

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
October 18, 2017

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 3:02 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the September 20, 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> Busy times. Couple of things I wanted to talk about:</p> <p>Homicide: We express our sadness regarding the homicide of Alina Sheykhet. We offer the University community’s condolences and encourage anyone in need of support on the campus to make use of the resources available.</p> <p>Budget Update: Spiraling out of control in Harrisburg. The Message to the Community and the media summarizes some points. Haven’t we been through this before? No --- we’ve been involved in delays in budget passage --- however, this is different in that there is a growing sense through our discussions with lawmakers, the non-funding of these Universities would be an acceptable alternative. The issue may be “when” rather than “if.” We may end up in a permanently unfunded situation – conditions will be worse next year, and a political argument for restoration of funding next year would be even harder.</p> <p>State funding for past 51 years has provided a lower in-state tuition to provide access. We reminded people that is now at stake. This could happen by failing to act. We mobilized and asked people to contact lawmakers. In Harrisburg yesterday --- met with leadership with Eva Blum. We heard many different perspectives. Pitt students, faculty, and staff (35,000 contacts) have been made and is making a difference. Last night, the House moved a revenue measure that might help. In the past, this would bode well – but this is a third attempt at resolution. We could see the Senate move and the bill might go forward early next week.</p> <p>The University has cushioned itself in the past to deal with delays. We can do that to some extent. Our current budgeting was based on assurances of state funding. This unfunding situation of \$150M loss would create a different crisis.</p> <p>We need to make the case for unique state value, not replicated in any other sector. There are signs of some positive movement, in part because of community advocacy. Our website has a link to help you get involved. Student, staff, and faculty have been</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

great partners as advocates, and we encourage you to continue these efforts.

Board of Trustees Meeting:

October meeting did a year-in-review. Actions --- major gift of \$30M from Henry Hillman for cancer research, 50% increase, coming at a key time for cancer research.

Formally renamed Pennsylvania Hall, K. Leroy Irvis Hall. Timely since he was such a strong education supporter in state government

Voted to name the Pitt Bradford dorm, Livingston Hall --- after the 3rd President.

United Way Caring Campaign underway. Thank you for community service and please consider giving.

Question/Discussion:

Rohrer: Puzzled by what is at the root of the funding struggle. Is this an easier way to solve the problem with less cost, or has the University not provided value added evidence, or is there something else at play?

Gallagher: My personal view --- Most striking visit to any legislative body --- very different views across caucuses and parties; open frustration at the dysfunction. At the heart of this is a budget battle. We are at the mercy of that. Revenue issues – partisan views. What is compounding this is a growing number of people willing to block any compromise or agreement to move forward. Large enough to distort the process. There is also a group that are willing to accept this as a policy decision related to education. As a gubernatorial race emerges, this grows. Pitt has a strong reputation, they see the value to the Commonwealth. But that is not enough. They don't understand how we can have an endowment (a corpus of money) is seen as a slush fund that we should spend down. There is a view that every potential Pennsylvania student should be able to come to Pitt. These are misinterpretations of what public higher education should be. Our regionals also play a part since representatives are from these areas well. Even if we do get funding this year, we cannot rest --- the same issues may emerge, even more pointed, next year.

Wilson: This is the second time I've picked up a local newspaper questioning the role of regional campuses. The way we've played the game in the past is no longer sustainable. Suggested this ideological shift was coming and it is now here --- and we need to consider alternatives and strategies. It will be easier for Senate committees, such as Government Relations, about how to help to make our case and become more knowledgeable about state politics. This is an all-hands-on-deck situation and a moment when we have to consider institutional survival as a public institution has been called into question in a serious way. This has to be a collective effort to bring evidence to bear. We need to bring discussion to the issue of public higher education. The Senate committees need to focus attention on developing a critical mass for influence and considering what our roles are in assisting. We thank the Chancellor for his frankness.

