

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Michael Spring at 3:03 PM.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:03PM.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the January 21, 2015 Senate Council Meeting</u> The minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No new items were raised.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u> Four items were addressed in the Chancellor’s message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a strategic framework as the foundation for how we move forward, • building strong and creative partnerships, • engaging internally in new ways to explore how working together can make us stronger, and • fostering a culture of diversity that provides for a richer learning environment <p>I. Strategic Framework</p> <p>A formal process for developing a detailed set of plans for the road ahead has been undertaken. Part of that process has been a detailed environmental scan across the University and our stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board of Trustees ○ My Senior Leadership Team ○ Council of Deans ○ PBC Representatives ○ Faculty Assembly ○ Allegheny Conference ○ And the students of all campuses <p>The Chancellor thanked Dave DeJong for spearheading these efforts. They have learned a great deal and made great progress. Four main areas have echoed throughout the conversations we’ve been having: financial stability; operational efficiency; technology; and diversity. This work will serve as the foundation on which we build, and progress has been good. After months of listening, and systematic evaluation the team is starting to detail the strategic plan. Details will be shared. He noted that as we enter the next phase of this process, they will continue to do so with the same diligence and engagement that has proven so valuable in our progress so far.</p> <p>II. Partnerships</p> <p>Pitt is a great university, and a great university should aspire to tackle the biggest problems and answer the most difficult questions. In doing so we have to work with others around us if we are going to succeed. Working together we will make the biggest difference. While this means increasing collaboration across the University, it will also mean thinking creatively about how we build strong and lasting relationships with other academic institutions, all branches of our government, non-profit organizations,</p>	<p>No comments were raised for the Chancellor.</p>

philanthropies, and businesses. Business and commerce is a good example of partnership. Pitt has a strong track record establishing, building and maintaining relationships across the University.

An example occurred last month and this was shared: The Innovation Institute announced a partnership with **Impellia**. Impellia is a wellness, fitness and rehabilitation-focused company, founded by a group of partners which include former Pittsburgh Steeler and local businessman Charlie Batch. Through this partnership, three Pitt innovations are closer to becoming viable products and businesses. Among them is interACTION, a tool that allows physical therapists to increase the number of patients they can treat, while also improving the analysis of data generated by patients as they complete the exercises outlined in their rehab plans. The tool was developed by Kevin Bell, Michael McClincy, and James Irrgang of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Robert Hartman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with the help of Alumnus Bernard Bechara.

While developing new partnerships is a priority, the Chancellor noted that he recognizes the importance of maintaining the relationships that we already have. One particularly important traditional relationship is the one we have with Harrisburg. He has met with the Governor, and is confident that he will be a willing and supportive partner in the future. He has also met with members of both the House and Senate. There are many areas of mutual interest, and have heard loud and clear the support for the importance of Pitt to the continued economic development of the region and state.

To that end, the Chancellor reminded everyone that Pitt Day will take place on March 4th. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to flood the halls of the Capitol Blue and Gold, as we demonstrate the tremendous value Pitt brings to Pennsylvania. The last day to register is this Friday. I invite you to join current me, students, faculty, staff, and alumni in Harrisburg for what should be a great day. You can find more information at www.alumni.pitt.edu.

III. Internal Engagement

While thinking creatively about our partnerships outside the University, it is equally important that we are engaging within the Pitt family, to support each other as we reach new heights and tackle our biggest challenges.

For example later in today's meeting we will be hearing the report of the ad hoc committee on non-tenure stream faculty. In reading the report, the Chancellor was pleased to see that the committee endorses the proactive efforts of the schools and campuses to better define and recognize the important work of this valued component of our faculty, and in fact holds up our practices as a model for other institutions. This committee's report is another example of a positive collaboration that advances the University. We are a model for other institutions. This committee was thanked for their work.

The Pitt family extends beyond our campuses, and he noted that we have been reaching out to our Alumni for their help in enhancing the lifelong relationship the University strives to build with our students. The Chancellor noted that he was recently in New York, and sat down with an impressive group of some of our most successful young alumni. Their desire to reconnect with PITT and their great ideas and enthusiasm for our

future was inspiring.

Earlier this month, he hosted Chancellor's weekend, where he learned a great deal from some of our most impressive alumni. Over the course of the weekend, Doug Browning, Kathryn Bryson, Louis Fox, James Kopelman, Mary Grace Tighe, Darla Twale, and Bob Wells and their guests provided some outstanding suggestions. He noted that we will continue to engage our Alumni in how we ensure that the Pitt experience is a lifelong experience.

