

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
January 24, 2012

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Michael R. Pinsky called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.	The meeting commenced at 3:00 PM
<u>Approval of the Minutes</u> President Pinsky asked for approval of the minutes of the November 29, 2011 Senate Council meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> No new business.	
<u>Report of Senate President, Michael Pinsky</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Community Relations Committee has been working with the administration on a project referred to as “225 acts of caring.” This is an initiative to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh’s founding and will occur throughout the year starting next month. ➤ My participation gave me a certain sense of pride and I want to thank the Community Relations Committee for all the work on this effort. ➤ The Budget Committee met and included a cordial discussion to address issues of concern. Budget Committee Chairman, John Baker will report the specifics to you at this meeting prior to being discussed with the Pitt News or released to others. ➤ On February 10th there will be a luncheon with State Representative Dermody. Those faculty wishing to attend please contact Lori Molinaro in her office. As always faculty involvement in meeting with legislators is extremely important. ➤ Related to the concept of outreach and the involvement of the University of Pittsburgh within Southwestern Pennsylvania and the entire Commonwealth; the chairs of the Commonwealth Relations Committee, Community Relations Committee, and myself met with the Chancellor and his associated Senior Vice Chancellors to develop a strategy for which the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh can represent us to the State in ways that document the importance and vitality of higher education in general and the University of Pittsburgh in particular with regards to funding. ➤ Development of marketing videos, “Pitt Minute” a YouTube type of presentation which would include two people discussing as specific issues or problem occurring within the state or city. Then there will be a statement by one of them about how important the University of Pittsburgh is in addressing these issues. There will then be a voiceover describing factual data that truly documents the role of the University and 	

<p>the impact of the economic vitality of the State. There will be 20 specific vignettes with the first couple being reviewed soon.</p> <p>➤ March 13th is Pitt Day in Harrisburg. I encourage faculty to attend. The buses will be leaving from campus at 7:00 AM and leave Harrisburg late afternoon at 4:30 PM. I think it's important that we represent the University. We took a significant budget cut last year, as did all the state related universities and there is a potential for cuts again this year. Having faculty present is a completely different perspective than students or staff which is important to communicate to legislators.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>Sustainability Sub Committee (SusC) Professor Attilio (Buck) Favorini, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Sustainability Sub Committee developed from an ad hoc recycling committee that was started by Professor Irene Frieze about five years ago. The SusC is comprised of a coalition of faculty, students, and staff that focuses on issues related to sustainability and to change the university culture with regard to conservation, energy, and the environment. ➤ The Sub Committee currently works with the Sustainability Team put together by Facilities Management and is now under the leadership of Laura Zullo in a new office related to energy conservation and under the leadership of Dan Marcinko, the Sustainability Coordinator ➤ The goals to increase conservation have been a success as evidenced by Pitt's ranking in various organizations that publish "green" lists. ➤ Over the last semester we were interested in seeing what transportation was doing relative to hybrid vehicles and bio-fuels. We had a presentation from Kevin Sheehy, the head of transportation, who informed us at one of our meetings of progress occurring, such as, the shuttles run on bio-fuel and transportation has applied for a federal grant to convert them so that they can run on cooking oil. ➤ Expansion of bike racks and parking for motorcycles. ➤ Goal of converting the fleet to natural gas powered or electric vehicles is proceeding slowly because there is a shortage of such vehicles right now. ➤ University obtained a grant to install 5 plug-in stations for electric cars. ➤ There is a study underway to see just who is taking advantage of the free buses and how we can encourage still further use. ➤ We are interested in orienting of all new members of the University community regarding the issues of sustainability and recognition of the LEED buildings including the new freshman dorm on Fifth Avenue which will have a Silver LEED rating. ➤ The new web site will keep the campus community up to date on conservation. Many have signed up for the "read green" program instituted to do away with paper memos that come from the central administration. Many departments receiving new printers have them pre-set to double-sided printing as the default mode, which saves tons of 	

paper every year.

Discussion

- There are 400 faculty who have subscribed to Read Green.
- Pinsky: congratulations to the committee for the work that has been accomplished. Thanks to the administration for the support of this initiative.

Professor Susan Shaiman, Chair; Admission and Student Aid Committee

- Our mission statement is on the web site; we are tasked with making recommendations and review issues related to admissions criteria, admissions trends, recruitment activities, retention efforts, and student financial aid policies and procedures. The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee has reviewed this information and there were no suggested changes to the mission or committee activities.
- Brief update from Dr. Betsy Porter, Director of Admissions/Student Aid.
 - Freshman applications are ahead of where they were last year at the same point in time by nearly 5%.
 - Qualifications of those applying have improved compared to last year, so we are attracting very strong students.
 - very strong interest in the Swanson School of Engineering
- Dr. Porter is retiring effective June 30, 2012. She has been at the helm of Pitt's student recruitment efforts since 1986 and according to the Pitt press release she is "widely credited with elevating the University's status through her shaping of Pitt's undergraduate student population." She has been a supporter of the Senate and the committee and we want to thank her for her service.
- Provost Beeson has formed a search committee for a new chief enrollment officer to replace Dr. Porter and as chair of the University Senate Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid I have been asked to serve on that search committee.
- Over the past several years our committee has been engaged in looking at retention efforts for freshman to sophomore year. Currently Pitt is right around 92-93% retention and would like to increase this to 94%.
 - not only good for freshman but for our students in general by improving recruitment, retaining students, helping them to graduate in a reasonable amount of time.
- We have addressed academic resources.
 - Focusing on academic advising. For example, working with the English Department who are responsible for organizing the composition courses taken by all freshmen in Arts and Sciences. The English Department will advise faculty in developing a writing course. There are certain things that faculty can do to make writing courses stronger and to help our students more.
- We have been working with the new dean of the University's Honors College, Dean Edward Stricker, to involve more faculty as a way to recruit strong High School seniors.
- We have been working with Carrie Sparks in the Provost's office about

best practices for academic issues, such as, identifying students at risk, the types of support services that are available for students.

