

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Senate Educational Policies Committee
September 21, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present: Amy E. Aggelou, Michael Beach, David Beck, Leslie Eibl, Bonnie Falcione, Micah Gross, Zsuzsa Horvath, Douglas Landsittel A. Murat Kaynar, M. Kathleen Kelly, Juan Manfredi, and Aliyah Weinstein.

Excused: Helen Petracchi, Alberta Sbragia, and Susan Skledar

Not Present: Shelly Renee Brown, Lori A. Molinaro, Naomi Stoll, and Frank Wilson.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Zsuzsa Horvath (Chair) at ~3pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 2015 meeting were revised with one spelling correction to and were recommended for approval as written pending any further corrections submitted to the Co-Chair by email by Friday Sept 25th.

Introductions: New members were welcomed to the committee and all members introduced themselves.

New Business:

SEPC Review:

An overview of the SEPC was presented by Chair Horvath. The SEPC mission statement was reviewed with examples of committee work that had been conducted in recent years. The attendance policy and bylaws were also reviewed. Members were encouraged to contact the Chair or Co-Chair if unable to attend a meeting. Members were reminded that attendance is required to be provided to the Senate Office with the minutes thus attendance at meetings is taken. And, per the bylaws When an elected member of a Standing Committee has been absent from three consecutive meetings of that Committee without due notice to the Committee Chair, the Secretary of the Standing Committee shall report this fact to the voting members of the Committee. <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/bylaws-university-senate>. The Committee's website (<http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/committees/educational-policies>) was highlighted as a resource where member names, meeting dates, minutes, and other related documents can be found. A Box folder is also available for the committee to house resources including agendas, minutes and supporting documents organized by date (<https://pitt.box.com/s/529jeigloqlv1n4utjwu>). Members were sent an invitation to the Box folder from the Chair and she should be contacted for any needed assistance in accessing the folder.

Meetings for AY 2015-16 were also reviewed: October 19th, November 16th, December 14th, January 25th, February 15th, March 21st, April 18th and May 16th from 3:00-4:30pm in Room 826 of the Cathedral unless otherwise noted. Committee social will take place with the December meeting and at the end of the Spring term (date to be discussed in March). Members were asked for any objections to the meetings being audio recorded by the Chair or Co-Chair on a password protected local (non-cloud based) recording device for the purpose of providing meeting minutes which will be deleted once the minutes are composed; no objections were voiced by committee members.

The committee is represented by the Chair at Faculty Assembly (once monthly on Tuesdays at 3pm, open to all faculty, dates are posted at <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/faculty-assembly> and typically summarized in the University Times), by the Co-Chair as liaison to the Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE), and by the Chair (required) at the University Planning and Budgeting Committee (UPBC). The committee Chair provides an annual report, when the date for this is determined the Chair will update the committee.

Chair Horvath noted that both she and Co-Chair Falcione are completing the third year of their terms this year and while both are interested in re-running to serve on the committee and hope to continue in these roles, she reminded the members that leadership roles for the committee are nominated and elected by committee members at the end of each year.

Old Business

- Recommendations for EPC from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Stream (NTS) Faculty Issues 2014-2015:
 - A summary was provided by Chair Horvath on the committees work to date on both recommendations (Recommendation 1: Review the process for teaching evaluation of full time non-tenure stream (NTS) faculty to ensure they are treated fairly, and Recommendation 2: Assurance that full-time non-tenure stream (NTS) faculty with teaching duties have input into decisions about curriculum content and curriculum changes in the unit). Members were directed to the final report presented by the Senate Ad Hoc Committee to the Faculty Assembly in February 2015 (<https://pitt.box.com/s/g4t2semaj3i8uhj3yley0d0x3cce3oyh>) posted in the EPC Box folder. The Chair explained that draft resolutions had been prepared by the committee last year to address these recommendations (https://pitt.app.box.com/files/0/f/2604214557/1/f_37711842286) and proposed that further discussion to include new committee members input be planned for the October meeting along with invitations extended to former EPC and Senate Ad Hoc Committee on NTS Faculty Issues member Cynthia Tananis or Senate Ad Hoc Committee on NTS Faculty Issues Chair Eileen Frieze to answer committee members questions. Areas of particular interest would include information about percentage of NTS at the university, basis for the recommendations, and impact on visiting and research faculty.

- Working Group Updates
 - Working Group on Issues Related to Student Opinions of Teaching Online Surveys
 - Chair Horvath updated the committee that the upcoming schedule for the working group meetings is being planned.

 - Working Group on Digital Ethics
 - Chair Falcione reported the working group met in June where additional members were identified to assist with accomplishing the goals outlined at the first meeting. The next meeting is being planned for this term.

