

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
September 18, 2019

| AGENDA ITEM | ACTION |
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| <p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Chris Bonneau.</p> | <p>The meeting Commenced at 3:00 pm.</p> |
| <p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the May 15, 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> Chancellor Gallagher welcomed all new members including Robert Gregerson, representing Greensburg campus and Hari Sastry, CFO. He mentioned personnel changes which happened over the summer: 2 new regional presidents Catherine Koverola at Bradford/Titusville and Robert Gregerson at Greensburg, new vice chancellor for alumni relations - Nancy Merrit, Mark Henderson - CIO, Dave DeJong – interim VC for Human Resources, Melissa Schild, new assistant VC for Strategic Planning. Chancellor talked also about the budget process, including a surprise increase in state support (state support steady but covering only inflation), Pitt Success Pell Match program (change in financial aid support) started this year, an increase in tuition. Context explained: tuition increase was offset by the increase in financial aid, thus no revenue from tuition this year, pay pools for faculty and staff were augmented by efficiencies (savings found in operating budget). Only 1/3 of budget cuts was passed down to the schools, the rest was found centrally by revising contracts and looking of efficiencies in the operating budget). Enrollment situation is mixed. Financial issues are difficult, we want Pitt to be a high-profile institution, but at the same time we do not want to draw a line beyond which Pitt will not be affordable to students. Ranking season: Pitt looks good, we continued our momentum, it is the largest jump US News college rankings. Board Trustees meeting is in Johnstown next week. It a great opportunity for discussion, focus on regional campuses as anchor for its communities, and also the annual chance to present my “state of the union” address. Some work from the past year will continue. This includes work of: Public Safety Advisory Com. led by David Harris, Chancellor Advisory Com. on Inclusion and Accessibility, ad hoc Com on Health and Well Being (consider issues of smoking, vaping). Last year we celebrated the Year of Global, and we need to remember that we aspire to be a global university and despite the national tension and restrictions, all visiting students and faculty from around a world need to feel that they belong here. We anticipate that the survey on sexual assault on college campuses will be</p> | <p>Report and Discussion</p> |

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| <p>released soon. I hope we will use it to generate momentum on the issue.</p> <p>Discussion DENMAN asked about effect of visa issues on visiting researchers and students? Chancellor GALLAGHER Visa issues have potential to disrupt everything, so we are handling it on many levels: Office of International Services, Immigration Council and federal teams working in Washington and Harrisburg</p> | | |
| <p>Report of Senate President, Chris Bonneau I hope you all had a good summer and are rested and ready for a busy semester of shared governance. As for me, in the words of the great Taylor Swift, “I forgot that you existed.” Faculty Assembly met for the first-time last week. The meeting was very well attended, likely because many wanted to get a glimpse of new Vice-President David Salcido and new Secretary Gosia Fort in action. Our standing committees are beginning their work and we will likely have several items of business over the coming months, many dealing with new policies that are in the process of being developed through the Policy Development Office. Finally, there are a few things I want to highlight for this group today: Now, on to the updates: · The Chairs of our standing committees will have working lunch with the Chancellor and Provost on Friday. · Please... if you have been notified that your Child Protection Clearances have expired or will soon expire, you need to begin the process of renewing them immediately. Failure to do so could result in your being placed on unpaid administrative leave. It is vitally important for the University to be in compliance with state law, so please be sure to do your part. Likewise, if you supervise individuals who need these clearances, please ensure they begin the renewal process now. The Title IX Office has released a report detailing the number of complaints, investigations, etc. These can be found in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Annual Report: https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Pitt%20Diversity%202018-19%20Annual_ADAAcompliant.pdf Moving forward, this semester we hope to have a report from the committee to examine making Pitt tobacco-free. Additionally, the issue of foreign influence continues to be on the front-burner. The Chancellor made a strong statement in defense of academic freedom and Pitt’s commitment to protect our people, regardless of national origin. At the same time, Pitt has temporarily suspended a portion of its Confucius Institute in response to guidance by the federal government. This issue is not going away anytime soon. As you can see, there is a lot currently going on at the university that is going to require our attention. Let’s get to work.</p> | <p>Report and no Discussion</p> | |
| <p>Reports of Student Members</p> | <p>Student Government Board (SGB) <i>Zechariah Brown, President</i> Good Afternoon Everyone!</p> | <p>Report and Discussion</p> |

