I. Call to Order
President Robin Kear called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm and asked those on zoom whose names do not appear on screen to use chat for the roll.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Past Senate Council Meeting
On a motion duly made (Chancellor Gallagher) and seconded (Kanthak) the minutes from the Senate Council meeting on March 22, 2023, were approved as written.

III. Items of New Business
No items of new business were raised.

IV. Report of the Chancellor, Patrick Gallagher
Good luck to everyone preparing, taking and preparing finals for this week.

Some comments on Commencement coming up on April 30.
It is going to be a great event, we have a great speaker, Katy Nesbitt, who is a Pitt Alumna and a trailblazer in her field, with a great story to tell. She has racked up a number of firsts, including being the first American woman to referee at the World Cup.
However, the demand is so extraordinary, that we may exceed the capacity of the Petersen Event Center. This is surprising to me as when I first started the event was not full. Demand has really grown since the pandemic. To be fair to all families we have instituted a ticketing system, which will be 4 tickets per student. There will be a system to turn in any tickets that are not going to be used so others can use them. The commencement website has all this information. We are also setting up overflow sites and improving the quality of experience at those sites so that all those who are traveling for the event can have a good experience.

Let me talk about the emergencies that occurred in the last couple of weeks. The campus and region have been shocked by a number of events that have tested us from emergency preparedness and responses to them. Any time something like this happens we have to look back at the event as they are never executed perfectly, and we need to look at what we did critically, so we can see what did work and what didn’t work. We are doing that, and the community has been correctly holding us accountable and providing us with a lot of input. I want to note the input given to use by our faculty, staff and especially our students on these matters.

We had two events that were seeking to exploit the fear caused by mass shootings, that are happening around the country. There are far too many of these and we are now seeing a pattern to these, where a real shooting event somewhere around the country is immediately followed by fake events, where false alarms are called in. We should not mince words; these are terrorist attacks, and they are using disinformation to create fear and trauma, and to cause an immediate police response. The police responded appropriately and rapidly and, had these been real events, we would have been happy to have the immediacy and the scale of the response. But when these were not real events, that same response becomes part of the issue; it is terrifying and it can be dangerous. The bad news is that these events are not going away. We have entered an environment when these kinds of events are going to
continue to happen. They are not unique to Pitt, Pittsburgh or Western PA, they are happening across the country, and at many kinds of institutions.

Our response to this has three time frames. One was to immediately get better with getting information out quickly, and this seemed to go much better this week when we had civil unrest surrounding some speakers on campus. went much better later in the week. There is a lot happening still; we are looking at doors, egress, locking, police procedures, staffing, training and most importantly emergency preparation. The think we train the most on is how to get out of building in the event of a fire, but we are going to have to learn other things as well to be prepared. By Fall I expect to see expanded training from building responsible individuals, school and programs and ultimately everybody on campus.

My message to you today is, as happy as I am that nobody got hurt, we have to look at this as we are entering a more dangerous and threatening time where these kinds of events will continue to occur. The best way to address the sense of powerlessness, loss of agency that contributes to the fear and trauma is to wrap our arms around it and educate ourselves. As much as I would like to, I cannot make this problem go away. This could happen anywhere, anytime and we all have to become increasingly aware, develop that vocabulary, as we did at the beginning of the pandemic, so that we are all prepared. There will be a lot of things happening on this during the summer, so that when Fall comes there will be a lot of new training events for people returning to campus.

I want to thank those involved in recent events from a planning perspective and that includes Student Affairs. The speaker events were another catalyst for some violence that we saw here on campus Tuesday night. Let me be unambiguous that violence is an absolutely unacceptable outcome here. Freedom of speech does not mean you get to throw explosive devices at anyone, including responding police officers. It does not mean you get to disrupt, light fires, close roads, deter patients from hospitals and the other things we saw happen on Tuesday. We have a lot of work to do. I do not believe that everyone involved was from the University of Pittsburgh; I hope that is the case. This environment we are in, where people seek to bring in provocative speakers and other groups exploit that and create enough disruption to get them canceled is happening everywhere. We need to learn how to handle ourselves through these events. We have to protect free speech; it is in our policy but safety is also something that we all have a shared responsibility in and it comes down to the decisions that individuals make at these times. Some poor decisions were made Tuesday night. Any comments from Kenyon?

