

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
(Hybrid format)
Thursday, November 10, 2022

I. Call to Order

President Robin Kear called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

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

On a motion duly made (Chancellor Gallagher) and seconded (Kanthak) the minutes from the Senate Council meeting on October 13th 2022, were approved as written.

III. Items of New Business

No items of new business were raised.

IV. Report of the Chancellor, Patrick Gallagher

Hello everybody, happy November and even though it is warm today winter is coming!

This is a busy time of year, with midterms just passed, holidays coming and the end of classes. This can be a time of a lot of stress, and I want to remind everyone that there are a lot resources for wellness and mental health across the campus. Please, if you feel the need, don't hesitate to take advantage of them and support those around you who might need them and let us know if you see someone having a hard time.

We survived election day, we had voting stations across campus. This was a consequential midterm election with control of congress, governorship of Pennsylvania and the general assembly in Harrisburg being voted on. I want to acknowledge and appreciate the impressive and wide-ranging efforts across our campus in support of civic engagement. Starting with our students, who lined up to vote, but also everyone who did their civic duty and voted. I want to acknowledge the PittVotes team who worked to ensure voter accessibility for everyone. These "get out the vote" and voter registration efforts have been going on for months and I am sure that the hard-working people involved in these efforts collapsed with exhaustion sometime after 8PM on Tuesday. I want to thank everyone who participated and voted, and I am very proud that, at Pitt, we take our civic responsibilities seriously.

I want to commend Josh Shapiro for following in Sophia's footsteps and running for office.

Congratulations to governor-elect Shapiro and to some of our staff, like Chris DeLuzio and some of our alumni who were involved in the election directly.

Friday, tomorrow, is Veteran's Day where we recognize all members of the Pitt community who have served or who are now serving, students, faculty, staff, alumni. Special events are being held all week on Pitt campuses. I want to extend a special thanks to the Pitts Office of Veteran Services (OVS) for their work every day in support of our veterans and their families here in the Pitt community, OVS is one of the main reasons that Pitt is almost always ranked as one of the most military friendly universities in the country. We are very proud of that.

Also on Tuesday was the grand opening of the new Student Success Hub. The Hub is a new place in Langley Hall for undergraduate students to access mentoring and academic advising and other resources. All students are welcome. The focus is to eliminate gaps among our students, so reaching to our first generation students, our limited income or Pell-eligible students or underrepresented minority students who may be looking for services to perform their very best here at the University. I want to

thank the Provost and her office for leading this initiative with participation from students and from many others across the University.

A few Accolades to share with you:

Athletics:

Pitt women's soccer made history this week. This is the first ever NCAA tournament berth for the Pitt women's soccer program. They are seeded number 4. The players and coach Waldrun have worked really hard. Many players committed to Pitt from high school, and here they are. They will host Buffalo in the first round of the tournament on Saturday. Congratulations and best wishes to our soccer team.

Faculty; a long list today

- Gwen Sowa, from the SOM, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, the highest honor in health care and medicine
- Peggy Liu, College of Business Administration and the Katz Graduate School of Business, was awarded a prestigious Early Career Award for distinguished contributions to consumer research from the Association for Consumer Research.
- Evan Schneider, Physics and Astronomy, who studies galaxy evolution was named a Packard Fellow. She is one of twenty early career scientists and engineers nationwide to receive this honor and it comes with a \$175,000 grant for 5 years
- Chemistry Professor Peter Wipf has received the 2023 award for creative work in synthetic organic chemistry from the American Chemical Society.
- Tim Greenamyre, SOM, was awarded the 2022 Robert A. Pritzker Prize for Leadership in Parkinson's Research by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for his contributions to the understanding of Parkinson's Disease and to the mentoring of the next generation of scientists.
- Two Pitt scientists in the SOM received outstanding achievement prizes in mental health from the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation. Those are Peter Strick, Chair of Neurobiology was awarded the Goldman-Rakic Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Cognitive Neuroscience for his work developing tracers to reveal the complex wiring of the brain. Boris Birmaher received the Ruane Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Research for his groundbreaking research on bipolar spectrum disorders in adolescence.

There is an open forum happening today by the search committee tasked with identifying the next Dean for the Dietrich School, that is led by Joe McCarthy. Members of the community are invited to give their input into the search. Forums will also be held for Dietrich School/CGS faculty, staff, and students, and information will be shared directly with the relevant individuals. We welcome your input.

A few rankings:

US News and world report best global universities rankings put Pitt in the top 10 among US publics and AAU publics.