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| <p><u>of Senate Council</u></p> | <p>Thank you so much for having us today, we are so happy to be here to represent undergraduate non-CGS students. I've had the chance to meet some of you at May's meeting, as well as through previous events with outgoing President Maggie Kennedy, but I'd like to take this time to introduce myself again.</p> <p>My name is Zechariah Brown and I am the Student Government Board President for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.</p> <p>I am a Senior studying Political Science with a minor in Philosophy and a certificate in Public and Professional Writing.</p> <p>In addition to SGB, I am a member of the Political Science Student Association.</p> <p>Joining me today, we have: Executive Vice President Anais Peterson</p> <p>Unfortunately, Vice President and Chief of Finance Ashima Agarwal and Vice President and Chief of Cabinet Caroline Unger are unable to join us, as they're in class.</p> <p>So, Anais why don't you introduce yourself <i>After Peterson had introduced herself, Brown continued with introductions of other members.</i></p> <p>Also on SGB: Board member Scott Glaser, Board member Victoria Tappan, Board member Eric Macadangdang, Board member Cedric Humphrey, Board member Lynn Dang</p> <p>While Student Government Board was not in session over the summer, our Board Members and Committee Chairs worked hard to plan and prepare for the school year.</p> <p>Interviews are beginning for many of our open positions, including our Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Elections Committee, Judicial Committee, as well as our First-Year Council. Our application deadlines for both Allocations and Communications Committees have been extended to Sept. 20th, in order to maximize our selection pool. We received over 66 applications for these positions (not including applications for Allocations and Comms), and are excited for all our new members to begin in their roles.</p> <p>During Orientation Week we co-hosted the Panther G.O.L.D. Retreat along with the Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development. We took about 60 student leaders on a 2 day retreat to prepare for the upcoming year through collaborative workshops and sessions and it was both a fun and productive experience!</p> <p>SGB and PPC followed up on this by hosting our first-ever student org mixer, which provided students with a forum to continue their conversations about how they could collaborate with each other throughout the year.</p> <p>There are many service and projects that we worked on over the summer and this past month that we are excited to share with you today:</p> <p>Continuing with the Collegiate Readership Program Now offer free online subscriptions to the NYTimes for all undergraduate students.</p> | |
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| | <p>Last Year, we partnered with CGS student government to include their students in the program This year, about 20,063 students have access to this program Student Events Calendar Continuing our partnership with the Pitt News to create an events calendar for student organizations Available online, on mobile app, and in print every Monday Free for all organizations to help promote their events Community Engagement Civic Engagement Week--Sept 23rd -27th Collaboration with + political and cultural student orgs Focus on Voter Registration and Education Neighborhood Block Parties with CGR 4 occurred so far, 2 more to go One tomorrow (deep into) South Oakland Our final block party will be in Central Oakland on the 26th Way for students and permanent residents to get to know one another Encouraging Campus Safety Safety Fair--Sept. 30th Collaboration with CGR + FTT Resource fair for students with info from Pitt Police, Dept. of Environmental Health and Safety, PantherWELL, etc. Walking Escorts Program Partnership with Pitt Public Safety, The Walking Escort Pilot Program is from Sunday-Thursday from 10pm-6am. Leaving from Hillman, an Allied Universal Security officer will walk you to on-campus residence halls, or to a shuttle stop We're looking forward to student feedback on this project, as well as potentially expanding this service to include off-campus students in the future Mental Health Awareness Month Board members Eric Macadangdang and Wellness Committee Chair Duong Events throughout October, beginning Oct. 1st Events include: "Why it Matters" White Board Campaign, SGB Mental Health Town Hall, Self-Care Fair, Open Mic, Open Minds, Mental Health and Intersectionality: A Roundtable Discussion, Movie Screening of "It's Kind of a Funny Story", Speaking event with Kevin Breel, "What is Therapy?" Workshop, Stories Untold: An Art Exhibit, and ended the month will be our Mental Health Vigil General Updates First Bonding with the Board: Oct. 11th at 4 PM in Dining Room B We released a statement today encouraging all interested students to participate in this Friday's Climate Strike, making considerations for class schedule ACC Advocacy Days will be on Oct. 20th-22 8 SGB Members 4 board 2 chairs + 1</p> | |
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| | <p>Thank you so much for having us today!</p> <p>Discussion GAU praised the collegiate readership program BRATMAN asked if access to digital NYTimes is indeed free for students. BROWN: YES, all undergraduates get it.</p> | |
| | <p><u>College of General Studies Student Government (CG SSG)</u> <i>Selena Eisenberg, President</i> EISENBERG introduced herself and then gave a summary of CG SSG plans for the year: Focus on creating legacy (increase existing scholarships or introduce new ones, consider stipends for childcare, create emergency fund) Student leadership conference will be an annual event. This year the whole board is going to Orlando. The last year pilot trip was beneficial to all in attendance. Alumni want to be included in the events on campus. CG SSG plans to open the “Welcome Back Barbecue” to alumni. New initiative is to have 1 event with a speaker per month to engage students in a new way. There was a question from the audience who is the medicine speaker but Eisenberg had no data ready to answer on the spot.</p> | <p>Report and no Discussion</p> |
| | <p><u>Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)</u> <i>Rachel Coombs, President</i> YASHAR AUICE introduced himself and presented several announcements on behalf of GPSG: GPSG Board meetings are held on 4th Monday of every month Finance Com meeting led by Yashar Auice occur on the 3rd Monday on each month. Currently they are working to approve budget and help students with the travel grants The first Social event for gradual students has already been held this month. The next event is focused on mental health. <i>The following information about GPSG planned events to be shared with the Senate Council was delivered via mail by Rachel Coombs:</i> GPSG Coffee Hour Stress Down 11 October 2019 Currently, this event is being planned as a coffee hour with a twist. In honor of mental health month, we have scheduled to bring in massage therapists from vita massage to provide 10- minute massages for students between 12:30 and 2:30pm. Additionally, we will have the therapy dogs available between 12pm and 1pm on the patio outside of the William Pitt Union Lower Lounge. Furthermore, the events planning committee is working on activities such as Build Your Own Stress Ball (BYOSB) and looking to bring in University resources to discuss or have information available regarding mental health in general as well as available campus resources. Gradsgiving 27 November 2019</p> | <p>Report and no Discussion</p> |

