

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
Via Zoom
May 14, 2020

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Call to Order</u> President Chris Bonneau called the meeting to order.</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> <i>Chancellor Gallagher</i> opened his report with a warm welcome to the incoming student leaders. He mentioned the most recent student and faculty achievements. He talked about high ranking of Pitt programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology from SH&RS as recognized by the U.S. News and World Report. He announced a gift donation of Pitt athletic coaches towards support of vaccine research (\$500,000) and talked about most recent personnel changes: with Greg Scott leaving, Dave DeJong assumed the responsibility of VC for Business Operations (in addition to overseeing HR). Finally, he recognized Art Levine for whom this Senate Council meeting is the last one in his role of the VC for the Health Sciences and the Dean of SOM. He thanked him for his many contributions to Pitt and leadership. Then, Gallagher shared some news from the ongoing process to plan for the reopening of University. The state is moving from red to yellow for Allegheny County, so we do have permission to reopen. The question is whether we are ready. Since a University is considered a collection of businesses, they can be reopen in stages. While we are planning, we are also doing continuity of operations planning at the same time, so we would benefit from a little bit more time, we do not want to rush. We need to have infection control program in place. Pitt will be opened, but we will be doing things in a new way. Two other updates: 1. He shared his concern for the budget, which would be a very atypical. There is a high revenue risk (we worry about enrollment, financial stress of families). The two most stressful bits of the revenue are the state appropriation and all activities for which we get fees and services on auxiliary budget.</p>	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

<p>The state is in a serious financial strife and Pitt’s appropriation comes from the supplementary not the main appropriation budget. This puts us in a greater risk.</p> <p>It is still too early to get into any specifics; we did not make any final decisions yet, still working on our budget.</p> <p>2. Title IX – the recently published federal requirements pose a significant changes to how Universities will be expected to manage their programs and the implementation deadline is very close (August 14, 2020). We will seek the delay of this date, which seems very unrealistic, but this does not change our main mission.</p> <p>Q: What are the retention rates for incoming and returning students (freshmen who return as sophomores)?</p> <p><i>Cudd & Harding:</i> Enrollment retention of returning student is good (93.9%). For the freshmen, deposits are still coming, but so are the cancellations. Initial numbers are good, but they would fluctuation over the summer. We will use all tools on our disposal to keep them. Our challenge is international students.</p> <p>Q: Do we have any decision dates for the fall? Any changes?</p> <p><i>Gallagher:</i> It is like weather forecasting. We will have some general information at the beginning of summer, and it will get more specific as we approach the end of summer.</p> <p>Q: Are there any updates on the CARES ACT money?</p> <p><i>Gallagher:</i> This money was less about covering the losses but about offering support to students and families. The first installment of ten million has been distributed to students. The second part has not been received yet.</p> <p>Q: Is there anything more specific about the research re-start timeline?</p> <p><i>Gallagher:</i> The research is restarting right now, but we need to reconfigure labs to allow social distancing, some services need to be brought back (like security), and the training needs to happen since the use of PPE is now required. Therefore, implementation timeline might be different for different labs.</p> <p><i>Rutenbar</i> expanded on the Chancellor summary and talked about tasks force planning the restart. He also said the Research is coordinating the availability of PPE for the whole university.</p> <p>Q: Anything on opening of libraries?</p> <p><i>Cudd:</i> Not yet, but planning is going on right now, the opening will happen in stages.</p> <p>Q: Will daycare be available? Is UCDC going to open?</p> <p><i>DeJong:</i> They are not going to open immediately, but when they do open, it will be in a very limited capacity.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau</u></p> <p>FA met last week. It was a typical meeting. We talked about many the same things that were discussed today: budget and uncertainty of</p>	<p>Report and Discussion</p>