The QS global rankings for business Masters' programs identified a number of our programs including Master's in Finance which moved to 24, Master's in Marketing moved up to 7 among US publics. The QS MBA rankings put Pitt at #17 among US publics and AAU publics.

The Times Higher Education rankings by subject for 2023 showed that Pitt ranked in all 11 subjects and of note we were top 25 in four areas: Business and economics, education, law and psychology. My congratulations to all associated faculty, staff and students who are in those programs.

We have one item on our agenda for later today the discussion of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA Policy). The Faculty Union has objected to the administration discussing matters that are subjects of mandatory bargaining with members of the bargaining unit via our shared governance structure, that includes Senate Council. In particular, they have objected to the administration engaging with the bargaining unit faculty via these structures regarding the IPA policy under discussion today. This is not our preference but rather than risk an unfair labor practice regarding this policy today no member of the administration will participate in discussion of this policy, and neither will we vote on it.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving break and note that for students the break is full week, and for faculty and staff the break begins on Thursday November 24th.

There were no questions for Chancellor Gallagher.

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

I hope you all are doing well and enjoying the last of this lovely weather. Last Wednesday, I spoke at length on the effect of partial faculty unionization on shared governance. I will not repeat my remarks, but I summed up the difficulties that are now present for shared governance.

To make our Senate position known to all, volunteers from Faculty Assembly, the Expanded Executive Committee, and the Senate Officers are working on a position statement for the next Faculty Assembly meeting for discussion and consideration.

Academic Freedom Resolution

TAFC brought forward a resolution on academic freedom that passed unanimously with 2 abstentions. I have passed this resolution directly to the Provost and I look forward to collaboration on its goals. The resolved statements are:

- the Faculty Assembly recommends the University Administration and Board of Trustees to better articulate academic freedom as a core value of the University;
- the Faculty Assembly recommends that University Administration develop specific policies and procedures on academic freedom as it applies to all University scholars and actions necessary to maintain it; and
- the Faculty Assembly recommends the University administration to continue to protect academic freedom against all threats, whether arising internally or externally.

Policy Updates

Two policies are making their way to Faculty Assembly next month.

- The Management of University Facilities and Grounds Policy has been approved by the CUPS Committee - Campus Utilization, Planning, and Safety.
- The Relocation Policy has been approved by the Benefits & Welfare Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee.

There are 3 draft policies open for comment by members of the University community. These drafts will be making their way through shared governance for recommendation.

- [Drones](#) - Available for comment from 10/31/2022 to 11/28/2022
 - Research Committee
- [University Network](#) - Available for comment from 10/31/2022 to 11/28/2022
 - Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee (SCITC)
- [Vaccinations and Immunizations Requirements](#) - Available for comment from 11/7/2022 to 12/5/2022
 - Faculty Affairs Committee; Benefits and Welfare Committee

A moment for veterans

- I thank all those staff, students, and faculty who have served in the US Military and made many personal sacrifices for our mutual benefit.

Any questions or comments on my report?

No questions.

VI. Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:

A. Student Government Board (SGB), Danielle Floyd

Hello everyone, thank you for having me once again! The last time we met was in the midst of the sexual assault that took place on-campus, since then SGB, Student Leaders, and Student Affairs have engaged in conversations to work towards the goal of preventing future sexual assault:

- SGB is creating a committee dedicated to preventing sexual assault on-campus, right now we've reached out Katie Pope (who got back to us) and are going to work with the Board and Student Leaders to make this effective for all students.
 - Right now, we are trying to coordinate student efforts (outside of SGB) around campus to ensure that students are communicating and that admin can come to us if they want to learn more about what students are looking for

Board:

- The Board and Allocations Chair Hawk finished the Revised Surplus Proposal based on feedback from administration, including Dean Panzella and Vice Provost Bonner
 - We are in the feedback stage and excited to discuss again so we can work for concrete results
 - SGB produced an approximate \$300,000 surplus this past year and Allocations Chair Hawk and I have been trying to devise the best way to allocate these funds towards necessary improvements.
 - If passed, this would allow SGB to update outdated funding caps that need to reflect today's inflation and economy, fund for essential, well-known student program crucial to the Pitt experience, and increase much-needed funding into our emergency fund pool
- VPO Lam is continuing work from the previous Board to establish an Off-Campus Bank Account pilot program
- VPG Dressler is working on benchmarking other nationwide universities to modify our Assembly to best serve the student body.
- The Renters First Task Force will start meeting this week and has set ambitious but attainable goals focusing on improving all aspects of off campus living for students.'
- We also approved the charter for the Refreshing the William Pitt Union Task Force which will seek to refresh the student space on the 6th floor of the WPU.