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| | <p>This will be the second year that GPSG is offering Gradsgiving to specifically accommodate graduate and professional students who are not –or are unable- to go home for the Thanksgiving holiday</p> <p>GPSG MBTI Sessions 03 and 04 December 2019 Dr. Steven Wendall has been kind enough to assist with providing two sessions regarding the Myers Briggs Type Indicator assessment. These sessions will accommodate 60 students (30 each day) where they can learn more about their type and how they can use their indicators within academic and professional spaces.</p> <p>GPSG Holiday Happy Hour 06 December 2019 To end the fall semester, we will have the holiday happy hour. At \$5 a guest, students will get light appetizers, 2 alcoholic beverage tickets, and access games</p> | |
| | <p><u>Schools of the Health Sciences</u></p> <p>Jacob Khan had no report at this time.</p> | <p>No discussion</p> |
| | <p><u>School of the Arts and Sciences Graduate Students Organization (A&S GSO)</u> <i>Anthony Verardi, President</i> It's good to be back! I hope everyone had a restful summer (pause for laughter/scoffs). We had our first A&S GSO meeting just this past Monday, during which time a number of open positions for student representation on A&S governing bodies were filled. We also spent some time going over the Dietrich School's priorities for the year regarding graduate student affairs, chief among them mentoring and mental health, and are happy to see these discussions taking place. Furthermore, I brought up the upcoming dissemination of the Dietrich School Diversity Task Force's internal review of the School, which I look forward to being able to share with A&S Departmental Representatives for their thoughts. Developing a diverse body of faculty, staff, and students on campus is clearly going to be an ongoing endeavor that necessitates time and care as both conversation and practice.</p> <p>Staying on the topic of Diversity and Inclusion, I was pleased to take part in discussions with Senior Vice Chancellor Pam Connelly and Title IX Coordinator Katie Pope, along with GPSG President Rachel Coombs, about graduate student experiences with Titles IX and VII at Pitt. My heartfelt thanks go out to Pam and Katie and the entire ODI team for their attentive consideration and implementation of our feedback; in the time since that meeting, ODI has published a revised flowchart of "What to Expect When Reporting" that I'm hoping will help people more clearly understand what their options are in the</p> | <p>Report and no Discussion</p> |

