

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
February 12, 2020

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the, 2019 Senate Council Meeting</u> Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>No items</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p><i>Chancellor Gallagher</i> opened with an explanation that the media presence is due to Paul Duprex’s presentation on the work on coronavirus that is happening here in Pittsburgh. He remarked that Pitt monitors developments with virus, and that the infection has a new name COVID 19. Our guidelines mirror the CDC recommendations. The insidious effect of uncertainty and fear is that it is aimed at people who are the victims of the infection, so it is important to remember that this disease could originate anywhere if the virus was present. For our community we make sure that it is informed. He invited Paul Duprex from the Center for Vaccine Research to give the update.</p> <p><i>Duprex</i> talked about the scale of the current epidemics, the importance of creating a successful vaccine and the steps his team is taking to acquire the novel coronavirus to study. Pitt has expertise and facilities to handle the dangerous pathogen.</p> <p>After Paul Duprex left, <i>Gallagher</i> continued his report focusing on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campus safety: OSHA reportable rate (number of incident per 100) declined at Pitt (by half in the last 5 years), but the tragic accident of Barbara Como (still under investigation) was an unnecessary reminder of our personal responsibilities. We are working with PAT, looking at traffic enforcement and education programs, but no measures of safety features implemented on campus will prevent accidents, if people are not aware of their surroundings. I commend SGB and University Time for their initiative to collect ideas how to improve safety on campus - No Honors Convocation this February (it is a transition year, in which recognition will be folded into the commencement week) - Start of the new state budget season (the State announced at the moment a flat rate for Pitt and state related universities) - There will be Pitt Day at Harrisburg in March - New record set for the Fulbright scholarships received by Pitt students (16) - Carnegie Foundation Classification for Community Engagement grant - Pitt Day of Giving on February 25 	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

<p>- With the 617th victory last week, Pat Pecora, the wrestling coach at Pitt-Johnstown became the all-time winningest coach in college wrestling history</p> <p><i>Becker</i> expressed his concern about traffic in Oakland and suggested to organize a workshop with all the constituencies involved to really impress the urgency of this problem on them.</p> <p><i>Gallagher</i> shared the sense of urgency and he agreed to work out with Chris Bonneau how to pull a group - through existing or ad hoc committee - to evaluate what is being done and how we can ramp up the urgency and take our actions to the next level.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u></p> <p>Faculty Assembly met last week and discussed a number of topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, and relevant to the upcoming Student Government Board elections, we are excited to announce that we have partnered with the Iowa Democratic Party to use their app for conducting and reporting our election results this year. They said they are happy to help you folks out as well. • Senior Vice Chancellor for Research Rob Rutenbar along with Bill Yates to discussed and previewed the new Conflict of Information portal. This is an issue that has become vitally important to all involved in research. Last month, the Chair of Harvard’s Chemistry department was arrested on federal charges for failing to disclose his ties with China’s Thousand Talents program. Others have been arrested at the University of Houston, the University of Texas, Boston University, UCLA, and the University of Kansas, to name a few. I think the new system will help ensure that our policies are compliant with federal requirements without being overly intrusive and burdensome. • We also heard from Nathan Urban, Vivian Curran, and Melissa Schild about the Plan for Pitt 2025. Faculty involvement has not been what we had hoped, so additional workshops have been scheduled to occur at some committee meetings. • I recently met with the Athletics Compliance Office to discuss the formulation of a new policy addressing sports wagering from university students and employees. I have made my affection for sports gambling known, but there are serious concerns when members of the university community participate in gambling involving Pitt teams. There is great potential for our student-athletes to be treated unfairly in the academic content depending on their athletic performance and this should concern all of us. I am hopeful that Chancellor Gallagher, working with Athletic Director Lyke, will charter a committee through the policy office to examine this issue. We would not be the first school to do this; currently, Purdue, Villanova, Butler, and St. Joseph’s have similar policies. However, this 	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

<p>is a chance for us to take the lead on an issue of growing concern across the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plenary is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th, from 12-3 in the William Pitt Union. The topic is Mental Health at the University and our keynote speaker is Kay Redfield Jamison from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Next month, we will have more details on the panel that will follow the keynote speaker. I would like to thank David Salcido and Linda Tashbook for all of their work in putting together what promises to be an excellent plenary. • Faculty Assembly discussed the revised Electronic Information and Technology Policy and recommended its adoption to the senior leadership. This body will decide whether to recommend its adoption today. My reading of the new Accessibility Policy is that it shifts the burden away from faculty and onto Dean's and the Provost. Moreover, the language surrounding compliance and enforcement is far less draconian. My inclination is that this policy is now palatable and we have done well to make it less burdensome for faculty. No policy is going to be perfect, but this is an improvement over the past version and it still gets us in compliance with federal law. • Finally, as I was consuming a heart-shaped donut at breakfast this morning, an unnamed member of the administration who happens to be seated to my immediate right asked, with a somewhat stricken look on his face, if today was Valentine's Day. So you all know...it is not. That is on Friday. You still have time to ensure that this Valentine's Day with your sweetie isn't your last. <p><i>Gallagher</i> added a comment on the COI form reminding everyone that we are a global university. Nobody is getting in trouble for collaborating around the world are encourage. What is tripping people is not that they have ties with foreign collaborator but that they are failing to disclose. Disclosure is the best way to protect the collaborations.</p>	
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Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:

