

Senate Council Meeting Minutes  
2700 Posvar Hall  
January 29, 2014

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order.</u> Due to the absences of both Michael Spring, Senate President and Irene Frieze, Senate Vice President; Secretary, Linda Rose Frank asked for a motion for Immediate Past President, Dr. Smitherman to chair the meeting as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Dr. Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM</p>	<p>Motion passed</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 3:01 PM</p>
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the December 4, 2013 Senate Council Meeting.</u> Immediate past President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Mark Nordenberg</u></p> <p><u>Student News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ David Palm, named Churchill Scholar, intends to use scholarship to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in Chemistry at the University of Cambridge.</li> <li>➤ Pitt was ranked one of the Best Value Colleges, according to the Princeton Review, and was the only public college or university in Pennsylvania to make the list. Last month, it was rated Kiplinger's best value institution for the ninth year in a row. These forms of recognition are important because providing the best quality education is within our mission. While Pitt is not competing for lowest cost university, it is competing for best value provider.</li> <li>➤ Forged a new partner with the Stamps Foundation to create new leadership scholarship for undergraduate students. There were no intentions on expansion, until the foundation read Pitt's proposal. Credit goes to Tom Crawford, Marc Harding, and Kathy Humphrey, who collaborated to create the best proposal received.</li> </ul> <p><u>Faculty News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Confucius Institute of the Year, for the third time in the last six years. There are now 429 Confucius Institutes worldwide that promote the study of Chinese language and culture. We are one of the first twenty Confucius Institutes and the largest institutes, which is housed under UCIS and led by Michelle Heryford.</li> <li>➤ Creation of new Brain Institute, which is a campus-wide initiative that aims to better understand normal and abnormal brain function, among other things. Giving credit to Vice Chancellor Levine, the institute also seeks to find novel treatments for brain disorders.</li> <li>➤ Pitt is one of the world's strongest centers for neuroscience, with partnership with CMU. Some developments that have occurred at Pitt includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Salk polio vaccine is an early example of impact</li> <li>○ Pittsburgh Compound B may provide best hopes for early Alzheimer's disease detection</li> <li>○ Last year, Pitt team, through the use of brain computer connection, permitted a women suffering from quadriplegic to move a robotic arm using the power of her mind</li> <li>○ Treatment of concussion and other traumatic brain injury</li> <li>○ Boundless impact and an area where we start from a position of strength</li> <li>○ Director of Brain Institute: Peter Strick, Chair of Department of Neurobiology at School of Medicine</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Magee Women Research and School of Medicine will lead a multi-institutional effort supported by a \$70 million NIH grant to develop and test products that are intended to reduce spread of HIV. School of Medicine professors Sharon Hillier and Ewan McGowan will be the co-principal investigators and Charlene Dezzutti will lead the laboratory</li> </ul>	

<p>center within the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Announced at the same time, Pitt is receiving a complimentary \$8.7 million grant to support HIV/AIDS research. John Miller, Chief of the Department of Infectious Diseases at the School of Medicine, will serve as the principle investigator for this grant.</li> <li>➤ Pitt was named 1 of 25 Stroke Centers that will receive funding from NIH</li> <li>➤ Creation of new discipline based science education research center, within the School of Arts and Sciences. The aim is to employ research on teaching and learning to strengthen teaching in our natural science departments and national science departments. Professor Chandralekha Singh, from the department of Physics and Astronomy, will serve as the center's founding director, which will launch its work at a conference and public lecture with Stanford's Carl Weiman.</li> </ul> <p><u>Budget News</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There was progress on the federal budget front with the passage of 2014 of the Omnibus Appropriation Bill, which is good news. NIH and Department of Energy were funded at levels higher than levels of 2013; however the National Science Foundation was reduced slightly. The State of the Union speech directly stated our nation's future is tied to innovation and research and there needs to be an investment in research again.</li> <li>➤ Pittsburgh new mayor, Bill Peduto, was formally inaugurated. He is a good friend of Pitt community and represented areas of our campus. We will work along with him during his tenure as mayor. He participated in one of our Senate Plenary sessions regarding thinking about the future for Oakland. He appreciates the contributions of Pitt and has good ideas on how we can further build Pitt. Forging partnerships with him will be a high priority and will certainly bring challenges, in regard to budgetary issues.</li> <li>➤ Governor will announce his budget recommendation for the next fiscal year in Harrisburg next week. Given the projected deficit for the Commonwealth, we are hoping to receive a "reasonable" appropriation in light of cuts received over the recent years. These cuts have not only caused the university to suffer, but also our students. The basic principle of public higher education is that the government invests in ways to keep the tuition rates lower. When the state investments go away, two things happen: The institution begins to cut back and some of those costs are then handed to students and families that support them. We are hoping this is the year in which we can craft a budget with manageable challenges.</li> <li>➤ Looking forward to a good academic term</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Michael Spring read by Dr. Thomas Smitherman, Immediate Past President</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Senate Plenary. We are moving forward with the implementation of the Plenary which is tentatively titled "The Research University in the Age of Digital Information." While the precise format is not yet set, the general idea will be to describe some of the ways faculty are teaching and conducting research differently. We hope this exposition will inform the processes of supporting new approaches to instruction, research, and other aspects of University operation.</li> <li>➤ Standing Committees, I have had an opportunity to visit a couple more of the standing committees – most recently Admissions and Student Aid. We have also been working with a group of faculty who are helping us to define a kind of "best practices" manual for the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee. It ends up that there are some complex rules buried in policies and procedures about how faculty should avail themselves of assistance from the TAFC as well as procedures that sometime need to be followed very carefully by TAFC if its assistance is to be of use to the faculty member. Professor Smitherman has been leading this effort soliciting the advice of numerous former chairs and members of TAFC and I would like to extend my</li> </ul>	