Vice-Provost updates

- **Undergraduate**
Vice Provost Manfredi presented the report:

- An overview of the structure of the strategic planning process was provided. This included the five Strategic Goals approved by the Board of Trustees. For each of the goals working groups were established. Dr. Manfredi is Chair of the Advance Educational Excellence (Strategic Goal 1) Working Group. From this working group six initiatives were originally crafted and then further refined into two strategic initiatives summarized as: 1) Enhance the curriculum through innovative, discipline-based approaches to teaching and learning, and appropriate uses of technology to enrich the on-campus learning environment, and 2) Personalizing educational experiences. Dr. Manfredi provided examples of how we accomplish discipline specific teaching with technology and provide opportunity for student personalization of their education including the recently approved resolution proposed by the EPC committee to expand the course descriptions. He also requested input from the committee on an early draft of these two strategic initiatives. Dr. Manfredi informed members that there will be three 90 minute question and answer sessions (October 7th, 8th and 9th) in Posvar Hall for faculty to get more engaged in the strategic planning process. Information about Strategic Planning at the university is provided at <http://www.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/ThePlanforPitt10232015.pdf> and <http://impact.pitt.edu>.
- The Campus Climate Survey results were released by the AAU at 10am on the day of the meeting. The survey was voluntarily conducted by 27 institutions including Pitt. The university also released the results specific to Pitt on the day of the meeting. Any non-zero results will be addressed and work will continue at the university based on the results. Information is provided at <http://www.pitt.edu/aau-survey>.
- **Graduate**
Vice Provost Manfredi presented the report prepared by Vice Provost Sbragia (who was out of town attending the AGS meeting at Emory):
 - On September 18th Dr. Sbragia received a visit from Mohamad Abdel-Kade, the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the office of International and Foreign Language Education (FLE) at the US Department of Education's (ED) Office of Post-Secondary Education. Ariel Armony, the Director of the University Center for International Studies was also in attendance and they discussed ways in which the international dimension of the university can be strengthened.
 - The Year of the Humanities Program is developing in a very impressive way. The first speaker is Theresa Brown at 4pm on Tuesday September 22nd at the O'Hara Student Center. All are welcome. She is a Pitt alum who writes for the New York Times and has published two books which link the humanities and nursing. "Critical Care: A New Nurse Faces Death, Life, and Everything in Between," and "The Shift: One Nurse, 12 hours, and Four Patient's Lives." The website is <http://www.humanities.pitt.edu/programs>.
 - The visit of Vice Premier LIU Yandong to Pitt on June 19th had a major impact. It opened doors for the Chancellor's trip to China. The Chancellor and his delegation will be meeting with Vice Minister MA Xiaowei, National Health and Planning Commission, which is very important for the School of Medicine and UPMC. In addition, they will be meeting with the China Scholarship Council to discuss the current partnership and potential to expand. Hanban officials will be meeting with the Chancellor to discuss Pitt's Confucius Institute and the possibility of establishing new initiatives.

Faculty Assembly updates

- The Senate Expanded Executive Committee meeting is planned for October 19th.

- Faculty Assembly on September 8th - the committee was provided a brief update on the following topics and referred to the University Times for further details.
 - New Senate President is Frank Wilson, he is an assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at Pitt-Greensburg. Link to University Times article: <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=36625>.
 - Faculty Assembly approved the recommendations, made by the Senate ad hoc committee (presented to the Senate Council on September 15th) that was tasked with reviewing the University's current guidelines for evaluating tenured faculty and associated salary decisions. The ad hoc committee was formed in April 2014 in response to medical school evaluation practices that some faculty decried as a threat to tenure and academic freedom.
 - The concerns were prompted by reports of 20-percent salary reductions for some tenured medical school faculty who failed to meet performance standards that included securing a major portion of their salary through externally funded research.
 - Links for further information: <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=36848>
 - <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/FINAL%20%20202015%20%20ad%20hoc%20committe%20on%20tenured%20fac%20EVAL%20and%20salary.pdf>
- The next University Senate plenary session is set for March 30. The topic will be academic freedom.
- Irene Frieze, Senate vice president, reported that an Institutional Review Board (IRB) liaison committee for social and behavioral research is being reconstituted amid changes in IRB office staffing. The committee, which Frieze chairs, was formed in 2004 to address concerns of faculty who conduct social and behavioral science research but had become inactive in recent years.
 - Faculty interested in serving on the committee, or those with concerns about the IRB or research review, should contact Frieze at frieze@pitt.edu.
 - Link for further information: <http://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Handout%20for%20Faculty%20Assembly%20Sept%202015%20%28IRB%29.pdf>
- IRB Meet & Greet Reception
 - Opportunity to network with your colleagues from the IRB Office. Share information on available resources and discuss strategies to improve IRB submissions:
 - Wednesday, October 14, 12:00pm to 2:00pm in O'Hara Student Center Ballroom <http://www.irb.pitt.edu/event/irb-meet-greet-reception>.
 - Engage in discussion with IRB staff
 - Get answers to your questions
 - Learn about current & future IRB education programs and training initiatives
 - Find out the many ways the IRB can help facilitate your research

Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence (ACIE) update

- Liaison Falcione reported that the council has yet met but will provide the committee with regular updates once the council begins their work for the year.

SEPC future planning

An open forum for suggestions for future agenda items will take place at the October meeting.

Adjournment @ ~4:30pm