One of the new ways we our students are engaging the Pitt family that he is particularly excited about is EngagePitt™. EngagePitt™ is a platform that allows students to tap the pipeline of online crowdfunding to support worthy causes, organizations, and ideas here at Pitt. EngagePitt™ was launched in December with three pilot projects:

- Pitt Crew successfully raised \$6,090, 121% of their goal of \$5,000 to fund the purchase of new boats.
- The Pitt Society of Women Engineers raised \$2,351, 117% percent of their goal of \$2,000 to fund their spring outreach events which encourage women to pursue careers in STEM.
- The Black Action Society has already raised \$2,130, 42% of their goal of \$5,000 to fund their spring speaker panel which will bring speakers to campus to promote the discussion of diversity. Their campaign runs through the end of February.

Their campaign, as well as three others launched just last month, can be found at www.engage.pitt.edu. Please keep an eye out for the launch of others as we begin expand the availability of the platform, and promote its use throughout the University.

Fostering an environment of collaboration will provide the strength we need to tackle some of our biggest challenges. Last week the Chancellor sent an important message to our community about maintaining a campus environment where sexual violence is prevented and addressed responsibly. Sexual violence has no place in our university. It is counter to the very culture of openness and learning that we seek to establish, it is counter to our values to respect every individual, and it undermines the safety and well-being of the members of our university community. It was noted that while we must do everything we can to prevent sexual violence, we must educate ourselves on the moral and legal responsibilities we have when confronted with it. Both faculty and students to visit share.pitt.edu to do your duty as a responsible member of our community and familiarize yourself with the resources available to inform and educate yourselves on how you can prevent sexual violence, and what your responsibilities are should you be confronted by it. A new only program called Preventing Discrimination and Sexual Violence: Title IX, VAWA, and the Clery Act will soon be available to all faculty and staff. When it becomes available, your participation is critical to building a safe learning environment for all.

IV. Diversity

A culture of diversity is the cornerstone of education. Different perspectives, backgrounds, cultures and opinions are what drive learning. It is of the utmost importance that we strive to foster this culture, and to celebrate our diversity as one of our greatest strengths. As you know, this month is Black History Month. The celebration

<p>has expanded to many different facets of the university. There have been many successful events already. If you haven't already, he hopes we get the chance to see one of our student flash mob art performances designed to celebrate Black History Month and spark discussion in the community about the value of our diversity.</p> <p>Other events to come:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lecture by Tricia Rose titled "Fighting Racism in a Color-Blind Era" on February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the Seventh-Floor Auditorium of Alumni Hall. • A lecture by our own David Harris, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Pitt Law Professor, titled "The Collision of Race and Criminal Justice: Lessons from the Aftermath of Ferguson" on February 25th at Noon in room 2017 in the Cathedral of Learning. <p>V. Recognition</p> <p>While it is never surprising when our faculty and students continue to receive recognition for their work, one of the best parts the Chancellor noted of his job is to share these success stories. Highlights were shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier this month we announced the creation of the Live Like Lou Center for ALS Research. Neil and Suzanne Alexander have pledged to raise \$2.5 million, half of the initial funding required to establish the Center. • In 2011 after Neil was diagnosed with ALS, the Alexanders' founded Live Like Lou at the Pittsburgh Foundation. The Alexanders' chose Pitt because of our history of neuroscience research, and success translating research into solutions for some of our greatest health challenges. The Center will be located in Pitt's Brain Institute and we couldn't be prouder to be a part of the race to treat and hopefully someday cure this disease. • Last month, we learned that Dr. Laurie Sanders, assistant professor of neurology, will receive \$300,000 for winning the William N. & Bernice E. Bumpus Foundation Innovation Award to support her research investigating the underlying causes of Parkinson's disease. • Dr. Robert Brandom, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy has won a 2015 Anneliese Maier Research Award. The award includes about \$300,000, a portion of which Dr. Brandom plans to use to fund the research of young philosophy researchers. <p>The Chancellor ended by calling attention to the Honors Convocation, which will take place on February 28th. He invited all to join as we celebrate more of the outstanding achievements of our faculty and students.</p>	
<p>Report of Senate President, Michael B. Spring</p> <p>The report was brief report this month given the number of committee motions before us today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the 2015 Senate Elections: While there has been a good response, please remember to consider the potential of running for an office or a Senate Standing 	<p>No comments were raised on the President's report.</p>