Kenyon: I want to thank our Public Safety and Pitt Police Department for supporting all three speaker events. I agree with your statements, and there is a lot of work to do. I do commend the people who showed up to protest peacefully, exercising their rights. There were definitely people who came with ill intentions, and there is a lot left to do.

Gallagher: The right to protest is a free speech right and it is a pity that some chose to come with ill intent. I want to thank our partnership with student government on this.

A few additional housekeeping announcements
Election season is underway, and we will be hearing more about these later today.

News
Joan Gabel will be our new Chancellor, she will start in July. I know Joan, she is a terrific person and I think you will like her. She is very approachable sincere leader, and she is doing this for all the right
reasons. Thanks to all of you on the search committee, including some in this room. Also I would ask that you allow me to train my successor as you trained me

Rachel Richelieu is the new VC of Communications and Marketing. She is an seasoned pro in this space with more that 20 years of experience. She has a lot of particular experience in the R&D and government and public sector area, which is of great benefit to Pitt. She is currently an executive at MITRE corporation, which is an organization we worked with all the time in the R&D space when I was in government. Also thank you to the search team who worked on this and also to Kate Ledger who was acting VC for Communications and Marketing during this process.

Grace Fleury, a Junior Chemistry major has been named a Goldwater scholar. This is the one of the most prestigious scholarships for STEM students. She is one of 413 winners out of 5000 applicants. Congratulations.

We also had 6 Pitt graduate students earn NSF graduate research fellowships which include a $37,000 stipend for 3 years, plus $12000 in educational allowance. Two were from the Swanson School of Engineering and 4 from the Dietrich School of Arts and Science.

Also, Yunge Xiao, a third year statistics major from the Dietrich School has been named a Newman Civic Fellow. This is for a student committed to creating a positive impact on the community. That is a terrific recognition for Yunge Xiao who is already very involved in the community through her work on food insecurity.

On the Faculty side:
Andy Lowenstein, Professor of English and media and film studies, who specializes in the horror genre was named a Guggenheim Fellow.
Salah Al-Zaiti, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Research in School of Nursing received a Fulbright US Scholar Award to conduct research in Jordan.
Congratulations to both of them.

Reminder that the faculty and staff picnic in on Thursday, May 11.

Kear thanked the Chancellor for his strong words condemning the violence at recent protests and for his wise words concerning freedom of speech.

There were no more questions for Chancellor Gallagher.

V. Report of Senate President, Robin Kear (submitted in writing)
I wish all of you the best in the last 10 days of the term. A sincere congratulations to our graduating students! Welcome to our new student representatives on Senate Council.

Safety
- I am glad to hear how seriously our administration is taking required improvements to the ENS system, prevention strategies, and classroom security. As I heard at the student’s town hall on Monday evening, we must do better for our students. I believe that we will see significant changes to our emergency preparedness before this fall term. I already saw a better ENS and information sharing response during Tuesday evening’s protest.
I do want to thank Pitt’s police force for their response at Hillman Library last Monday night and the protest two nights ago. I was remiss in not doing this at last week’s Faculty Assembly. It not an easy thing to walk into an unknown situation that could cause harm. Thank you to our police chief Jim Loftus, and Ted Fritz, vice chancellor for public safety and emergency management, for their dedicated and ongoing work and attentive response, and recognition of needed improvements.

I will say again, that for me, it comes back to the prevalence of gun violence in America. The epidemic of gun violence is impacting all of our lives, some of us are impacted disproportionately, and we must each do what we can to make it better for all.

Chancellor Announcement

- The Senate welcomes our next Chancellor Joan T.A. Gabel. We are excited to work with her and appreciate her efforts to reach out to the Senate on the day of the announcement. The Senate Officers were able to meet briefly with her and appreciated her stated commitment to shared governance.
- We look forward to future collaboration and partnership with Chancellor-elect Gabel. There are many challenges and opportunities to continue working on.

University Policy Open for Comment

- There are currently no policies open for public comment.

