

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Frank Wilson.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced at 3:01 pm.</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the December 9 , 2015 Senate Council Meeting</u> Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No new items were raised.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p>The Chancellor distributed a summary report (available on Senate Website) and provided additional highlights at the meeting.</p> <p>Additional highlights included: The Chancellor noted that we still do not have a state budget. The reason we do not have an appropriation is not because of funding or support for that, but because of widespread agreement on other issues and our agreement is not moving forward. Timing is unresolved. Next week is the session, and if not then, it will be March. In December, we decided to move on and the Board of Trustees passed the University budget and did salary pull and other processes. We are operating without our appropriation, due to good management of the University's finance. We are using our cash reserves to cover this; our long-term finances are being eroded. This has real consequences, and hopefully it will resolve soon.</p> <p>Pitt has risen to unexpected challenges this year and made them our own, and continued to succeed in education, research and service to the community. The Strategic Plan is getting in to the nuts-and-bolts phase, which is exciting. This energy and activity will be normal and ongoing. Last week, a Facilities Masterplan Committee was charged with making a look-ahead for the University/neighborhood and planning facility needs for the future. Board presentation is planned for February 2017.</p> <p>Last weekend was Dr. Martin Luther King Day, and it was a special holiday of reflection on a person whose service and sacrifice has meant much. It is a day of service. Over 700 students, staff, faculty, and alumni participated in events on Monday. Student Affairs had a full slate of activities to support Dr. King and worked with the theme of Diversity and Inclusion with our university offices. The Chancellor is visiting alumni in San Francisco next week. Pennsylvania is the #1 state with PITT alumni, followed by Florida and California.</p> <p>The Chancellor highlighted several faculty, student, and research accomplishments of the University, including institutional recognition. He also shared information on the Year of the Humanities, and recognition by faculty for their work in writing, music, and film. Our fine arts program is commendable. He also noted that PITT will be hosting our Winter Academy in Florida about health sciences education, focusing on aging.</p> <p><u>Discussion/Questions:</u> Frieze: It is nice to see the staff and alumni recognized on the handout. Thank you.</p>	<p>Comments are noted below.</p>

Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson

President Wilson welcomed the new year that has begun at full speed with new and continuing challenges, tasks, opportunities, and “I hate to say it”—disappointment. Disappointment, he confessed, is a euphemism to describe his own feelings about the current state of the State Budget. He noted, “Anger comes much closer. Shame on our state’s politicians who, for ideological reasons, basic ineptitude, or some combination of both, have put Pennsylvania near the bottom of the list in terms of support for public education at every level! While we at Pitt can weather this kind of storm, at least for a while, it is unconscionable that school districts throughout the commonwealth are being crippled as they struggle to avoid bankruptcy and closure. For the good of Pennsylvania youth, our own students, citizens in need, and the fiscal health and reputation of the Commonwealth and its communities, this irresponsible behavior must somehow stop or be stopped. Meanwhile, we at Pitt must continue moving forward, taking our strategic planning process to the next level—discussing and evaluating emerging initiatives as we come closer to implementation of new and renewed programs and organizational efforts. Our duty as the Senate, of course, is to demonstrate how to do this together, sharing the work and governance.”

Among the specific and practical ways that Strategic Planning momentum is now happening include the following:

1. The Strategic Planning Working Groups adding more direct student representation, and appropriate Senate committees being formally linked with those five groups. Student, staff, and faculty did have opportunities to actively participate from the beginning, and many did so, but this new phase represents a deeper commitment to broader and more robust engagement by all of us. The opportunities for that engagement will soon come through campus wide events, large and small, designed to enable substantive interaction between all parties.
2. The upcoming work of the Facilities Master Plan Committee and the review of the University Planning and Budgeting System that is now being initiated. These are not new initiatives, but ongoing practices that will hopefully only work more efficiently and effectively than ever. More will be heard from these efforts in the coming months, but both, again, represent examples of how we accept the shared responsibilities of keeping Pitt both physically and fiscally sound.
3. The continuing work of the Diversity and Inclusion Council that has been responding to the Chancellor’s call to directly address those important issues. President Wilson noted that this is the kind of group is one he loves to be part of. One that knows that the problems being faced are clear and the solutions are not, but one in which the people who are addressing those problems are motivated, filled with creative ideas, and truly representative. We will be giving our initial progress report to the Chancellor soon, and the rest of you will be hearing much more from us soon thereafter.