Gallagher: In the spirit of openness --- on the regional campuses: one is the situation at Titusville. The BOT is considering whether to keep Titusville open. We are looking at

<p>two options --- campus as partnership with other institutions to support education/resource for community, the other is closure. If there is no state funding, we would have to discontinue planning for the first option, and most likely move toward closure. We've been suggesting to lawmakers that these small regionals cannot absorb a shock of tuition increase and remain competitive.</p> <p>We are at our best when we talk about the future --- opportunity for community, business, for example the Amazon discussion. Right now budget discussions are <i>past-focused</i>. Unless we move the discussion to a forward focus, we will likely lose.</p> <p>Refer to Chancellor's 10/18/17 Report (handed out)</p>	
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson</u></p> <p>Since the last time we met, we held the Expanded Executive Committee meeting. Also started the Faculty Affairs committee which emerged from the Non Tenure Stream ad hoc committee. We encouraged all committees to reconsider their mission and charges to consider overlap. Committees are looking to work collaboratively to be more effective in dealing with problems and issues.</p> <p>Core values/Pitt Principles – had our first discussion forum, attended by 35-40 people, for Pitt Principles about who we are and what we stand for, especially in times of crisis. Likely to be more discussions supported by groups including students, staff, and faculty.</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> <p>Report given by Zuri Kent-Smith (SGB Board Member) on behalf of Max Kneis (SGB President)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Good afternoon everyone and thank you so much for having us here today. My name is Zuri Kent-Smith and I will be giving Max's report today – he apologizes that he could not be here, as he is taking his world music midterm as we speak II. Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pitt's State Appropriation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. SGB has been working to drum up student advocacy for the missing appropriation from the Commonwealth. Apart from several social media pushes for advocacy, SGB organized three phone drive events last week. From Wednesday-Friday, we set up a tent and table in front of the WPU, complete with 3 working phones. Students were given a slice of pizza in exchange for making a call to either Representative Turzai or Reed's office. Over 250 calls were made, and we interacted with many students eager to pass information to friends and roommates as well.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. WBC Fundraiser with the Rainbow Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A few weeks ago the Wetsboro Baptist Church advertised a planned gathering near the University. In an effort to combat hate with purposeful action, SGB partnered with the Rainbow Alliance and organized an online fundraiser for Proud Haven, an organization supporting homeless LGBTQ+ youth in Pittsburgh. The crowd rise page was shared on Facebook hundreds of times, and over just three days, \$1,264 were raised for charity, showing how Panthers unite for positive causes in the face of a group attempting to divide our community. c. Pitt Principles at Dialogue with the Dean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On October 26th Student Affairs will be hosting the first Dialogue with the Dean of the year. The event invites students to review and provide input on the University's proposed core values and chat with Dean Bonner about the campus climate. Along with publicizing the Pitt Principles and driving traffic to the online feedback portal, SGB hopes to gather student input on the drafted document. d. Mental Health Awareness Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. October means SGB is once again hosting Mental Health Awareness Month! Board Members Ami Fall and Alex Spenceley have been working tirelessly on battling the stigma associated with mental health. Events began last week, with a bulk of programming taking place throughout this week. Additionally, students and staff are wearing green "Let's Talk" shirts each Tuesday to bring awareness. The month is comprised of passive events like handing out cookies with messages attached as well as larger scaled events. ii. For example --- Next Tuesday Kevin Briggs, known as the Guardian of the Golden Gate Bridge, will be speaking in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. iii. Other events planned include a white board campaign, poetry night, yoga class, painting event, self-care fair, and then we will end the week with a