- We are currently in the process of meeting with the organizations who use that space for their input

Conditional Committees + SOOS:

- Along Engagement and Community Affairs, the CGR committee held two Be a Good Neighbor Resident Resource and Tenant Town Halls, with 64 students in attendance over the two dates
- We worked to register students to vote and provide resources on polling sites for the Midterm Elections
- The CGR committee is setting up resource documents for living off campus and planning additional events for the rest of the academic year
- The Wellness Committee is working with Academic Affairs Chair Bohl and Vice Provost McCarthy on a Canvas Module initiative to increase outreach about academic and wellness resources on campus
- The Academic Affairs Committee is organizing a Majors and Minors Fair for early spring semester, working with Career Center, Dietrich School, and Advising department
- We have received and awarded several Diversity Grants
 - Asian Students Alliance
 - Hindu Student Council
 - Middle Eastern and North African Student Association
 - Chronic Connection

Standing Committees:

- The Elections Committee is hosting informational sessions to encourage students to run for board and president
- They are also working with the Judicial Committee on reviewing and revising our Elections Bylaws and Elections Code to make this Springs election an efficient one
- The Allocations Committee:
 - Allocations has reviewed 108 supplemental requests in 9 meetings for a total of \$245,036.28
 - So far this year we have approved a total of \$195,237.72
 - Our biannual budget hearings will be tonight, which constitutes the largest chunk of allocations spending.
 - 9 student organizations have requested budgets for the Spring semester totalling \$291,641.54 (though it is highly unlikely that these will all be approved in full).

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

Not present, no report

C. Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSSG), Sarah Malone (submitted in writing)

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you so much for having us today, I am Sarah Malone a current second year masters students in the school of education and the executive administrator for the Graduate and Professional Student government.

This past month

- Held Chancellor Townhall and received Graduate and Professional student feedback
- October Assembly Board meeting reviewed topics of:
 - Election of VP of Committees: Pratik Khare winner
 - Sexual harassment and violence on campus
 - SORC and funding issues within organizations and schools
 - Increasing graduate student culture on campus
- Wrapped up our Mental health awareness month events that had a good turnout
- Continuous increase of student utilizing travel grants 11 students funded this month and we have had 24 applicants this month

Upcoming Plans

- Working of Relaunching Graduate & Professional Student Lounge on 5th floor of WPU
- Grad Student Action Network in regard to Roe v Wade
- Funding for students in need: First gen, caregivers, international students, etc.
- Events
 - 11/11 – Happy Hour at Shooters golf from 7pm to 12
 - 11/19 – Pit v Duke Tailgate from 10:30 am to 5 pm
 - 11/30 – Finals Professional Buffet with Headshots, massages, and breakfast from 10 am – 3pm

We are very excited with how the year is going so far and can't wait for Thanksgiving break. Thank you all for your time!

VII. Report of the President of the Postdoctoral Association, Stephanie Mutchler

Not present, no report

VIII. Report of the President of the Staff Council, Lindsay Rodzicz *(submitted in writing)*

Senate President Kear, Chancellor Gallagher and Members -

Staff Council has been working on:

1. **Lactation Resolution** was approved by the Staff Council general membership in October. It seeks to expand and improve upon available resources, support, and encouragement of lactating employees at Pitt. We are advocating for a University wide committee of all stakeholder – faculty, staff, postdocs and students to look at resources and support for breastfeeding/chestfeeding employees.
2. We continue discussions with HR regarding partnering on **Compensation Related Initiatives for Recruitment/Retention** outside of compensation modernization.

3. Staff Council hosted the **Council of Campuses** virtual meeting with the leadership of the regional campus Staff Councils yesterday on Wednesday, Nov 9. We discussed how the Pittsburgh campus can best support the regionals. Many of the regional staff concerns echo what is happening here on the Pittsburgh campus including job creep, compensation (especially for lower end staff), retention (and loss of institutional knowledge), campus safety concerns, and University systems/access/training.
4. Staff Council again wanted to encourage the Pitt community to take part in the [Virtual Campus Safety Crawl](#) and let us know of any safety campus concerns on campus. We thank you in advance for your effort in continuing to make our campus a safe place!
5. We have reconvened our ad-hoc committees for the annual Staff Council awards.
 - Staff Council Mentor Award**
This award acknowledges staff mentors' impact on our Pitt community.
 - Staff Council Endowed Book Fund**
Provides Scholarships to the University of Pittsburgh undergraduate students whose parent/guardian is a staff member to be used towards books or supplies for the semester.
 - Staff Council Frisch Professional Development Award Chair**
In honor of Ronald W. Frisch provides monetary resources to selected University of Pittsburgh staff members to pursue professional enrichment opportunities.
6. Staff Council is now on LinkedIn. Give us a follow - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/pittstaffcouncil/>

Staff Council upcoming events worth highlighting:

1. **Staff Council Spotlight: Tuition Exchange Information Session**
November 15, noon to 1 p.m.

