Report of the President of the Postdoctoral Association, Dave Gau

Dave Gau is absent, so there is no report today.

VIII. Report of the President of the Staff Council, Angela Coldren (submitted in written)

*We held our third **Staff Council Spotlight** session, the **Walk to Work Initiative**, on Tuesday, May 10th. The presenters were Paul Supowitz, Lina Dostilio and James Gallaher. With an open-dialogue format, staff attendees had an opportunity to ask questions, give their opinions or voice any concerns. The next 2 Staff Council Spotlight sessions will focus on the Compensation Modernization Project. They are scheduled for **June 30th from 1-2 p.m.** and **July 27th from 3-4 p.m.** HR will present the same information at both sessions. Because this topic will impact all staff, we anticipate a large turnout. We want to be sure we have a virtual platform that can allow a high number of attendees. We are also looking into in person options. Being the summertime vacation season, we scheduled 2 sessions to give those on vacation an opportunity to attend if they are unable.*

(The Spotlights will be open to staff and we will have variety of monthly topics allowing each speaker to highlight a new initiative or a topic that staff want to understand better. Each Spotlight (presentation) will be 45 minutes to 1 hour in length. These sessions were developed from the desire of Staff Council members wanting more information than just a brief 10-minute overview by guest speakers during our monthly general meetings. Therefore, the officers felt that offering Spotlights would give members an opportunity to gather a more in-depth understanding of initiatives or topics. We hope that Staff Council members will share their new knowledge with their coworkers and departments. Attendance is optional, not mandatory, for Staff Council members.)

*Staff Council members are looking forward to attending and assisting with the **Chancellor's Faculty and Staff Appreciation Picnic** on June 3, 2022. Some of us will also be assisting HR at the **Annual Staff Recognition Awards** ceremony on June 2, 2022.*

*The **Staff Life Committee** continues to work with the Pitt EMT program on a professional development opportunity – **First On The Scene Training (FOTST)**. Staff Life is also working on a proposal for pet daycare.*

*The **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee** is continuing their work on an Indigenous People's Resolution draft.*

*New this year, Lola and I are working on distributing **Thank You Letters** to our members. We hope our members will share these letters with their supervisors during their annual appraisal to show their commitment to Staff Council as our organization is voluntary and no additional compensation is provided to members, committee chairs or officers. We feel that (moving forward) sending these annual letters will be a start in more formally recognizing the additional efforts by members.*

Staff Council is holding a summer social for its members on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. This meeting is not our normal format, so it will not be open to everyone. We will return to the normal format in July. If you would like to attend a future meeting, feel free to reach out to Lola at sc@pitt.edu for a virtual invitation. This concludes my report. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

IX. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate
A. Institutional Conflict of Interest Policy - Professor Penny Morel, Co-Chair Research Committee

Kear informed the audience that the Institutional Conflict of Interest Policy got approval of Faculty Assembly and the Research Committee, and she invited Penny Morel to introduce it.

Morel described the policy and explained its purpose. This policy establishes ICOI Committee and provides plans for the management of potential conflicts of interest. Morel explained the make-up of the ICOI Committee, which will have a wide representation across University members but excluding Senior University Officials. COI will review certain activities (threshold transactions) and develop management plans given to university officials, which could include recommendation to decline gifts or funding.

Chancellor Gallagher expressed his support for the policy and thanked all those who worked on it. This policy attempts to combine the disclosure with conflict management, which is very important in many aspects of academic autonomy. It is also happening in a time that some of those areas are under a special scrutiny (foreign funding). I will be abstaining from the vote but I wanted the committee to know of my appreciation.

The vote was via poll (for those on zoom) and by raising hand (for those in the room).

Results: YES – 29, NO - 1, ABSTAIN – 1

Policy passed.

X. Unfinished Business and/or New Business:

None

XI. Announcements

Kear said that this was the last meeting of this academic year. We will meet in the fall.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Documents from the meeting are available at the University Senate website:

<https://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council>

Respectfully submitted,
Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort
Secretary, University Senate

Members attending:

Bonneau, Bonner, Brodt, Buchanich, Coldren, Conley, Cudd, DeJong, De Vallejo, Estrada, Floyd, Fort, Gallagher, Henker, Kanthak, Kear, Kleebank, Kovacs, Labrinidis, Labash, McCormick, Molinaro, Murtazashvili, Oyler, Rauktis, Rutenbar, Sastry, Shekhar, Taboas, Tashbook, Washington, Yearwood, Zack

Members not attending:

Almarza, Bunger, Chagantipati, Cilli, Denman, Doty, Dressler, Gau, Gregerson, Hall, Jeong, Jones, A., Judd, Khan, Kieselyov, Kiesling, Klem, Kory, Maier, Newman, Pacella-LaBarbara, Paljug, Pagerson, Popovich, Potoski, Roberts, Sant, Schuster, Scott, Vento, Wood, Yeager

*Excused attendance:

Others attending:

Ayars, Bezak, Chapman, Congleton, Frieze, Harding, Hitter, Jackson, Jones, LaBar, Lalo, Lam, Lancaster, Malone, Moran, Morel, Pelt, Pickett, Roadman, Salcido, SantaCasa, Seldin, Smith, Staresinic, Tenney, Walker, Washo, Wells, Yates

*Notified Senate Office