<p>Committee. Nominations, including self-nominations should be in by the end of February. President Spring noted that he has learned a lot in the last year and a half and have enjoyed the process of welcoming Chancellor Gallagher to the University, he has decided that I will not be a candidate for a third term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The administration continues to work on regulatory and other matters facing us. We all received the Chancellor’s memo regarding sexual violence and your responsibilities. It is expected that we will be moving on other areas in the near future – reporting of travel abroad, development of joint library related issues with CMU, compliance with the PA child protection laws and revision of the agreement documents pertaining to the optional two year phase out retirement. Finally, the Senate has appointed representatives to several new committees and taskforces being convened by the Provost. While all of these efforts are of importance, we are very interested in the committee that will be exploring new policies related to intellectual property. • The Executive Committee, under the able leadership of Dr. Tom Smitherman continues to engage in discussions about realignment of existing committees and creation of new committees that might help us to better meet our responsibilities in shared governance. Our research funding, graduate programs, and scope is much different than when the Senate committees were created in the 1950’s. This will involve extensive discussions with Assembly and with the various standing committees to get input and suggestions. A new tab has been created on the Senate website to gather your thoughts and comments on possible reorganization of the Senate Standing Committees. • Regarding Standing and Ad Hoc Committees: We had reports this month from the Ad Hoc committee on Non-tenure Stream Faculty as well as the Standing Committees on Educational Policies, and Tenure and Academic Freedom. We had to postpone a report from Benefits and Welfare as well as our opening discussion of standing committee responsibilities. • March 18, 2015: There will be a Spring Senate Plenary session. The Plenary will be a dialog with the Chancellor and university leadership and faculty on the current and future state of the University. More details to come on this event. 	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board:</u> Graeme Meyer, President</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Personnel: Since we last met the board appointed all remaining committee chairs and standing committee members aside from the Community Outreach Committee Chair. We are discussing that position currently for Summer work. II. Events: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Panther Leadership Summit was a great success. Several hundred students attended. b. Pitt Day in Harrisburg is coming up on March 4th c. ACC Advocacy Summit will be from March 15th – 17th in Washington, DC 	<p>No comments were raised for the student member leaders.</p>

III. Project Updates:

- a. Board Member Heidecker has made great headway on the initiative to provide student organizations direct deposit for their reimbursements. We require all student organization money to be held in the SORC account so we are trying to make it more accessible for the students. Also they are currently identifying stops for a northern New Jersey bus home.
- b. Board Member Harun is serving as Speaker of the Assembly to bring in more student input. She has been meeting with Allie Chornick, Scott Hoffman, Gina Scozzaro, and Terri Milani to finish the conversation about a new student organization management software.
- c. Board Member Green and Facilities and Transportation Cahir Anand has been looking at the guest sign in process and policy. The software upgrade over winter break resulted in slower performance indicating a need to upgrade the hardware (computers).

IV. New Website for the Student Government Board (SGB) has been created. We have seen significant traffic on this site. We will be launching a new area called “what to fix PITT” to capture student ideas for improvement.

V. Allocations: We have had \$126,735.01 this semester for distribution to student organizations.

VI. Task Force Updates:

- a. **Assembly Task Force** – Added two new groups to the Assembly (Rainbow Alliance and Campus Women’s Organization)
- b. **Marketing and Brand Task Force** – Met with Shawn Ahearn to discuss promotion of SGB and improvements to Student Affairs websites.
- c. **Traditions Committee** – Holding an at large meeting the Sunday before Spring break.

VII. Undergraduate Research Travel Grants: **8** more since we last met; **40** have been approved this academic year. Each recipient earns \$250 towards travel to and from a conference where they are presenting their research.

College of Graduate Studies: Kim O’Connor

The 2nd annual free-food-frenzy was held for faculty, staff, students and alumni. The event was a success. A scholarship workshop was held also, primarily attended by CGS students, to help find scholarships, review how to apply, and how to interview. We are encouraging all students to apply for the college-specific scholarships, and also awards. This Friday 2/20, a Call to Leadership event is being held to encourage student leadership by CGS students.

Report of Graduate and Professional Student (GPSG): David Gau

The GPSG is currently in the midst of GPSG executive board campaigning and elections. We will have the new board elected by next Senate Council meeting and they will officially take place May 1st.

