

**Senate Council Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom**

Thursday, April 22, 2021

1. Call to Order

President Chris Bonneau called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

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

The distributed minutes from the March 25, 2021 were approved as written.

3. Items of New Business

No items of new business were raised.

4. Report of the Chancellor, Patrick Gallagher

Chancellor Gallagher started with a welcome of new student leaders, Harshitha Ramanan and Morgan Pierce. He welcomed the newly elected Senate officers, Robin Kear and Gosia Fort. Then, he asked John Williams, Kenyon Bonner and Melissa McGivney for updates.

Dr. Williams said that things are good. He shared the statistics on daily cases. At the state level, we are past the peak, but hospitalizations are still up, but deaths and need for ventilators are down. On campus, cases are coming down. We open testing widely, but not many students show up for testing. Cases among staff and faculty are low. We learned a lot about COVID control this year.

Dean Bonner said that we had been sending a lot of messaging about safety throughout the year, but we must not lose the human side of being at Pitt. It is time of finals and moving out. Level of stress are high so our messaging focuses on encouraging students to take care of themselves. We should be helping student to get through the rest of the academic year. He congratulated the graduating seniors and welcomed the new student leaders.

Chancellor said that the message about the self-care during times of stress applied not only to students but also to our staff and faculty. The resources we have are available to us in time of stress

Prof. McGivney talked about vaccination efforts (26 clinics held in community, 15,000 doses distributed, 5,000 people fully vaccinated). We are opening clinic in the Nordenberg Hall next week. The main student concern is, "Where do I get my 2nd dose?" and "How will I feel?" We encourage taking the first dose here, before leaving campus. Vaccines are available now more widely, so there should be no problem getting second dose elsewhere. She reminded everyone that post vaccine symptoms are normal and short-lived. Benefits offered by vaccines are worth it.

Gallagher commented on a broader policy discussion. Many of you were monitoring announcements at other schools about requiring vaccines. We have those discussions at Pitt too, but it is not a very straightforward decision. There is a lot to consider (health benefits, legal and political issues). We will address these issues in the summer and communicate them. Now, we are encouraging everyone to be vaccinated.

Ramanan: [in relation to the clinic at Nordenberg Hall] Are there any issues with overcrowding? Is it only for residents?

McGivney: We can accommodate 12 people every half an hour. It is open to all Pitt community.

Scott [from chat]: Do you think the higher rates of hospitalization in younger people are because of the vaccine in older people or is this a function of more pathogenic variants?

Williams [from chat]: I think (and the data suggest) that it is both because older people are vaccinated and protected, and that younger people are the worst at mitigation. No good evidence so far that the variants are significantly more severe.

Gallagher said that we are on the verge of commencement and we will try to make it as normal as possible. He asked Kathy Humphry to give an update.

Humphrey said there are 12 separate commencements. We will start them from April 29 until May 24, when SOM has its commencement. We have over 4300 students registered for in-person commencement. Most of them are scheduled at Pete, but three celebrations in PNC Park are scheduled "rain or shine." Only a severe thunderstorm could move us online with 3-hour notice. We will be giving away three honorary doctorates to Judith Heumann, Susan Hassmiller and Rebecca Skloot. To honor all graduates, we will have billboards and signs with name of all graduates around the campus.

Next, Gallagher continued with other updates:

- Next year Homecoming planned as in person celebration to welcome the class 2022,
- We are not filling Humphrey's position, but reverting to what we used to have before. A deputy secretary will take over her BOT secretary duties,
- We are going to present the Framework Plan for Pitt to the BOT in June,
- The State appropriation process is going on
- Nicola Foote is our new Dean for Honor College
- Today is Earth Day and in that spirit two announcements:

Pitt student project got 2 place in the EPA's 9th Annual Campus RainWorks Challenge for their master plan design, using multiple green infrastructures, to eliminate sewer overflows

Pitt sustainability efforts recognized with a golden star rating by Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (AASHE STARS)

-Two Pitt students received Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Professor Kirk Savage elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Chancellor Gallagher ended his report with thanks to all, but especially to students for their perseverance during this year. He wished them good luck on your finals and congratulated our graduates.

5. Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau

Asked by President Bonneau, Frank Wilson provided updates on Senate election. He said we had a great participation with 1400 faculty voting. Robin Kear was elected the next Senate President. She is the first librarian in that position. Gosia Fort will serve as secretary. None of the candidates for the vice president received the decisive number of votes, therefore the runoff election between Kristin Kanthak and Melanie Scott was needed and it is being held now, April 21 – May 6, 2021. It will be followed by Senate Committees elections starting tomorrow until May 5, 2021. It should be noted that no matter what runoff election brings, it is only a second time when women will hold the three top positions. We should feel good about this election for many reasons, especially high participation. This concludes my report.

Next, President Bonneau continued with his report. He said that Faculty Assembly discussed several things. We passed the Temporary Signage Policy, which is presented before this body today. We voted on the resolution from BPC that the budget restart process has been progressing quickly and without attention to shared governance. PBC met with some members of Administration and Huron Consulting this week, and today we just had a meeting with Budget Restart Committee, so things are ongoing. Finally, we discussed possibility if Pitt should require a proof of COVID vaccination before the fall. We hope to have John Williams and Geovette Washington at the next meeting to talk about health benefits and possible legal implication of such a requirement.

He closed his report with presenting his song on vaccines (no singing involved!), which he promised to write when the vaccines become widely available:

Vaccine (sung to the tune of Jolene)

<p>Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vacc-ciine I really need a vaccine, come on man Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vacc-ciine Give me that shot just as soon as you can</p> <p>I've been locked down for so long It's been over a year and that's just wrong But it's not over until we take... vaccine</p> <p>I have out on 20 pounds All I do is lay around But that will change once I get...vaccine</p>	<p>Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vacc-ciine I really need a vaccine, come on man Vaccine, vaccine, vaccine, vacc-ciine Give me that shot just as soon as you can</p> <p>Every day I watch Fauci As he makes me less grouchy But he knows we all need...vaccine</p> <p>If the issue was ED It's quite obvious to me Dudes all would take...vaccine</p>
--	---

6. Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:

a. Student Government Board (SGB), Harshitha Ramanan

Ramanan gave a very brief report. SGB has just had a change of leaders and inauguration. They are still in transition. Task on LGBTQIA+ is very active. They have just released *2021 Report on the Status of LGBTQIA+ Resources at the University of Pittsburgh* and *Commit to Implementing the LGBTQIA+ Task Force Proposal*. Clutter for a Cause donation week will be held during the move-out week April 22-April 30.

b. College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG), Daemon Rhein (submitted in written)

It is my pleasure to provide an update on the state of affairs of the University of Pittsburgh's College of General Studies Student Government, the governing body that represents and advocates for CGS undergraduate students whether online or on-campus. The following report will highlight the updates on events, projects, and other activities of the College of General Studies Student Government.

1. April CGSSG 2021-2022 Election Earlier this month, the College of General Studies' Student Government completed its election for executive positions for next year's term. A completely new board has been appointed: Ryan Yeager as President, Madison Mascari as Vice President, Carly Swartz as Judicial Affairs Chair, Righteous Caldwell as Business Manager, Madeleine Detwiler as Engagement Chair, Jessica Rolke as Advertisement Chair, Sefakor Agbemadzo as Event Planner, and Johanna Arevalo as Relations & Wellness Chair. The CGSSG Election of 2021-2022 was extremely successful in finding candidates, organizing interviews and board member meetings, and selecting the best candidates for their respective positions. The one-year term for the new executive members begins at the first day of May and the current executive members will leave CGSSG the last day of April.