Union Relations

- The Union’s Council of Representatives has voted to create a standing committee to facilitate senate-union communication. We met on Tuesday March 21st. I look forward to this continued communication, and we are currently setting up our second meeting.
- I am glad to see that the union released an article checklist of articles proposed by the union and the administration. Please take a look at this new information.

Benefits Impacts for Senate Work

- As I have mentioned previously, the work of the Dependent Care Ad Hoc Committee we authorized 18 months ago has come to a statis point due to contract negotiations between admin and the Union of Pitt faculty. Since we actually authorized that group in October of 2021, I will ask for a report on their activities this fall.
- The University has traditionally annually commissioned a Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) in the spring term to provide input to the Pitt Benefits team regarding the health insurance program for the upcoming fiscal year. It traditionally has had the Senate President, Staff Council President, chair of Benefits & Welfare, and other faculty and staff at large members viewing utilization data, projection costs, and collaborating to provide input. This has been the role of shared governance related to health insurance programs.
- This committee has convened, with Penny Morel serving to represent the Senate Officers, and provided recommendations and input. I hope that information for staff, medical school faculty, and others outside the bargaining unit for next year’s benefits will be forthcoming shortly.

Senate Plenary
The Senate Plenary was on Tuesday April 4th from noon to 2:00 pm in the William Pitt Union Assembly Room. Thank you to the speakers and all who attended. Thank you to Lori Molinaro and Linda SantaCasa in the Senate Office. Thank you to Kris Kanthak who introduced the speakers and led the Q&A.

The speakers exceeded my expectations and I hope you will take a moment to view their insights. The recording is up on the Senate website.

**Senate Elections**
- The election for Senate Officers and Faculty Assembly members ends today, so if you received a ballot, please take a moment to vote.
- The next election will be for Senate Committees and that will run from April 27th to May 9th.

**Senate Committees**
- An enormous thank to all of the Senate Committees, and especially to all the chairs and co-chairs, for their important work this academic year. The Committees are of vital importance to the functioning of shared governance. I know that these are uncertain times for some of the committees and thank you for your grace and willingness to move through it.

Thank you for your service and dedication to shared governance.

Any questions or comments on my report?

No questions.

**VI. Reports of Student Members of Senate Council:**

A. Student Government Board (SGB), Danielle Floyd

Hello everyone,
I want to start off my report by acknowledging it has been a challenging week on our campus. On Monday, SGB hosted a Town hall with the assistance of student leaders across campus about the recent public safety concerns that have come up regarding the incident that took place at Hillman. At the town hall students were able to make their voices heard of areas of improvements for the university such as, better notifying students about when incidents take place on our campus. Students had a number of demands they would like to see from the University, and I have shared with student affairs what some of the changes students are looking for are. I am hoping that Monday’s town hall will lead to positive changes within the university as we progress on.

On that note, I know a number of students participated in a protest on Tuesday in response to the recent speakers on campus. At last month’s University Senate meeting, I shared SGB’s viewpoint in regards to the upcoming speaking events. And I encourage anyone who has questions to reach out to us. These are increasingly becoming more difficult times, so I want to take a moment to encourage students to take care of themselves and please reach out if you need extra support or you may know someone who needs extra support, as we also enter finals weeks.

Moving on.
As my tenure as the Student Government Board President draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to everyone for your unwavering support and collaboration over the
past year. It has been an absolute honor to serve as the voice of the student body and to work alongside each and every one of you to address important issues on campus. As I reflect on my time here at Pitt, I know that I wouldn’t be here without the support and care of a lot of Panthers who shared my passion for Pitt, for change, and for progress.

And with that, I would like to highlight some the major accomplishments done by the 2022-2023 Student Government Board:

- Gained approval from Student Affairs Senior Leadership about a new strategic plan to leverage the unallocated funds within the student activity fee, which has resulted in:
  - The hiring of three additional staff members in the Student Organization Resource Center.
  - The creation of a new tradition/impact experience/service fund for student organizations totaling over $200,000.
  - Providing an additional $25,000 for the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.
  - And VP Bonner Reactivated the Student Leader Remuneration Task Force

- Co-hosted two town halls, one focused on Preventing Sexual Assaults and the other in response to recent concerns raised about Campus Safety.