The Senate’s standing and ad hoc committees continue their important work with a renewed awareness that we should be doing it in a more connected and collaborative way than ever before.

After our Faculty Assembly meeting last snowy Tuesday (the one where President Wilson

No comments or questions were raised.

made it just in time to witness the end of the question and answer session after an obviously interesting, informative, and well received presentation by Associate Vice Chancellor Pam “Title 9” Connolly, and then officially adjourn the meeting), there was a pre-Plenary event that was well-attended in spite of the horrible weather. Michael Madison from the School of Law had the attendees consider academic freedom in the context of research, scholarship, invention, ownership, copyright, intellectual property, and governance. The presentation was stimulating, the following discussion was lively and revealing, and it seemed like everyone was glad to have been there. As we move closer to the March 30th Plenary, President Wilson noted that he is confident that we have made an appropriate choice for its topic, and that Hank Reichman will prove to be appropriate choice for our main speaker. My special thanks to Seth Weinberg and the rest of the planning committee for their ongoing efforts.

In conclusion, more faculty and staff now know and accept that Pitt is in the midst of change—not a complete makeover or redo—but a significant cultural change nonetheless. Some think that change is happening too fast, some think that change is not happening fast enough. There will surely be tension, there will also be debate, but if the tension can be creative and the debates principled and meaningful, most of us will be glad to have been part of the process, and the institution will be stronger for it.

Report of Student Members of Senate Council

Student Government Board (SGB)
Nasreen Harun, President

Nasreen reported that the semester is off to a great start, and SGB will be finishing up some initiatives that started, while looking into the most effective ways to transition some of the more long-term goals to future leadership. It is 100 days away from graduation so the end of the year is close!

Internal Updates: Last week, SBG had their first-ever SGB-at-large meeting with Board Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members in one room to discuss our various initiatives. The purpose was to have everyone feel a little bit more connected to what’s going on internally and that everyone left with a better sense of what’s to come from SGB this semester.

The election candidate packets are available in the SGB office and are due this upcoming Monday, so this has been being promoted. This packet determines a student’s eligibility to run in our election which will be on March 1st.

Last night, SBG passed a bill to amend the Travel Grant Fund. The edit stated that SGB will only be providing three grants for the same conference per semester. They are hoping that since this fund is allocated on a rolling basis, by implementing a unique conference cap we would not have to penalize students whose conferences are later in the semester as that date selection is out of their control.

Other Updates: SGB had around 1000 students doing community service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr this Monday which was an amazing experience. Board Member Lia Petrose has worked with a few other student organizations to bring a Year of Humanities sponsored event to campus this week. This Friday, SGB will be showing Poverty Inc. at 4:30pm in Frick Fine Arts. The movie is about the negative effects of international aid and one of the filmmakers, Mark Weber, will be answering questions and talking more about the movie after the screening. Board Member Matt Sykes is working with a few other students

No questions or discussion occurred.

from the Honors College and Mental Health minded student organizations to put on another Mental Health Art Gallery from February to March in Frick Fine Arts. This gallery was a success in the fall and the submissions for this semester are due this Friday as well. It will be an expanded gallery and the new pieces that will be showcased. Lastly, as the date for Pitt Day in Harrisburg has been set, SGB is working to promote the event amongst students and get them to come with us to the Capitol and talk to legislators.

Frieze: She noticed the comfort dogs in the Cathedral and noted that students are receiving these positively.