Candlelight Vigil on the William Pitt Union Lawn. iv. It's been a long planning process but we are glad that the events are finally here! e. Drop Period Extension 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Beginning in the Spring 2018 semester, the drop period for undergraduate courses will be extended to a third week. This process was initiated by the Academic Affairs Committee last year, and both the Registrar’s Office and Office of the Provost supported the change. This will give students an extra week to decide to drop a course with no evidence on their transcript. It does not alter the two week window courses can be added and applies only to Fall/Spring undergrad courses. f. Finally, a few upcoming events I wanted to touch on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Financial Literacy Conference – Afternoon of Friday 10/20 at the University Club ii. ACC Advocacy Days – 10/22-10/24 in Washington DC iii. I <3 Pitt Day – Wed. 10/25 from 11:30-1 in front of the WPU III. Those are our updates for today, and thank you again for having us! This concludes my report. 	
	<p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Jackie Gross, President</i></p> <p>Greetings Senate Council and Colleagues, I apologize that I was unable to make today’s senate meeting. As a result, I have left this report to be read in my absence.</p> <p>The College of General Studies Student Government has successfully executed our two largest events of the Fall Semester: our Welcome Back Barbecue, and our Homecoming Reception. Both events had greater than average participation. Part of the reason these events have had been a success is thanks to our marketing director Katie Linkhauer, who has worked tirelessly to promote our events/initiatives, while also juggling a full time job and classes.</p> <p>We had our first Public General Body Meeting of the Semester on 03OCT17. We broadcasted our meeting via Skype, and advertised a link for our constituents to join our meeting remotely. The effort to integrate Skype for Business into our meeting was a success, and through it we were able to reach out to some constituents who otherwise would of struggled to attend. Also, through this meeting we managed to recruit a new member, to support our team.</p> <p>Our next big initiative is to begin advertising scholarship opportunities provided by CGSSG to our student population. In our last public meeting, we agreed to increase the number of maximum awarded CGSSG sponsored scholarships. We believe this effort will help support our student body’s academic opportunities, and financial accessibility towards those opportunities.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>Thank You, and Hail to Pitt Jackie Gross College of General Studies Student Government Board, President</p>	
	<p><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Christopher E. Staten, President</i></p> <p>Glad to be here and am mentally health after my midterms!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SAGE Coalition 10/26-10/28: 20+ graduate students from AAU Member Institutions nationwide to convene and share best practices in leadership, lobbying, and higher education policy. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Faculty & Staff of the Council invited to the welcome dinner <u>Wyndham Hotel – 100 Lytton Ave</u> <u>Thursday, October 26, 2017, 7:00-9:00 p.m.</u> 2) Board of Trustees Meeting: 9/26/17 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. GPSG’s commitment Professional Development & Diversity Inclusion initiatives from 2017-2018 Long Range Plan 3) GPSG Professional Development Committee launch on 10/10 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mission to spread professional development resources to all 10,000 students as some graduate schools and programs within the University have limited resources for the professional development of their students. Want this committee to grow and include others. Extend resources to the professional and graduate students. Our students have many different needs depending on age and profession. 4) Collaboration with College of Arts & Sciences Diversity & Inclusion committee. Piloting group for a more robust group, overall 5) \$25,000 in travel grants to present their academic work and \$8,500 in supplemental funding for GSOs and GSAs. 6) Free legal services are being used 7) Partnerships Pitt Arts and Pitt Program Council <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. First Free Pitt Arts program on 10/29 for the Dracula Ballet show b. Upcoming pumpkin carving c. Agreement with Pitt Program Council so that graduate students can attend programs organized by the PPC. 8) TEDx committee interviews are in process 9) Planning for our Fall Fling 	<p>No discussion</p>