<p>environment, taskforces on the re-opening University. Title IX will be the subject of our next meeting. What the faculty is doing now when spring semester is over is serving on different committees and taskforces. Our focus is on shared governance throughout the whole pandemic. We want to make sure that it is not eroded in the crisis. While making quick decisions is necessary, I am pleased to see that shared governance at Pitt was not compromised in the process.</p>	
<p><u>Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:</u></p>	
<p><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u> <i>Eric Macadangdang, President</i> Good afternoon everyone,</p> <p>I hope everyone is doing well. Zechariah Brown introduced me to the group at last month’s Senate Council meeting, but again for those who may have not tuned in, my name is Eric Macadangdang. I am a rising senior studying Urban Studies and History and Philosophy of Science, and I will be serving as the Student Government Board president for the upcoming year. I will be joined at these meetings alongside our executive vice president Cedric Humphrey, a rising senior studying Political Science & Economics, Vice President and Chief of Finance Ben King, a rising senior studying Communication and Political Science, and Vice President and Chief of Cabinet Tyler Viljaste, a rising junior studying Politics and Philosophy.</p> <p>As background, SGB does not typically operate at a full capacity during the summer months, as our members are usually taking up other commitments, such as a job, internship, or study abroad. Yet, given the circumstances, many of us are now taking the opportunity to help plan and strategize for a productive and successful year ahead. Since I last introduced myself, we have been keeping quite busy, and I’d love to share some updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Right after our last Senate Council meeting on April 16th, the 2020-2021 Student Government Board and myself were officially sworn in to serve our year long terms. I am incredibly excited to have Cedric Humphrey, Ben King, Tyler Viljaste, Annalise Abraham, Kathryn Fleisher, Victor So, Katie Richmond, and Victoria Chuah serving as Board Members. They each carry diverse backgrounds 	<p>Report and no discussion</p>

and interests on campus, but they, along with myself, are ready to help advocate for our undergrads and address their needs, wherever they may arise.

- Besides our inauguration, nearly 100 students had applied to various committee positions within SGB during the months of March and April, and I am pleased to announce that we have selected 7 new committee chairs and over two dozen members for our Allocations Committee, Elections Committee, Judicial Committee, and Diversity & Inclusion committee. You can learn more about our committees at sgb.pitt.edu/joinus/ if you would like.
- Looking ahead, SGB will be sponsoring free, 20-minute legal consultations for Pitt undergraduate and graduate students. Students should call or email our office to schedule a consultation. More information can be found on our website, along with Pitt's COVID-19 Emergency webpage. This is a service we normally only provide for the Fall and Spring semesters, but we wanted to give students the opportunity to utilize this great resource, as many of them may possibly face unique situations in coming months regarding housing, employment, and other areas.
- Additionally, SGB is finalizing a 2020 Census outreach plan to help bolster the response rates of off-campus Pitt students. We had been awarded a grant through the Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania for a comprehensive outreach and marketing campaign that was largely focused on student groups and organizations. Unfortunately, the pandemic has upended many original plans, but we are adjusting accordingly, so that we can creatively reach out to the thousands of undergrads who live off campus via online methods and social media.
- Finally, as a reminder, students can apply for financial assistance from the Student Emergency Assistance Fund, a joint venture by SGB, GPSG, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Philanthropic and Alumni Engagement, and Student Affairs. I have been updated that as of a few days ago, over 600 students have applied to receive assistance and over \$200,000 have been given out. SGB will continue to monitor the progress of this fund and other efforts to make sure that students remain supported throughout this time of need.

<p>In closing, as we continue to press on in these challenging times, please do not hesitate in reaching out to myself and the rest of SGB should you need anything.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	
<p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Selena Eisenberg, President</i> No report</p>	No Report and no discussion
<p><u>Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Malena G. Hirsch, President</i></p> <p>The new members of GPSG are now officially transitioned. The Executive Board (EB) is compiled of a variety of different graduate and professional perspectives and we are excited to integrate these diverse insights and bring value to Pitt's graduate and professional student body.</p> <p>We recently held our first EB meeting and plan to hold subsequent meetings over the summer to plan AY 2020-2021, all things considered. As we begin to prepare our budget, we're communicating with the cultural groups to ensure their respective needs are heard.</p> <p>We plan to work with the University and be as communicative as possible with all graduate and professional students as the University's decision regarding COVID-19 transpires. We look forward to working hard to ensure graduate and professional students have a valuable experience regardless of current and near-future circumstances.</p>	Report and no discussion
<p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students</u> No report</p>	No report and no discussion
<p><u>Schools of the Health Sciences</u> <i>Jacob Khan</i> No report but <i>Kahn</i> stated that all HS students are concerned when clinics would be open again.</p>	No report
<p><u>UPPDA</u> <i>David Gau, President</i> Good afternoon Senate Council, last month I mentioned that UPPDA was going through its elections. I am happy to share that most of the current</p>	Report and no discussion