<p><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u> <i>Zechariah Brown, President</i></p> <p>SGB worked on 2 project regarding menstrual products access (purchased and distributed menstruation products around the campus and together with GSPH installed the free product dispensers around the campus), the educating component is still in works.</p> <p>SGB invited congressman Mike Doyle and Jerry Dickinson to campus for a town hall meeting on April 9.</p> <p>Currently working on a resolution to increase composting efforts on campus.</p> <p>First year council is working on their first two initiatives: signing in procedures in the</p>	<p>Report and no discussion</p>
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<p>residence halls and laundry payments with other currencies than Panther Funds. The election for SGB is approaching and the presidential debate is scheduled for February 17 in Nordy Place. All our debates are streamed and can be attended remotely.</p> <p>On February 23 we will held an event on census (also streamed), Safety Fair on March 5. Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee held recently a workshop on collaborations. I am working with dean Bonner's office on naming convention and amendments to the student code of conduct</p> <p><i>Bonneau</i>: What is the Student Code of Conduct revision about?</p> <p><i>Brown</i>: Clarifying definition of harassment and specifying what it means for the protected classes of students.</p>	
<p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Selena Eisenberg, President</i> No report</p>	No report
<p><u>Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Rachel Coombs, President</i> Stephanie Rose gave GPSG report with the following updates: Grad Lounge opened last month; Executive Board Election ongoing (deadline February 17); EA application due Feb. 21; Leadership and Service Awards applications due Feb. 28; Mega Grad Collab to strengthen ties within graduate community in Pittsburgh is still in works with Chatham, Duquesne and Point Park Universities; Student Advocates for Graduate Education Day of a Hill – in March; and National Graduate Student Appreciation Week in April.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u> <i>Anthony Verardi, President</i></p> <p>Not a lot to touch on today! This last month has gone by in a flash, and we're thrilled in A&S to have been jointly awarded one of the Chancellor's Seed Grants during the special cycle on prevention of sexual misconduct in conjunction with the Swanson School of Engineering and SCI. The only other thing I have to report is that two nights ago at our monthly GSO meeting, we had a lively discussion about "hyperannuation" and the difficulties that some graduate students in A&S face with finishing their degree within their funding windows, how outside funding may or may not be an option for certain cases, and how people understand the role fellowships play in affecting their guaranteed funding window. One key takeaway underscores a point that has informed my experience as a student representative, namely that there is room for improvement in communication and transparency with regard to departmental policy and any changes thereto. This concludes my report</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>Schools of the Health Sciences</u> <i>Jacob Khan</i></p>	No Report

<p><u>UPPDA</u> <i>David Gau, President</i> No report</p>	No Report
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u> <i>Andy Stephany, President</i> Panel on flexible work arrangements on February 20 will have the Q&A segment, questions could be submitted ahead of the time, and online registration is open. Pitt Day of Giving is on February 25. We encourage you to give to Staff Council cause. The money will be used to grow the Staff Development Award established in 2016. Pitt Day in Harrisburg is on March 17 and we ask supervisors to grant staff a release time to attend.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p> <p>Bonneau introduced the next agenda item “Electronic Information and Technology Accessibility Policy” which was approved by the Faculty Assembly and now comes before this body for approval. Hitter made a few introductory comments to open the floor for discussion including restatement that this policy shows university commitment to equitable access to information and adapts international standards in order to be compliant with federal regulations. Since there was no further discussion, Bonneau called for the vote: For - 20 Against – 0 Abstain – 1 And so the policy is recommended for adoption.</p>	No Business
<p><u>Announcements</u> No announcements</p>	Announcements
<p><u>Adjournment</u> Meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm</p>	Adjournment at 3:48 pm

University Senate website: <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council>

Respectfully Submitted,
Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort

Members attending:

Becker, Bonneau, Bonner, Brown, Conley, Cudd, Dahm, Doty, Fort, Gallagher, Gregerson, Guterman, Humphrey, Kleebank, Kory, Kovacs, Kucan, Labrinidis, Molinaro, Poljak, Salcido, Stephany, Unger, Verardi, Wilson

Members not attending:

Agarwal, Aziz, Bachman, Buchanich, Coombs, Denman, Eisenberg, Gau, Goundappa, Infanti, Kanthak, Kaufman, Kaynar, Khan, Kohanbash, Landsittel, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Mostern, Mulcahy, Munro, Nelson, Peterson, Sant, Sukits, Swigonova, Weinberg, Wood, Yates

*Excused attendance:

Bratman, Cousins, Levine, Loughlin, Mulvaney, Rutenbar, Sastry, Stoner, Washington

Others attending:

Baughman, Bedford-Jack, Duprex, Hayt, Hitter, LaBar, Li, Pope, Ringler, Rose, Staresinic, Scott, Solie, Tenney, Turner, Yarger

*Notified Senate Office