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| | <p>face of a Title IX or VIII incident.</p> <p>Shifting gears a bit, I know that the University's contract with Sodexo is up for renewal this year and that negotiations will likely be taking place to see what a continued partnership with them, or another potential vendor, would entail. As graduate students, access to food is often left by the wayside in discussions of what matters are most urgent to us as a group, but I'd like to make sure that our voices are represented in these discussions. I've already spoken briefly with Senior Vice Chancellor Greg Scott about this, and hope to see a public avenue for soliciting student commentary on the matter sometime this semester.</p> <p>Finally, in a somewhat unexpected turn, usage of OMET teaching surveys in decision-making at the Dietrich School, particularly with regard to funding and fellowship decisions, was a hot topic of conversation near the close of our meeting. In summary, graduate students would like clarification about how their OMET survey results are being used in their departments, and what kind of guidance is available from the Dietrich School to faculty members who are tasked with analyzing OMET data, particularly given that implicit bias in teaching evaluations by students has been a topic of research since the early 90s (see Peterson et al., 2019 for an overview of scholarship on the subject). I have not had the chance yet to pursue a larger conversation about this matter with my faculty liaisons in the A&S Dean's Office, but plan to make it a priority for the year.</p> <p>Similarly, usage of the GRE in admissions and funding decisions was also discussed alongside OMETs; the common sentiment among A&S constituents is "good riddance." On an anecdotal note, my Department today announced its intent to no longer require or even accept the GRE for admissions and funding decisions. I'm happy to see this push towards greater equity in admissions, particularly on the grounds that it will hopefully allow more applications from historically marginalized populations. This concludes the A&S GSO report, thank you.</p> <p>BONNEAU: We are aware of flaws of OMET surveys as measurement tool and the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee will be looking at this issue.</p> | |
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| <p><u>UPPDA</u></p> <p><i>David Gau, President</i></p> <p>Good afternoon Senate Council members, it is a pleasure to be back with this after my four some years hiatus now as President of the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association. Apologies in advance if I start to ramble, I celebrated the birth my of baby boy Rowan just 3 weeks ago. Thank you again to Chris and Nick for working with UPPDA to bring postdocs to the table. UPPDA represents the 800 some postdoctoral professionals at Pitt, which 70% are within the School of Health Sciences. Our organization is supported by the Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences, the Provost Office, and OIS and we have worked very closely with the Office of Academic Career Development in Health Sciences Nathan Urban Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives.</p> <p>Postdocs are traditionally viewed as a transitional position and serves as a preparatory period for an academic or research career. We have completed graduate school, so we are not quite students anymore, but we also are not faculty or staff, a little bit of a mix of the two. Typically, the position is for 1-2 years, however, there is an increasing trend in duration for the postdoctoral training period.</p> <p>There are some in the room that have heard me discuss initiatives throughout the past decade, and a lot of this might sound familiar. The priority goal of UPPDA for the past few years has been to strengthen the postdoctoral community. I am pleased to report that this year we have made enormous strides towards this goal with many thanks to Dr. Urban for his support. We, for the first time, are able to communicate with all postdocs on campus via email and have seen an increase in attendance by non-health sciences postdocs in all our events, speaking of which, we just held our annual picnic event yesterday to kick of National Postdoc Appreciation Week, which is this week! Something that makes programming for postdocs interesting is the population dynamics. 30% of our postdocs have children which stresses the importance of having family friendly programing, which our picnic is the highlight of for the year. We saw 80 postdocs at the event and totaled almost 180 people total including their family members.</p> <p>Another successful initiative was to bring the postdoc voice to shared governance. Our hope is that postdoc involvement will provide even</p> | No discussion |
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| | <p>more diverse and constructive perspective to support the University's strategic goals and mission. We also hope that we can continue the conversation around postdoc-related needs and concerns on a wider platform.</p> <p>I am also pleased to report that this Friday, to end Postdoc Appreciation Week, we are hosting for the first time a Postdoc Retreat on campus to welcome postdocs to the University and raise awareness of benefits, rights, and resources available to postdocs on campus. Thank you again to Dr. Urban and his office for helping make this event a reality and also thank you to the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, Department of Chemistry, Department of Microbiology and Molecule Genetics, Department of Ophthalmology, Department of Psychiatry, and School of Arts and Sciences for contributing towards the event. The contribution from various schools and centers in addition to the support from the Senior Vice Chancellor, Office of the Provost, and OIS allows us to continue to provide such events to support our postdocs on campus.</p> <p>Thank you again for having us join the shared governance system and I look forward to working with you this academic year.</p> <p>DENMAN: Welcome. Are all postdocs members of UPPDA?</p> <p>GAU: Yes, they are, but in order to reach them we need them to subscribe to our distribution list and that's not an automatic process, they need to opt in.</p> | |
| | <p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Council (SC)</u> <i>Andy Stephany, President</i> Amy Kleebank reported for the Staff Council: Staff Council welcomed 17 new members (90 together) and have now wide representation 10 staff members were recognized by the Chancellor Office for the 2018-2019 including 2 our own members: Karen Steffey and Peter Chambers. Staff Council is hosting the semiannual Safety Crawl on Tuesday October 1. All are welcome to participate and provide feedback Staff Council encourages all to participate in the Pitt Day of Caring on October 18 and also in the Staff and Faculty Appreciation Game this Saturday September is Hunger Action Month therefore, Staff Council is soliciting financial donations to support two Oakland food pantries All are welcome to attend the Staff Council meetings.</p> | <p>No discussion</p> |
| | <p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p> | <p>No reports</p> |