- Created and wrote a new charter for the Students Against Sexual Misconduct Ad-Hoc Committee, which has worked with student organizations and University administrators to identify weaknesses in the way we prevent sexual misconduct and support survivors.
  - This past Thursday we Pass a resolution calling on the university to hire a Confidential Survivor Advocate in the UCC
  - Worked with SAFE to advance the creation of a Peer Survivor Support Network
  - Worked with PAAR to add more opportunities for PAAR resources on campus

- Established an Ad-Hoc committee with the Student Disability coalition and Autistic Student Union with the aim to advocate for the needs and common goals of students with disabilities at the University of Pittsburgh and bring attention to these concerns.

- Authored a proposal for Refreshing the Sixth Floor of the WPU SGB Task Force to bring attention to student concerns and expectations regarding the revamping process to student offices
  - Purchased furniture for Student Organizations and assisted with the coordination of redesigning the floor to better meet student needs.
  - Receive 130 responses from student leaders across campus to better understand their storage and space needs as organizations

- Worked with Vice Provost McCarthy and Dr. April Bellbeck to create a canvas module to better disseminate resources across the student body.

- Increase awareness of our Diversity and Inclusion Grant
  - Received and awarded 12 grant applications throughout the school year.

- Undergraduate Conference Fund
  - Reimburse 10 students who applied for the Undergraduate Conference Fund

- Allocations:
  - Total amount spent: $1,027,000 with $4,000 in requests for tonight’s final meeting.
    - Record amount
  - Approval rate: 85% (highest ever)
  - Approval rate for ethnic and cultural organizations: 97%

I am proud of the progress we have made, and I am confident that our efforts will continue to have a positive impact on future generations of students. You never really know what is going to be thrown at
you when you sign up for this kind of Job during the year, and to say this year has been complex is an understating, but each time something new came our way we always rose to meet the occasion through meeting with senior leaders or hosting a town hall. I believe we have executed our duties for services to the highest levels and managed to have one of the most successful years since the pandemic despite its challenges.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Chancellor and the Provost for their invaluable collaboration with the Student Government Board this year. Their leadership and dedication to our university have been truly impactful and have helped to foster a culture of inclusivity and academic excellence on campus.

As I move on to the next chapter of my life, I will carry with me the lessons I have learned and the memories I have made during my time as Student Government Board President. I am confident that our university will continue to thrive and grow, and I look forward to watching from afar as Ryan and his Board navigate next year. Ryan, I know I have said this many times (you’re gonna hear it from me a few more times tonight at our Inauguration today at 6pm), but I am so proud of you and can only imagine all the things you’re gonna accomplish next year. Pitt’s been more than a school to me, it’s been a home. I have truly dedicated all four years of my college experience to this organization and to all of the undergraduate students we serve and represent. I want you all to know how deeply I care about this organization and the members it comprises. The people (although some have already graduated) are some of the most dedicated, hardworking, and kind individuals I have ever met. The capacity of the people in this organization to enact change is incredible and I couldn’t be more honored to have played a part this year in leading this organization. As I leave this university, I can’t think about what it means to be a panther without the Student Government Board and everyone in it.

Once again, thank you all for your support and collaboration over the past year. It has been an honor to serve as your Student Government Board President, and I will always cherish the memories and friendships I have made during my time here.

Bonneau: What’s next?
Floyd: I am going to be staff assistant for Senator Van Hollen in Maryland. I’m going to be working in his Rockville Office in Maryland.
Bonneau: Congrats!
Gallagher: I just wanted to say, and I think I told you this at the beginning of last year, that despite all the plans, you never know what’s coming. This was certainly true for this year. What I am about to say applies to all our student organizations. There was no playbook for many of the things that happened this year, and when that happens you fall back on your character and integrity and doing things for the right reason. I want to applaud SGB and all student organizations for following those values and being so effective at helping us do the right thing when it mattered most. We couldn’t have done this without you, and it has been a great partnership. I want to appreciate all the amazing work that all of our student organizations have done this year.
Kear: I concur with the Chancellor’s remarks. I want to commend you, Danielle, on your efforts with the students. Thank you.
Kanthak: I want to second that. It has been great to see your leadership style, Danielle, and I learned a lot from you.