	<p>10) Have had multiple inquiries are interested in Pitt recreation for family members. Continuing discussions.</p>	
	<p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u></p> <p><i>Amber Griffith, President</i></p> <p>Our GSO meeting was held last Tuesday, October 10th. We announced the date for our annual Graduate Expo, which will be held on Friday, March 23rd 2018. Annual session for grad students for posters and presentations. Also offer a professional development session. I also opened the discussion to talk about the core values that were presented at the last Senate Council meeting. I am looking forward to providing feedback from the graduate students of the Arts and Sciences at next month’s meeting.</p> <p>Working with Dean Hoock and Vice Provost Urban, I wanted to help bridge the communication gap between the administrators of the University and the graduate students. I offered hosting a town hall once or twice a semester where any graduate student within the Arts and Sciences can attend the meeting and ask participating administrators questions. This offer was well received and I am hoping to have the inaugural town hall some time in December.</p> <p>The Committee for Diversity and Inclusion will be planning their first event for November 15th, 3p-6p, where we will have a meet and greet of the committee and get topic suggestions for focus groups we plan to facilitate. Also this is an opportunity to interact with administrators. We are also hoping to send out the survey report to the graduate students and have a facilitated discussion on their responses to the survey.</p> <p>The Anthropology department hosted a diversity and inclusion event where there were panel discussions and break out sessions. It was reported that this event was well attended.</p> <p>The Film Studies department had a grad conference in the beginning of October. The keynote speaker was Jennifer Doyle and 15 students from out of town came to speak at the event as well. This event was also reported to be well attended.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
	<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SaC)</u></p> <p><i>Andy Stephany, President</i> <i>Alex Toner, Vice-President of Public Relations</i></p> <p>Staff Council website: www.staffcouncil.pitt.edu</p> <p>Good afternoon President Wilson, Chancellor Gallagher, and members of the Senate Council.</p>	<p>No discussion</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clayton Steup from the School of Medicine has been appointed to fill our vacant Executive Vice President. All of Staff Council’s executive committee positions are now filled. • On Tuesday, October 3 Alex Toner and Ric Fera of Staff Council, along with James Williams of the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, met with Councilman Dan Gilman and representatives from the City’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure and the Department of Public Works to discuss safety improvements at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and North Bellefield Avenues. <p>The City acknowledged our efforts and the need for improvements and presented us with a plan involving street painting and candlestick stanchions, hopefully installed this fall, which would reduce the number of traffic lanes pedestrians cross at said intersection. This is seen as the first step in series of implementations intended to improve the intersection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University staff and Staff Council members alike participated in several Master Plan focus groups held during September. Staff Council intends to compile input from its membership to provide staff perspective in the form of a supporting document. • Nominations are now being accepted for the inaugural Staff Mentor of the Year Award, created to celebrate the peer-to-peer mentoring that is happening all over Pitt’s campus. Nominations can be submitted at staffcouncil.pitt.edu and will be accepted until November 5. The inaugural winner will receive tuition for the COLE Leadership program through Human Resources. Dr. Murrell graciously donated the resources to make this possible. • Staff Council continues to support and promote the #WithPitt campaign by urging our members and all staff to press Pennsylvania lawmakers to end the budget impasse. We can all make a difference by going to with.pitt.edu. <p>[This concludes our report]</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u> N/A</p>	<p>No discussion</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p>	<p>No business</p>
<p><u>Announcements</u></p>	
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p>	<p>Adjournment at 3:54p</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Tananis, Ed.D.
University Senate Secretary



Associate Professor
Administrative and Policy Studies, Education Leadership
HAIL TO PITT! *Director*
Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity

Members attending:

Balaban, Becker, Beeson, Betru, Bonner, Brodt, Czerwinski, De Vallejo, Fall, Forty, Gallagher, Goldberg, Griffith, Haley, Henker, Horne, Kear, Kent-Smith, Kory, Levine, Loughlin, Manem, Molinaro, Mulvaney, Munro, Perry, Phillippi, Rigotti, Rohrer, Rutenbar, Scott, Smith, Spring, Staten, Tananis, Toner, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Bilodeau, Bonneau, Bratman, Clark, Deitrick, Dewar, Gaddy, Jones, Kanthak, Morel, Muenzer, Mulcahy, Nelson, Swanson, Thorpe, Van Nostrand

*Excused attendance:

Bromberg, Gross, Harries, Humphrey, Kiselyov, Kneis, Lyon, Stephany, Sukits, Washington, Weikle-Mills

Others attending:

Ayars, Casey, Connelly, Costanza, DiPalma, Dostilio, Ducar, Farwell, Fike, Labrinidis, Roosa, Supowitz, Walker

*Notified Senate Office