thanks to him and the others working on this effort.

While all of the Standing Committees do extraordinary work, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the very active ongoing work of two of our standing committees – Benefits and Welfare under the leadership of Angie Riccelli and Community Relations under the leadership of Laurie Cohen and Lovie Jackson Foster.

- Ad hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Stream Faculty. The committee is involving more people and continues to develop in positive ways as it involves the Standing Committees and other constituencies. I want to acknowledge the work Professor Frieze has done and the many positive accolades she is receiving. I also think that given the spate of news stories about other institutions, our action was timely.
- Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. Jay Irrgang has reported that the Senate Athletics Committee (SAC) reviewed the proposal from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics for the creation of a Senate Athletics Representative. This proposal was reviewed and discussed at the October and November committee meetings. Based on the discussion related to COIA at the November meeting, it was the consensus of the Committee that they were not in favor of the proposal from COIA to create an NCAA-recognized Senate Athletics Representative. The motion and a support statement were distributed electronically to the elected members of the SAC on December 13th, 2013. The vote was 7 members not in favor of the proposal from COIA to establish a Senate Athletics Representative. There was 1 abstention and one member did not respond by the deadline.

The support Statement from SAC Stated:

*This fall the Senate Athletics Committee has had reports on the Athletic Department's and University-wide efforts to ensure athletics' compliance with University and NCAA regulations. The SAC was also recently presented with a report related to NCAA Governance Reform. COIA's proposal to create a Senate-appointed Athletics Representative (SAR) is based upon their concern for deregulation of academic standards and regulations for student-athletes. There is no evidence that the NCAA intends to deregulate academic standards and in fact, academic standards for qualifying and maintaining athletic eligibility have increased over the last several years and will continue to increase going forward in the near future. Additionally, Academic Support Services for Student Athletes at the University of Pittsburgh reports directly to the Provost's Office, not the Athletic Department. The SAC believes that University of Pittsburgh has policies and procedures in place that ensures integrity in all academic matters for student athletes at the University of Pittsburgh. Additionally, the SAC believes that the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) is highly capable of representing any faculty concerns related to academic integrity and standards as they apply to student-athletes at the University of Pittsburgh.*

- Scholarly publications: We were alerted to the fact that the program to support Open Access publication fees under certain circumstances by ULS is not open to the schools of the Health Sciences. We discussed this issue with the administration asking if such assistance could be made available across the university. After discussion it was concluded that the health sciences and provost's area administrative units had come to different decisions about the disposition of such funds and it was felt that good decisions were made in both cases. It is important to note that the various units allocate funds available based on what they see as the most important priorities to support research. Second, Lew Jacobson from Biological Sciences raised an issue about the email addresses of corresponding authors on journal papers when an inquiry is sent to a corresponding author who has retired from the University. Is there a way to create what we sometimes