B. College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG), Anna Yatsko
The College of General Studies Student Government has completed a year of resurgence as a major student government at the University of Pittsburgh.

- At the beginning of the academic year, president, Monte Labash, began an initiative to improve the student experience within the college. This began with asking what the students need and want out of their college and their student government. A student climate survey was constructed and distributed.
  - CGS SG was able to address the needs of the student with more career development and student events.
    - A career development seminar was held on April 3 and it will be suggested to the next board to continue with these seminars on a regular basis next fall.
    - CGS and CGS SG will also host a graduation gathering on Sunday, 4/30 to honor our graduates. This will be the largest graduation event for CGS since 2019.
    - The current board also addressed the “culture” of CGS. Historically, the college was a dedicated space to “non-traditional” students. However, most students within the college are “traditional.” Though CGS will always champion for the “non-traditional” student, the entire university including Dietrich and graduate, professional programs must also play a role in supporting this student demographic.

- CGS SG also reinstated Alpha Lambda Sigma, the nontraditional student honors society.
  - An induction ceremony was held on 3/31 with 20 inductees.
  - CGS SG will continue to allocate funds as this group grows.
- CGS SG sponsored Pitt Tonight’s “Love on the Lawn” concert held on 3/24.
- CGS SG began a campaign for increased awareness of CGS on campus this year and has laid out a strategic plan for the 23-24 board to include town halls, tabling events, and information sessions for prospective students.
- CGS SG will continue to collaborate with SGB and GPSG on important university initiatives.
- The 2024-2024 CGS SG board search is complete and Skyler Cheevers, Legal Studies ’24 will begin her term on May 1.

Yatsko: On a personal note, I would like to comment on recent events. Since the protests occurring in June 2020 we have seen anarchists disrupt peaceful protests with violence. At this occurrence students who attended these protests as well as local organizations have stated that the protests were hijacked by anarchists who did not represent the majority of the Pitt community. I believe that instead of investigating this, the easy route has been taken to delegitimize the protests through a condemnation of violence. This goes along with a pattern of dismissing entire protests when they are hijacked. Research has shown that calls to nonviolence and condemnation of violence can delegitimize entire movements. That is a particular problem when no one mentions legitimate reasons behind protests instead choosing to condemn violence. I cannot stand here and watch the hurt and pain of students being dismissed simply because violence erupted, that the majority of students were not a part of. Their hurt and suffering and feelings of betrayal by the University are valid.

Bonneau: How are the people protesting being dismissed?
Yatsko: Although it was mentioned last month – the only thing mentioned at this meeting is the violence that occurred.
Kear: We did mention it at the last meeting, and I don’t feel that anyone here has tried to delegitimize the concerns based on a couple of bad actors.

Yatsko: I remember yours and Chancellor Gallagher’s comments at the previous meeting that were supporting these students’ feelings. I understand that we, as a public institution we have an obligation to host speakers on both sides of the political spectrum. I just want to highlight the concerns that students and local organizations had about the protests being hijacked by specific actors, and that we acknowledge that the hurt they felt was legitimate.

DeJong: I want to say I very much appreciate that concern. That is a major concern every time there is a peaceful gathering and we work hard to prevent and mitigate such events.

Gallagher: The investigation of what happened this week is ongoing. We are actively looking into this and intend to find out who was doing this and will take appropriate action. It is a disservice to those who elected to peaceful exercise their voice to protest, which is a right we all enjoy, when others come in and disrupt the event with violence. When we get more information if we get to the bottom of this.

Kear: To go back to your report. It is great that you have worked to rejuvenate the CGS SG and the honors society. Congratulations to you all

Yatsko: Thank you, this is in large part thanks to our president Monte Labash and Boryana Dobreva our excellent faculty advisor as well as Angie King who has helped us organize a lot of events in March.

C. Graduate and Professional Schools Student Government (GPSSG), Sarah Malone

Thanks so much to everyone for a great year, we have appreciated the discussion and shared governance during these meetings. Everyone’s commitment to serving our community is truly commendable, and GPSSG has been proud to be a part of these discussions.