In light of this, David presented a reflection of what we have accomplished in the two years. The Graduate and Professional Student Government represents the just under 10,000 graduate and professional students here on campus from the 14 graduate and professional schools. "In my mind, GPSG is the mechanism which connects the graduate schools from what normally are seen as, and I know we dislike this word, silos. We bridge this gap by offering the following services: programming for all graduate students, funding for graduate student organizations, bi-monthly bulletins, travel grants, and representation on University committees. He reflected that we are on the wave of a paradigm shift in graduate student philosophy. It used to be that graduate students were operating in a mode of "individual." Now, I see many students operating in what I call "community" mode. These students are asking what else can I do while I am here? One of the large influencers for this I believe is societal. Students going through the education system are told that more is better, extracurricular engagement is necessary to get to the next step. Another reason for change can be the changing job prospect for graduate students. It is much different. It could be that job prospects are worse for graduate students or that the types of jobs available for graduate students have shifted. Regardless, graduate students as a whole are seeking to diversify their experience more so today than ever."

To address this change, GPSG has undergone a large-scale community initiative which started before David became a part of the organization. This effort was assisted by many key players such as Vice Provost of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sbragia, and Stephanie Hoogendoorn from the Provost Office for supporting and guiding some of our efforts. To promote this sense of community on the graduate level, we began a University-wide Orientation for all graduate and professional students. This orientation is primarily a resource fair and we offer snacks, campus tours, and a welcome social event. Last year, we had over 500 attendees. We will offer this orientation again on August 24 (the Monday before classes start), from 1pm–4 pm, either with a formal agenda, or as in the past as a resource fair, or a combination of both.

Another initiative is the Pitt Trailblazers. It is similar to Pitt Pathfinders, but geared toward graduate students. This has provided over 100 tours per year for prospective graduate and professional students. The group is completely staffed by student volunteers and supported partially by some of the graduate and professional schools. The support received is primarily used to fund a small token of appreciation for the volunteers and Pitt gear.

As part of our efforts, they have also greatly expanded on the type of programming they provide. Historically, GPSG has been very good at hosting large-scale social events. This year, they have built out events that are not purely social. Panthers and Politics is one example of an event which we kicked off last month with Chancellor Gallagher. The purpose of this event is to educate graduate students on state and federal policy and how to get involved with the process. Another event is the joint SGB and GPSG effort to host TedX. Aside from policy and academic related events, a concerted effort has been made to support the Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development. While this new center is primarily focused on doctoral and postdoctoral students, resources and tools that they develop for those students to be easily translated for all graduate students. Along this line, GPSG has supported and will continue to host events related to the online resource, VersatilePhD, which provides stories from individuals with PhDs but end up in a career field very different from their academic training. A panel discussion will be hosted during Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week, which is April 6 – 10 this year on career and professional development. Efforts to diversify the types of events have paid off. This year, the GPSG events has reached about 1500 unique students at our events.

<p>David noted that we are still far from seeing the full potential of this graduate community which is still in its infancy. One area which there is a lot of opportunity for the future is <i>community engagement</i>. Students from each of the graduate schools regularly engage with the community from activities ranging from donations to education, like School of Law, Pharmacy, and Dental. We wonder what would happen if all students work together, or if schools work together? The GPSG is still looking to develop more meaningful interactions between graduate and undergraduate students which I think will naturally cultivate these joint efforts.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC):</u> Rich Colwell, President Lindsay Rodzicz, Program Administrator</p> <p>Committees have been very busy since our last report. The SAC announced that two brown bag sessions will be held this Spring: March 19th (employee discounts) and April 16th (medical benefits). Both are being held from 12-1pm in the WPU Assembly Room. Also, a staff development assembly will be held in May 19th at the WPU focused on professional development for staff at the University, with Chancellor Gallagher speaking at the event.</p>	<p>No comments were raised for SAC.</p>
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees</u></p> <p><i>NTS Faculty Issues Ad Hoc Committee (Professor Irene Frieze, Chair)</i></p> <p>The final report from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on NTS Faculty was presented to Faculty Assembly on Feb 10, 2015. The report's recommendations (page 2) all were passed individually with no opposition. For recommendation 1 and 5, the vote was unanimous; for 2, there were 3 abstentions; for 3, there was 1 abstention; for 4, there were 2 abstentions.</p> <p>Professor Frieze reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting for ~ 1 year and has been reviewing many practices in the university for NTS. The Administration has also been working on these issues as well; this is a collaborative effort. She noted that the Committee also sees PITT as a model for NTS faculty recognition, and there are still items that need to be brought to the attention of the university. Our motions are with that spirit. Our full-time NTS faculty, which are the majority of the faculty, continues to be new information to many. A show of hands for NTS faculty revealed the significant membership on the Senate Council. It is a large group of our faculty. It is a group that many of our institutional policies have not recognized. These faculty perform many different tasks across many units, including teaching, research, and administration. Many of them do a lot of service work and leadership roles. Each unit has great independence with how they treat their NTS faculty, including titles, contract lengths, job duties, salary, annual review process, career tracks, incentives, promotion procedure, and emeritus criteria. The Committee has five recommendations on the report (paraphrased below, see link above for full report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear policies for appointment, review and promotion should be available to all in the unit • Career tracks or paths should be considered for career promotion • Annual review process should occur and include specific mention of duties for coming year • Incentive structure should be created • Decision-making at the unit level should be revisited to see if decisions should be made centrally at the University. 	