<p>call “persistent” email addresses even after a person has moved on to another institution or has retired? This is being reviewed by the Standing committees on Library matters and Computing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provost Conference on Assessment. On January 31, 2014, Provost Beeson is hosting a one day conference on Assessment. The Keynote Speaker will be Carl E. Wieman, Nobel Laureate and Professor, Department of Physics and Graduate School of Education, Stanford University. The deadline to register was January 24, 2014. Please alert your colleagues including students who are interested in assessment. Questions can be addressed to Taylor Staiger in the Office of the Provost at <a href="mailto:otpevent@pitt.edu">otpevent@pitt.edu</a>.</li> <li>➤ Honors Convocation. Just a reminder that the Honors Convocation is scheduled for 2:00 on February 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope many of you will choose to attend.</li> <li>➤ Video of Faculty Assembly, nothing has as yet been scheduled.</li> <li>➤ Public versus executive session meetings, I would like to continue our discussion of how the meetings of Assembly and the Standing Committees are conducted including thoughts on the implications of holding meetings in Executive Session. As a reminder, the bylaws state that this meeting, as well as the meetings of the Standing Committees are generally open to the full community, but may be held in Executive session. There are two primary reasons this occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The matters discussed in the committee are of a sensitive nature and it is deemed best to hold those discussions confidentially.</li> <li>○ The administration indicates that they do not feel comfortable exposing plans and thoughts for which Senate advice is sought in a public forum.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The decision to meet in executive session carries with it questions of reporting and question of ongoing confidentiality of what is communicated to whom.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council.</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board – Michael Nites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Revising our bylaws</li> <li>➤ Establishing wellness</li> <li>➤ Vote on a pilot program travel grant for undergraduate research to present at conferences</li> <li>➤ Use of on-line .....</li> <li>➤ Passing BYOB bag initiative; implemented February 4</li> <li>➤ Rural Food challenge; 4-7% “real food”</li> <li>➤ Crisis management program for off-campus students</li> </ul> <p><u>Graduate and Professional Student Assembly: David Gau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Travel awards are offered over four cycle periods throughout the year to students seeking assistance with funding to attend or present at national conferences. We have helped just over 80 students, the majority presented posters and others gave presentations in their fields of all disciplines ranging from the Arts &amp; Sciences with History, French, and Chemistry, to Human Genetics, and Engineering, all the way to the Professional schools as well with Medicine.</li> <li>➤ The graduate tour group, the Trailblazers with one group all the way from Augsburg, Germany. I want to thank the guides and students. If anyone knows of prospective graduate or professional students looking to tour Pitt, please get in contact with us.</li> <li>➤ Students want to get involved in opportunities outside of their classroom and meet people outside their program. This can be seen with the success of Versatile PhD and the increasing number of students seeking information regarding non-academic track careers. The Office of Academic Career Development is also seeing success of their</li> </ul>	

<p>programming with the expansion of their services to other graduate programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ At the Carnegie Museum we held a scavenger hunt. This allowed students to form a meaningful relationship with each other through teamwork and collaboration. There were 8 teams and prize for the event was free tickets to GPSG’s spring formal.</li> <li>➤ It is my intent to continue to help build this sense of community throughout the graduate and professional schools but more work needs to be done.</li> </ul> <p><u>CGS: Kim O’Conner</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome back informal get together for students and faculty; featured a “taste of Oakland with 75 students, faculty and staff</li> <li>➤ Planning more peer mentoring events</li> <li>➤ How GCS can contribute to Harrisburg meetings on budget</li> <li>➤ Transitioning from Military to academia</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Rich Colwell</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Partnering with Pitt police for the “active shooter” training on January 8, 2014. The video, “Run, Hide, Fight was played for the membership. The video is available on the Pitt Police website. Video is from the City of Houston, Texas Mayor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security to help individuals survive a “shooter event”.</li> <li>➤ Read the Dr. Kasey Marra’s, University Times Senate Matters article on mentoring in the January 23 edition of the University Times. This prompted the SAC officers to discuss matters that equally affect both the faculty and staff of the University. We look forward to finding ways to partner with the Faculty Senate Council on the topics like this in the future.</li> </ul> <p><u>Lindsay Rodzwicz</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ January 23, 2014 hosted brown back on FMLA</li> <li>➤ February 25, 2014, Financial planning</li> <li>➤ March 20, 2014, Flexible spending accounts</li> <li>➤ April 17, 2014, Medical benefits</li> <li>➤ Working with UMC to overhaul our website.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>Announcements:</u> Approved dial in participation into Faculty Assembly and Senate Council meetings.</p> <p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN  
 Senate Secretary  
 Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing  
 Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Members attending:

Abboud, Beeson, Colwell, Costantino, Flynn, Frank, Gau, Humphrey, Juhl, Levine, Lyon, Molinaro, Nites, Nordenberg, Rodzwicz, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Song, Supowitz, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Benjamin, Caldwell, Cauley, Chiarulli, Clark, Clermont, de Montmollin, Erickson, Gaddy, Gibson, Gleason, Hughes, Karp, Kory, Lewicka, Majumdar, McKinney, Mulcahy, Munro, Slimick, Smolinski, Tisherman, Tsatsos, Vieira

\*Excused attendance:

Beck, Burkoff, Butterworth, Cochran, Frieze, Lipschultz, Lunsford, Neft, Nisnevich, Ramicone, Rosen, Savun, Shafiq, Skledar, Spring, Sukits, Tananis

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Becker, Clark, Frisch, Hoogendoorn, Mohamed, Moore, O'Connor, Service, Wilds

\*Notified Senate Office