College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG)

Julia Helgert, President

The semester started off on a good note at the Student Activities Fair on January 7th! Council members had a good time talking to students, telling them about CGS majors and certificates, and had many students sign up to receive more information about CGSSG.

For the first event of the semester, CGSSG is hosting a student-alumni social networking mixer on Friday, January 29th from 6-8pm. The theme is "Monte Carlo Night at CGS" and will feature blackjack, roulette, and a number wheel. Gameplay is free and you can win tickets/tokens to redeem for prizes. It will be a fun packed night with music, food, and games!

CGS has finalized our CGS Year of the Humanities Event: *Humanities in Continuing Education*. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 23rd and will have three parts:

1. An Osher Lifelong Learning sponsored lecture on Baroque Art
2. A student/alumni panel on the role of humanities in professional lives
3. A CGS/Office of Veteran Services, and Osher Institution of Lifelong Learning student visual art exhibition. CGS students are encouraged to submit their works of art, be it photographs, videos, paintings, etc.

Overall, they are trying to draw attention to our unique population of students and their relationship to the humanities. CGS just hired a writing tutor, April Flynn, to complement our math tutoring. April teaches in the English department here at Pitt. Lastly, CGS continues to make progress with the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and our committee's goal is to present at the February 17 Senate Council meeting.

Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG):

Joe Kozak, President, GPSG

Joe reported that the GPSG has undergone a change in the executive board leadership. Andrew Topp was introduced as the new Vice President for Programming. He is taking over with years of experience on the Event Planning Committee and the entire Executive board is excited to have him join us. Andrew will continue the work the committee has started and hopes to host numerous events that include going to the Blue Man Group, a screening of the PhD Comic's movie, Spring Formal, and Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week. With respect to our goals, Joe reported that GPSG has reached 13% (1300 students) of the graduate and professional student body. Our goal is 20% for the year, and they appreciate everyone's support promoting our events in the coming months.

The GPSG has finalized the analysis of the data from the Graduate and Professional Student Climate Survey. The survey totaled 665 responses, a record for survey results, and they

<p>appreciate and acknowledge the support from the Provost's office and the Associate Deans from each individual school. They will be presenting this data at the Student Affairs and Admissions Committee in the coming days.</p> <p>To follow up last meeting, the GPSG is in collaboration with SGB to organize the TedX talks. Last week, they were granted their license and are now starting the process to recruit speakers. They are hoping to partner with various units in Pitt to make this event a much larger success. Overall around the graduate community, the Dental school is sending 40 students to present at the regional conference (majority of graduate students), and they are launching their new initiative for health and wellness with: Wellness Wednesdays. And finally, the Turkish and Iranian graduate groups partnered with the local communities and CMU to put on a joint music and cultural festival. They had over 500 individuals attend over the 3 days in Carnegie Music Hall. The Turkish student association is planning another joint event with Hillel and the Nationality rooms entitled: "Bridging Turkey and Israel". They will be bringing a speaker in to speak to the public and will have tours of the nationality room.</p> <p>They have opened a call for candidates for the Executive Board. Joe will not be serving as President next year, and GPSG is formally recruiting candidates to run for office.</p> <p><i>Dominique Johnson, President, Graduate Student Organization, Arts & Sciences</i> (no update)</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC):</u> <i>Rich Colwell, President</i> <i>Andy Stephany, Member</i> SAC website: www.sac.pitt.edu.</p> <p>SAC would like to express appreciation of the one-time supplement payment in the December paychecks even without a definitive State appropriation. SAC also appreciates the additional money for the low end staff in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. Staff raises are always in a race with inflation and the additional 0.5% will help make a difference. We would like to see happen annually when possible. We do question if that is enough to keep dedicated staff here at Pitt, though when compared to other employment opportunities. Our goal is to attract and retain quality staff - competitive compensation is part of that equation.</p> <p>Debora Whitfield has been appointed to serve as the External Relations committee's Vice Chair.</p> <p>We are working with Parking and Transportation and the Pitt Police on the findings of our Campus Crawl in October. SAC noted that the campus is already seeing fixes: a hazardous raised sidewalk outside of the Cathedral of Learning has been repaired due to our reporting.</p> <p>SAC has organized a Brown Bag event titled "Pedestrians, Bicycles, and Automobiles: Transportation Safety in Oakland". There are three presenters: Dan Yablonsky from Bike Pittsburgh, Pitt Police Officer Guy Johnson, and Kevin Sheehy, Director of Parking, Transportation, and Services. The goal is to promote transportation safety among all participants in the Oakland community. The event will take place Wednesday, January 27 at noon in William Pitt Union Ballroom. Register today at sac.pitt.edu. All of us are stewards of safety on campus and they hope to see everyone there.</p> <p>SAC is proud and excited to announce that SAC won a Year of the Humanities award from the Provost's Office. The proposal focuses on cultivating a healthy Work/Life Balance and there</p>	<p>No further discussion occurred.</p>