2. Finals Week De-Stressing Event the College of General Studies' Student Government will be holding a virtual event on April 28 at 9pm via Zoom and will be playing a film for students to watch after their finals. Since finals week is one of the most stressful times within the college experience, CGSSG has decided to organize a series of films for students to decide on before the event and to play whichever film wins the majority decision, then they can relax and de-stress after the final day of the semester. The date, time, Zoom link, and list of films for CGSSG's April De-Stressing Event can be found on our Instagram page (@cgs_sgb).

The College of General Studies Student Government's goal is to serve the needs of CGS undergraduate students and to promote the best interests of the student body. As the needs of our students change during this pandemic, CGSSG will continue to change in order to fulfill the needs of our students. Whether online or on campus, CGSSG is here to serve!

Thank you and Hail to Pitt!

c. Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSSG), Amanda Leifson (submitted in written)

We do not have much to report, but we want to highlight few end-of-the-year events and introduce Morgan Pierce. Next week is the Graduate Student Appreciation Week, which we celebrate with many

virtual events. We have good turnouts at our events thanks to improved communications and biweekly emails from GPSG. We open our call for GPSG service award. This self-nominated award recognizes student leaders. We had a record number of nominations and were able to select five winners for the 2021 GPSG Leadership & Service Award - Michael Granovetter, Ana Flores, Chelsea Jimenez, Daniel Pan, and Bobby Lei.

On behalf of the outgoing executive board, I thank all faculty, staff and administrators who worked with us to support graduate student during this year. She turned to Morgan Pierce. The new GPSG President introduced herself.

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

No report.

8. Report of the President of the Staff Council, Andy Stephany

Stephany opened his report with congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Senate. He thanked Dave DeJong and Mark Burdsall for their work to respond to staff concerns and support for flexibility and remote work during pandemics. I hope this will continue when we enter the new normal phase of operations. I am happy about the progress with the new compensation modernization project HR is working on. He referred to the UT article about job creep, when we try to do more with fewer resources, due to the SERP, which resonated with our staff. SC received a lot of feedback following this article. We want to be sensitive to the issues and make sure that staff is being recognized for doing more or more complex work that may call for job reclassification and appropriate compensation. We plan to collect more data about the scenarios that have not been addressed so far. We will host SC presidential candidates at our May general meeting. All five officer's positions are for re-election. We will introduce our new leaders in the fall. This concludes my report.

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

Temporary Signage Policy Professor Dave Beck, PUP Co-Chair

Bonneau introduced the next item that comes for recommendation of approval. Faculty Assembly endorsed it last week. The text was sent with the agenda.

Since there were no questions or comments, the voting poll was launched.

Vote: YES - 26; NO - 2 ; ABSTAIN -6 Passed

10. Unfinished Business and/or New Business

None

11. Announcements

The last meeting of the academic year will be next month.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 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:

Almarza, Aziz, Bonneau, Bonner, Bratman, Brodt, Cousins, Cudd, de Vallejo, Doty, Fort, Gallagher, Goundappa, Gregerson, Henker, K. Humphrey, Kanthak, Kieselyov, Kiesling, Kleebank, Klem, Kohanbash, Loughlin, Molinaro, Mostern, Murtazashvili, Poljak, Potoski, Ramanan, Rauktis, Rhein, Roberts, Salcido, Sastry, Scott, Shekhar, Stephany, Swigonova, Washington, Wilson, Wood

Members not attending:

Abubaker, Bunger, Cilli, Hall, Jeong, Jones, Khan, Kory, Kucan, Mulcahy, Munro, Nelson, Popovich, Rutenbar, Spiess, Sukits,

*Excused attendance:

Gau, Hirsch, Judd, Mulvaney, Vento

Others attending:

Ayars, Bernotos, DeJong, Denman, Dostilio, Fike, Floyd, Graham, Harding, Harrell, Hitter, Jeffrey, Johnson, Jones, Kear, Lalo, Lancaster, Leifson, McGivney, McGrane, Moran, O'Donnell, Pelt, Pickett, Pierce, Roadman, Seldin, Spring, Staresinic, Supowitz, Tananis, Toner, Turner, Tuttle, Walker, Washo, Williams, Zwick

*Notified Senate Office