Register: https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6F1S6anip1WFyKi

Tuition Exchange provides an opportunity for University of Pittsburgh employees to have their dependents be considered for competitive scholarships at other institutions. Faculty and staff with current or future college-seeking dependents are encouraged to join Financial Aid and Human Resources to learn what Tuition Exchange has to offer. Learn about the program, eligibility requirements, application process, and more to discover if Tuition Exchange is right for your family.

2. **We're already in the planning stages for Spotlight sessions for Spring 2023 on Title IX and Staff Recruitment Strategies.**

Our next SC Open General Meeting, will be Wednesday, November 16 at 12 noon via Zoom.

All are welcome. [REGISTER HERE](#) -

https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ev7VRyMRrvFYMu

This concludes our report. Thank you.

IX. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate

Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA Policy)

Professor Melanie Scott, Research Co-Chair

This policy has come through the policy committee, has been open for public comment and was approved by the Senate Research Committee and last week by Faculty Assembly.

A little background on the IPA appointment policy. The IPA mobility program is a mechanism where you can provide temporary assignments of personnel between US Federal Government and other state and local agencies with universities and colleges. It permits federal agencies to assign personnel both to and from an agency to promote cooperation and mutual benefit between the federal agency and the non-federal entity. The goal is to facilitate the movement of personnel for a short period of time (2-4 years) to work in various areas that considered beneficial to both parties. Any faculty or staff members are eligible to participate in an IPA, although it does tend to be more senior people as these have the expertise that may be sought by the federal agency, such as NSF or NIH. The VA is excluded from the present policy as they have different rules and regulations associated with VA IPAs, and should be covered in a separate policy in the future.

These IPA positions are considered beneficial to all concerned and this policy streamlines the procedure that the assignee and supervisor can follow in order to determine how best to cover their work while they are on assignment and to ensure that a position is available for them when they return. This is a major part of this legislation – as there must be a similar or higher position available for when they return from assignment. The policy was benchmarked with other similar organizations and the aim is describe the responsibilities of the assignee and supervisor to aid in the planning of these assignments. Teaching, mentoring and grant responsibilities, as well as conflict of interest have all got to be taken into consideration. There are some post IPA restrictions – IPA assignees are usually not allowed to apply for a grant from the same federal institute for a period of one year after the end of the assignment. This was seen as a very positive sign for Pitt in general and faculty to be aware of these beneficial opportunities.

Happy to take any questions:

Taboas: I saw that in the appeals process they can appeal directly to the relevant SVC but that the Dean was skipped. Why was this done?

Scott: I don't know the answer specifically but from my recollection the Dean may be part of the initial approval process.

Kear: no further questions so we will call for a vote

Results: Yes: 23; No: 0; Abstain: 2

X. Unfinished Business and/or New Business:

None

XI. Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 PM.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Penelope (Penny) Morel
Secretary, University Senate

Members attending:

Bonneau, Bonner, Burton, Conley, Cudd, Damiani, DeJong, Denman, Doty, Floyd, Gallagher Gregerson, Kanthak, Kear, Kohanbash, Lam, Mahboobin, Maier, Massanelli, Melnick, Molinaro, Morel, Oyler, Pacella-LaBarbara, Paljug, Rodziewicz, Rutenbar, Sant, Sastry, Shekhar, Songer, Swigonova, Taboas, Tashbook, Wood, Zack

Members not attending:

Archibald, Buchanich, Chagantipati, Cilli, Kamasa, Kleebank, Kovacs, Labash, Lewin, Mutchler, Newman, Paterson, Schuster Shafiq, Tudorascu, Yearwood

***Excused attendance:**

Bench, Jones, Labrinidis, Nguyen, Reed, Washington

Others attending:

Ayars, Brown, Caldwell, Cassidy, Congleton, Cunningham, Dostilio, Fort, Frieze, Harding, Hitter, Houser, Jeffery, Jones, LaBar, Ledger, Malone, McCormick, McLaughlin, Mischler, Panzella, Roadman, SantaCasa, Scott, Staresinic, Stonesifer, Supowitz, Tenney, Wells

*Notified Senate Office