<p>board, including myself, will be continuing for this next year. We do have two new additions to the board, Danny Jacobson, Postdoctoral Associate in Graduate School of Public Health and Krissy Moehling, Postdoctoral Scholar from the School of Medicine. UPPDA is fortunate to have so many returning board members and new ones as well to carry on our momentum from this past year. Much of our year focused on the development of an infrastructure for UPPDA to coordinate efforts amongst the postdocs and the University community. Big thank you again to Chris and Nick Bircher for helping to bring postdocs to shared governance. I will keep my remarks short today; I am sure many of us have been to many Zoom meetings this week already and more to come. That concludes my report.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u> <i>Andy Stephany, President</i> President Bonneau, Chancellor Gallagher, members of Senate Council:</p> <p>-I wish we were able to send off Dean Levine.</p> <p>On behalf of all staff, I want to acknowledge Greg Scott, wish him the best and thank him for his support of staff, and look forward to working with Dave in his new role as SVC of Operations. Staff Council has a strong history of working the new Deputy, Mark Burdsall, and look forward to working with Mark and Dave DeJong. Both have offered to speak at our General Meeting next week.</p> <p>-I want to acknowledge all the work being done by staff across campus for our essential personnel. Thank you for everything you're doing to keep campus moving and ready, particularly as we move closer to restarting research and additional activities on campus. I also want to acknowledge all the staff who are working through this new normal remotely and doing everything they need to keep the University moving forward. As we come back to campus, I want us to be mindful of staff who are struggling with the literal back and forth of finding a work/life balance.</p> <p>-Unfortunately, a lot of our program planning is on hold. As a volunteer organization, so much of our planning happens above and beyond the context of our typical work week. With our staff already stretched thin at home with work, we're unable to move items forward. Likewise, I think the appetite is low to hop into a non-essential zoom conference. Our members are still tremendously busy with participating in shared</p>	<p>Report and no discussion</p>

<p>governance and contributing at that level across the University. I concur with Chris that we have not let this crisis erode collaborative decision making in shared governance.</p> <p>-We are pressing forward with distributing our Staff Professional Development Award. In the coming months, we plan to issue three \$500 awards to staff who submit to pursue furthering their career achievements through education, training, and conference. Stay tuned to our communication channels for updates when the application portal will open.</p> <p>-Staff Council is always available for questions, comments, and concerns from staff. Please email staffcouncil@pitt.edu. We want to hear from you.</p> <p>-Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 20 at noon on Zoom. Register to attend on calendar.pitt.edu to submit your interest in tuning in and we will share the password.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>No reports</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p>	No Business
<p><u>Announcements</u></p> <p>Open enrollment is on. Take advantage to make changes to your benefits. Linda SantaCasa is sewing masks for all who need them. She has already sewn 300 masks for her daughter’s hospital.</p>	Announcements
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.</p>	Adjournment at 4 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Małgorzata (Gosia) Fort

Members attending:

Aziz, Becker, Bonneau, Bonner, Bratman, Buchanich, Conley, Cousins, Cudd, Dahm, Denman, Doty, Fort, Gallagher, Gau, Goundappa, Gregerson, Guterman, Hirsch, C. Humphrey, K. Humphrey, Kanthak, Kaybnar, Khan, King, Kleebank, Kohanbash, Kovacs, Kucan, Labrinidis, Landsittel, Levine, Loughlin, Macadangdang, Molinaro, Mostern, Mulvaney, Munro, Poljak, Rutenbar, Salcido, Sant, Sastry, Stephany, Stoner, Sukits, Viljaste, Washington, Weinberg, Wilson, Wood, Yates,

Members not attending:

Bachman, Infanti, Kaufman, Kory, Long, Martin, McGreevy, Mulcahy, Nelson, Swigonova, Weinberg

*Excused attendance:

Others attending:

Ayars, DeJong, Dostilio, Frieze, Harding, Harrell, Hitter, Jeffrey, Johnson, Jones, Lalo, Leifson, McLaughlin, Moran, Moss, Pelt, Pope, Ringler, Scott, Seldin, Starsenic, Supowitz, Toner, Walker, Zwick

*Notified Senate Office