<p>will be a series of presentations to promote mental and physical wellness. The first event in the series will be on February 26 at noon on Healthy Movement with Dr. Renee Rogers from the Department of Health and Physical Activity. The event will be held in the 7th floor auditorium of Alumni Hall. Again, the entire University community is invited to attend our Year of Humanities presentations.</p> <p>Our Staff Assembly is scheduled for May 10, 2015, at the William Pitt Union and the focus will be promoting mind/body health in the workplace. Breakout speakers and topics are coming into place. Chancellor Gallagher is scheduled to be our keynote speaker. Stay tuned for more details.</p> <p>Please search for us on social media using “SACatPitt”. Please subscribe to our newsletter at sac.pitt.edu. The next general meeting will be February 10, 2016, in room 102 in Benedum Hall.</p> <p><u>Comments/Discussion:</u> Chancellor Gallagher: Our Vice-Chancellor of Human Resources, Ron Frisch, will be retiring this summer. He was thanked for his efforts. Recruiting will be occurring soon. A candidate profile must be developed, so thoughts are invited and should be sent to the Chancellor’s Office to Kathy Humphries.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>No reports today; however, President Wilson noted that these committee reports will be coming in the next few months as groups continue to meet regularly.</p>	None
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p> <p>Chancellor Gallagher reminded us that we are in the middle of winter. If inclement weather occurs, we have a large resident population on-campus, and faculty, students and staff commute as well. Please pay attention to our website and emergency notification system, as well as the local media to keep updated on our status.</p> <p>Vice-Provost Beeson noted that strengthening faculty and staff professional development is part of our Strategic Plan. A survey of the faculty will be done in Feb and March to assess the baseline and identify opportunities. A survey of staff will occur as well.</p>	See comments.
<p><u>Adjournment:</u></p> <p>President Wilson adjourned the meeting.</p>	Adjournment at 3:43 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Members attending:

Beeson, Bonner, Colwell, Dahm, Dall, Donihi, Fort, Frieze, Gallagher, Green, Groark, Harun, Helgert, Humphrey, Johnson, Kaufman, Kear, Kovacs, Kozak, Labrinidis, Leers, Miller, Molinaro, Morel, Murphy, Novy, Ramicone, Ramsey, Savoia, Schmidhofer, Skledar, Smith, Spring, Stephany, Supowitz, Tananis, Washington, Wilson

Members not attending:

Alarcon, Beck, Buchanich, Cohen, Gleason, Goodhart, Helbig, Hravnak, Kaynar, Kearns, Kory, Lin, Mulcahy, Poloyac, Rodzwick, Savinov, Scott, Vieira, Weinberg

*Excused attendance:

Ataai, Costantino, Flynn, Fusco, Gaddy, Levine, Stoner, Triulzi

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Brindley, Connelly, Czerwinski, Frank, Harding, Hoogendoorn, Olaynk, Sahani, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office