- We have contacted Dr. Kathy Humphrey and many of her colleagues about student life at Pitt; how freshmen are more connected into the University, such as, Faculty Mentors who are involved in helping freshmen and returning students. We also inform faculty regarding disability resources and services and identifying depression among students link them to services.

Discussion

Pinsky: Thanked the committee and was pleased to see that the application rate and the quality of the applications have increased despite the fact that the tuition has been raised. Despite the recession, it is a pleasure to see that there is an increase in the applicant proportion that are going into the sciences

Smitherman: How does the figure of 92% retention compare with like Universities?

Shaiman: I don't have those numbers.

Frieze: There is a national trend that the number of foreign student admissions in the undergraduate level is increasing. Is Pitt seeing the same trend?

Shaiman: I don't know the numbers.

Baker: The number of foreign students has gone up slightly. This information is on the common data-set on the Pitt website as well as the College Navigator site which is a federal government site.

Professor John J. Baker, Chair, Elections Committee

- We would like to have the elections two weeks earlier this year than we've had in the past. That way they will be completed before finals that include the committees.
- We need people to run for the officer positions for all three officer positions. Michael Pinsky is not eligible to run again and so that's an open office.
- I think it's really important that we have a strong Senate President. Thank You.

Pinsky: The Senate has the ability to actually create change within the University. The Administration looks to the leadership of the Faculty Assembly and the Senate to help with guiding on questions and to support on very important things including the budgets, benefits and welfare, on all of the things that directly touch your lives.

Plant Utilization and Planning Committee; Irene Frieze & Paul Munro

- One of our major activities that we constantly monitor is construction and renovations. We toured some of the newly renovated areas; the O'Hara Student Center (former Concordia Club). We toured the Chevron Science Center and viewed the renovations. We look forward to touring some other areas such as the Langley/Crawford renovations this semester.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pitt has been doing well in terms of LEED certification and we now have three Gold LEED buildings on campus and that is new. ➤ Pitt was featured in the Princeton Review as one of the sustainable campuses. ➤ We have also discussed in committee how decisions are made about renovations as some buildings that have not been renovated for a long time and faculty have the ability to provide input. There is a 12 year plan in place which goes through 2018. ➤ Book Store renovations. Pat Weiss has been working with that. The administration conducted a survey on the mypitt.edu Portal and we had over 100 responses. There will be a column summarizing the results in this coming weeks University Times. ➤ Continuing issue of traffic in Oakland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enhanced lighting installed on Bigelow Blvd last year ○ There will be a new traffic signal by the new dorm on 5th Avenue ➤ Building accessibility: assuring access to persons with disabilities as well as evacuation policies, and security issues. ➤ Facilities provide information such as the landscaping department which has improved the quality of the gardening around campus. ➤ Recent discussion on study space for students for collaborative work and study at late hours. ➤ Concerns regarding the PAT buses due to many complaints that they are overcrowded and faculty and students being passed up by buses requiring long waits in bad weather resulting in late arrivals for class and meetings. <p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business: Ms. Annabelle Clippinger, Director, Pitt Arts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Started at Pitt 15 years ago and work extensively with the faculty community including the Cheap Seats program. ➤ Arts Encounters program: students have an opportunity to participate in 110 different Arts outings and free to students. ➤ Pitt Arts has a relationship with student retention as indicated on the surveys we conduct with students. 	
<p><u>Announcements.</u></p> <p>February 21, 2012 next Faculty Assembly February 29, 2012 next Senate Council Meeting <u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM</p>	

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Associate Professor, GSPH
Senate Secretary
February 17, 2012

Members attending:

Baker, Balaban, Beatty, Beck, Bircher, Bonneau, Burkoff, Chaiklin, Clermont, Close, Costantino, Fabian, Flynn, Frank, Frieze, Galloway, Hartman, Kane, Kovacs, Lin, Looney, Lyon, Miller, Molinaro, Muenzer, Munro, Neft, Neufeld, Pinsky, Sereika, Shaiman, Skledar, Smith, Smitherman, Smolinski, Song, Tananis, Terry, Weiss, Wendell, Withiam

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Buchanich, Chiarulli, Cohen, Daley, Feuer, Gallagher, Greenberg, Hravnak, Pan, Rougeux, Savinov, Steinberg, Towers

*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Becker, Berkowitz, Caldwell, Chase, Constantino, Culley, Gaddy, Gleason, Harbert, Kear, Kearns, Kelly, Labrinidis, Lunsford, Majumdar, Redmond, Rickman, Savoia, Singh, Slimick, Spring, Sukits, Wilson

Others attending:

DeJong, Fedele, Hart

*Notified Senate Office