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| <u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u> | No Business |
| <u>Announcements</u> Please join us for the Chancellor reception | Announcements |
| <u>Adjournment</u> | Adjournment at 3:55 pm |

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Malgorzata Fort, Secretary

Members attending:

Aziz, Becker, Bonneau, Bonner, Bratman, Brown, Coombs, Cudd, Eisenberg, Fort, Gallagher, Gau, Gregerson, Goundappa, Guterman, Humphrey, Khan, Kleebank, Kohanbash, Kory, Kucan, Labrinidis, Levine, Molinaro, Peterson, Poljak, Rutenbar, Salcido, Sastry, Stoner, Verardi, Washington, Wilson, Yates

Members not attending:

Agarwal, Buchanich, Conley, Cousins, Dahm, Doty, Gaddy, Infanti, Kanthak, Kaufman, Kaynar, Landsittel, Long, Loughlin, Martin, McGreevy, Mostern, Mulcahy, Mulvaney, Munro, Nelson, Swigonova, Unger, Weinberg

***Excused attendance:**

Bachman, Denman, Kovacs, Sant, Sukits

Others attending:

Aucie, Ayars, Connelly, Golden, Harrell, Harding, Hitter, Jeffrey, Johnson, Jones, Moran, Scott, Seldin, Supowitz, Turner, Walker, Zwick

***Notified Senate Office**