Spring: Any comments/discussion? (none) Can we call the question?
Frieze: All in favor? All approved except for one abstention.

Professor Frieze also reviewed recommendations for the future and committee considerations for existing senate Committees. The group will continue to meet to fulfil its two years of work and it will be revisited once the two years timeframe expires for the Ad Hoc Committee structure.

Educational Policies Committee (Professors Bonnie Falcione and Zsuzsa Horvath, Co-Chairs)

The resolution from the [Educational Policies Committee](#) was presented at Faculty Assembly on Feb. 10, 2015. There were 56 voting members in attendance, the resolution passed with one opposed and one abstention. Professor Spring noted that we should do all we can to provide adequate information to students as they choose to take a course. He noted that it is a shame that it is not all visible to students.

Professor Horvath updated the group on this resolution. She summarized the background for the resolution. The resolution was prompted by student request to have more information available at the time of course registration. The Educational Policies Committee concluded that students should have access to up-to-date and more meaningful information prior to registration. The resolution aims to address the issue that course descriptions and other information available to students prior to registration is sometimes not sufficient and not always up-to-date. The EPC thanked the faculty for the feedback received on the recommendation during the January Faculty Assembly meeting and also via the Senate webpage. The EPC took the feedback to heart and revised the resolution before you today. As we worked on the revision, we received further input from the provost liaisons serving on our committee (Vice-Provosts Manfredi and Sbragia). They guided our revisions with feasibility of the implementation at the provost level in mind. As the resolution is reviewed today, please keep in mind a few words:

- The committee felt it was important to recognize the problem
- The committee is asking the provost to work with individual units to address it
- The committee would like to acknowledge the challenges that may arise during implementation and
- The committee would like to offer any support to the provost that would be helpful for the implementation

Spring: During discussions, faculty talked about this stifling creativity and that some information may not be appropriate to share. He noted that we should be able to provide better and more comprehensive data to our students. The length of database field should be longer so more information can be accessible.

Meyer: The push to release OMET information has been from students for a while. They are not looking to have information on all aspects of OMET. Students want to know how the course is taught, as students are different types of learners, and that is the main type of information students look for. The simple paragraph we have now is sometimes not enough and the Academic Affairs Committee will continue to work with the professors on providing more information.

Spring: We need to find the best way to do this. Let's call the question.
The resolution passed in a unanimous vote.

The NTS report passed with all approving and one abstention.

The EPC resolution passed unanimously.

<u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u> No new business was introduced.	None.
<u>Announcements:</u> No announcements were made.	None.
<u>Adjournment:</u> President Spring adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.	Adjournment at 4:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Skledar, RPh, MPH, FASHP
 Senate Secretary
 Associate Professor of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy
 Department of Pharmacy & Therapeutics

Members attending:

Beeson, Colwell, Fort, Frieze, Gallagher, Gau, Goodhart, Green, Groark, Harun, Hughes, Humphrey, Juhl, Kear, Levine, Meyer, Molinaro, Murphy, O'Connor, Ramicone, Richey, Rodzwick, Rosen, Savoia, Skledar, Smith, Smitherman, Spring, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Ataai, Brubach, Buchanich, Caldwell, Clark, Dewar, Erickson, Fusco, Gibson, Hravnak, Karp, Kearns, Kory, Lewicka, Lin, McKinney, Morel, Mulcahy, Munro, Nisnevich, Novy, Ramsey, Ritter, Savinov, Shafiq, Slimick, Smolinski, Weinberg

*Excused attendance:

Alarcon, Burkoff, Cauley, Kovacs, Miller, Poloyac, Sukits, Supowitz

Others attending:

Ackerman, Balaban, Becker, Bonner, Cahalane, Falcione, Frisch, Harding, Horvath, Johnson, Moore, Olanyk, Sahani, Service, Tananis, Walker, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office