

Senate Educational Policies Committee

Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2020

Attendance: Bonneau, Chris (absent); Cecchini, Nicole (excused); Falcione, Bonnie; Hampton, Marian; Horvath, Zsuzsa; Jacqueline, Camille (absent); Dang, Lynn (absent). Kelly, M. Kathleen (absent); Kucinski, Barb; Landsittel, Douglas (excused); Lausberg, Cynthia (absent); Lotz, Andrew; McCarthy, Joseph (excused); Molinaro, Lori (absent); Oh, Eunjoo (absent); Pollini, Lorraine; Rikstad, Pam (excused); Schein, Michelle (excused); Shaver, Kevin; Stoner, John; Vento, Barbara; Urban, Nathan; Wilson, Frank (absent). Guests for Plan for Pitt Workshop: Carson Shoemaker (student, precepted by B.Falcione), Penny Morel (Senate Research Committee).

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00pm by Co-Chair John Stoner.

Approval of Minutes: the minutes were approved pending any edits received by Friday February 21st.

Old Business:

Co-Chair Stoner briefly mentioned topics for the remaining meetings of 2020 including that Religious observances will be addressed at the March meeting and Laurie Kirsch and Cynthia Golden will report in March on Assessment of Teaching.

Updates from Vice Provosts:

- Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies McCarthy communicated that he had nothing of note to report.
- Vice Provost Urban for Graduate Studies conducted the Plan for Pitt Workshop.

Plan for Pitt Workshop

VP Urban opened the workshop by indicating that he wanted three things to happen with the “refresh” in the Plan for Pitt 2025 process that were perhaps different from the earlier iteration of the first Plan for Pitt that is drawing to a close this year: 1) get more feedback from the community as part of the process, 2) better contextualize goals for Pitt, provide more University-level specificity, 3) base metrics on outcomes rather than activities. In place are, Liaisons with each RC (Responsibility Centers), Goal Committees that have been “mostly formed,” approximately 20 workshops, and also surveys and email solicitations. A website with what colleagues have said can be reviewed (<https://www.planforpitt.pitt.edu/session-notes>). He established the overarching goals are to come up with a tentative list of things we’re trying to achieve,” then take that back to the community early in April and seek feedback. Then, over the summer, refine ideas, develop metrics and milestones, and determine what resources would be required to achieve those goals. This would then be presented to the Board of Trustees by end of September.

Attendees asked clarifying questions, including from Co-Chair Stoner whether this would look somewhat similar to the earlier plan but with a more specific list of achievable objectives? VP Urban responded that he thought a laundry list of goals would likely obscure as much as they reveal. Mentioned that there are data sources out there where “it has to be succinct enough that we would actually pay attention to it.” To achieve some broader (but still specific) goal, will likely have to realize a number of smaller, ancillary goals. A dozen might be manageable, for example and then things would happen at various other levels (school levels, provost level, etc.). Responding to a question posed by guest Penny Morel Co-Chair of the Senate Research Committee, Urban responded that the general imperatives have borne some fruit—mentioned that the Pell Match Grant program is in many ways a response to the equity and access imperative of the earlier Plan for Pitt. VP Urban then proceeded to conduct the workshop with committee members and guests contributing to the discussion.

Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:35pm.