

Meeting Minutes – University Senate

Student Admissions, Aid and Affairs Committee

Date: November 19, 2015
Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM
Location: 272 Hillman Library
Facilitator: Robin Kear
Note Taker: Chyongchiou (Cho Cho) Jeng Lin

Attendees:

Elected member: Ray Jones, Robin Kear, Julius Kitutu, Steve Levine, Cho Cho Lin, Juan Taboas, Anna Mary Williford (online)

Student representative: David Gau, Julia Helgert, Nasreen Harun

Staff Association Council: Hillary Koller

Chancellor's liaisons: Mark Harding, Kenyon Bonner, Penny Semaia, Stephanie Hoogendoorn (for Alberta Sbragia)

Senate appointment: Mike Spring

Guests: Joe Kozak (GPSG President), Kim Barlow (Univ Times)

Agenda Items

1. Approve October meeting minutes
2. Report of preliminary results of survey of graduate students conducted by Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) with assistance from the Office of the Provost. The survey will close on 11/25. There were 600 early responses.
 - a. A reason for the survey was to put numbers behind anecdotal stories of disconnection with the university.
 - b. Recommendations:
 - i. Better communication
 - ii. Some awareness of services; this could be increased
 - iii. Venue or path for reporting or evaluating faculty mentors
 - c. See Kim Barlow's University Times article 'Group gathers info on grad students' from 11/25/15
<http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=37544>

Other Notes

Discussion: What kind of graduate experience do we want to give? What do we need to address now? Who do we want to be?

We've tried to do the best for all students who come to Pitt. We are still looking for how to do a better job. It was agreed to gather more data.

Action Items

- Stephanie Hoogendoorn will gather and report on interviews with the deans
- Kenyon Bonner will report on graduate student use of services and programs within student affairs
- Final survey results from GPSG from Joe Kozak and David Gau

Next Meeting: Thursday, 1/21/2016, 4-5 pm, 272 Hillman Library