We participated in the student town hall on campus safety meeting on Monday April 17th. This was a fruitful dialogue, between students, Pitt Police, facilities management, administrative representatives, and the counseling center. We still wanted to remind everyone that graduate students and leaders are still very concerned about the way these events were handled regarding student safety. But we thank the university for taking these concerns seriously and taking the proper steps to make sure something like this doesn’t happen again.

We encourage students to use us a resource for any further discussion or comments you may have on the situation. We urge students to look into all resources the university has provided. We thank Administration for taking this situation seriously and want to continue safety discussions moving forward.

- GPSG 2023-2024 elections results:
  - President: Rithika Behera
  - VP of Committees: Yuliana Nike Ndaumanu
  - VP of Communications: Melinda Szabo
  - VP of Finance: Varbi Mridha
  - VP of Programming: Justin Thomas
- We have offered the position of Executive Administrator to Nyssa Hemingway
- We had our GPSGs Leadership and Service Award today
  - Awarded 4 Graduate Students:
Awardees received a $250 grant for their service or leadership at Pitt

- At our April AB meeting many representatives have shared their end of year plans and their elections are currently underway.
- We appreciate the invitation and great reception that Chancellor Gallagher provided at the Leadership Dinner last week. We thank you for your service to the university and students, we wish you well on your future endeavors.
- Recap of final events:
  - Grad Appreciation Week – Recap
    - Monday - Swag & Campus Vouchers: served over 100 students.
    - Tuesday - Cookout: fed 100 students.
    - Wednesday - Ice Cream Voucher: Given to 100 students
    - Saturday - Spring Fling: Sold 500 tickets & had waitlist.
  - Finals breakfast & Study session
    - Wednesday 19th 10 - 2; provided study space and breakfast for grad students

VII. Report of the President of the Postdoctoral Association, Stephanie Mutchler

Not Present and no report was presented.

VIII. Report of the President of the Staff Council, Lindsay Rodzwicz (no report submitted)

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

Travel Cash Advance Policy
Professor Juan Taboas, Budget Policies Chair

The travel cash advance policy was presented by Juan Taboas. It was approved by the Budget Policies Committee. The main change is that when you are requesting a travel cash advance it will be placed on your Pitt OneCard and you can access it via an ATM machine, rather than by direct deposit to your bank account. It was approved by Faculty Assembly last week.

Morel: Does this mean that everyone has to have a OneCard if they want a travel cash advance?
Kear: Yes

Vote; Yes: 33; No: 0; Abstain: 3.
Policy is approved.

Network Policy
Professor Ilia Murtazashvili CITC Chair

The policy was presented by Anthony Graham. It was approved in committee and faculty Assembly. The purpose of the policy is to assign the responsibility for the construction, maintenance, design and operation of PittNet to Pitt IT. It also allows Pitt IT to establish standards. Protocols guidance of use of
PittNet to provide fair and equitable use of the PittNet to the university community. The main change was to remove a lot of technical detail that could become redundant.

Hart: If I may – this is a revision of an existing policy which is 8 pages long and contains a great deal of technical detail. It does not change the original policy. There was a lot of discussion about this policy. It was important that we include a provision that Pitt IT would consult with faculty who need specific network configurations. Pitt IT feels this is necessary to avoid the creation of “private networks” that could interfere with the normal running of PittNet.

Taboas: Is the statement on private networks a expansion of the previous policy or is it a clarification?
Hart: It is a clarification, private networks had never been allowed in the previous policy. The change was based on conversations that you and I had and you raised an eloquent point about Pitt IT making the commitment to consult with faculty. This has now been put into place and this will be a consultative process.

Vote: Yes: 33; No: 0; Abstain: 2.
Policy is approved

X. Unfinished Business and/or New Business:
None

XI. Announcements
None

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM.

Documents from the meeting are available at the University Senate website:
https://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/senate-council

Respectfully submitted,
Penelope (Penny) Morel
Secretary, University Senate


Members not attending: Archibald, Bench, Cilli, Denman, Kohanbash, Kovacs, Lewin, Mahboobin, Melnick, Mutchler, Newman, Oyler, Pacella-LaBarbara, Paterson, Sant, Tudorascu, Yearwood, Young

*Excused attendance: Cudd, Jones, Kamasa, Kleebank, Labash, Reed


* Notified Senate Office