

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**Posvar Hall**  
**January 21, 2014**

<b>Topic/Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b><u>Call to Order.</u></b> President Spring called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.	The meeting commenced.
<b><u>Approval of the Minutes</u></b> President Spring asked for approval of the minutes of the Faculty Assembly meeting of November 29, 2013.	The minutes were approved as written.
<b><u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u></b> President Spring asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward. 1. Questions and thoughts about open and executive session meetings	
<b><u>Report of the President.</u></b> 1. <b>Regarding the Senate Plenary.</b> 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.  2. <b>Regarding the Standing Committees,</b> 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 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.  3. <b>Regarding the Ad hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Stream Faculty.</b> 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	President Spring gave his report

about other institutions, our action was timely.

4. **Regarding the 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.*

I will ask Jay Irrgang if he will make a formal presentation to Faculty Assembly at our next meeting.

5. **Regarding Scholarly publications**

First, we were alerted to the fact that the program to support Open Access publication fees under certain circumstances by ULS was 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 an extensive discussion it was concluded that the administrative units (health sciences and provost's area had come to different decisions about the disposition of such funds and felt 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 interesting issue about the email addresses of corresponding authors on journal papers. In its simplest form, his observation asked what happens when an inquiry is sent to a corresponding author who has retired from the University. Is there a way to create what we sometimes call “persistent” email addresses even after a person has moved on to another institution or retired. I have passed his note with commentary on to the Standing committees on the Library matters and Computing. (The rationale for including the Library Committee is the efforts to archive articles produced by Pitt faculty.)

6. **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. If you plan to attend, register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PittAssessment2014> by 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 [otpevent@pitt.edu](mailto:otpevent@pitt.edu).
7. **Honors Convocation.** Just a reminder that the Honors Convocation is scheduled for 2:00 on February 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will choose to attend.
8. **Regarding Video of Faculty Assembly,** nothing has as yet been scheduled.
9. **Reflecting on public versus executive session meetings,** I would like to continue our discussion of how the meetings of Assembly and the Standing Committees are conducted. In particular, I would like to ask for your 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:
  - a. The matters discussed in the committee are of a sensitive nature and it is deemed best to hold those discussions confidentially.
  - b. The administration indicates that they do not feel comfortable exposing plans and thoughts for which Senate advice is sought in a public forum. The decision to meet in executive session carries with it questions of reporting and question of ongoing confidentiality of what is communicated to whom.

Since we have no reports this month from Senate Committees, I would like to continue this discussion under unfinished and/or new business.

**Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate**

No reports.

Next month there may be reports from other committees such as TAFC, Athletics.	
<p><b><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of what we do is “put under a bushel”...reason to do this</li> <li>• Need to do a better job at communication so that the entire community what is going on with shared governance</li> </ul> <p>From time to time, the meetings of Faculty Assembly, Senate Council and the Standing Committees of the Senate are held in Executive Session instead of their normal mode, which is open to the University Community</p> <p><b>Section 4, Article IV states:</b>  <i>“Standing and Special Committees of the Senate shall meet regularly and report to the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council on matters in areas of their responsibility. They shall provide the Senate Office with the minutes (including attendance lists) as well as with the dates and brief agendas of their forthcoming meetings. When a Committee meets in executive session, a statement of any decisions reached and its supporting reasons must be provided to the Senate Office. Five members shall constitute a quorum.”</i></p> <p><b>Section 7 states:</b>  <i>“All meetings are normally open to members of the University community, although Standing Committees may meet in Executive Session when necessary and appropriate for dealing with confidential matters.”</i></p> <p><b>Question for the assembly:</b></p> <p><i>What are the implications of holding meetings in Executive session?</i></p> <p><i>What gets reported and in what form?</i></p> <p><i>Who is allowed to stay and who must leave?</i></p> <p><i>What are members of the committee allowed to talk about?</i></p> <p><i>Bircher:</i> matter of interpretation as to what is confidential. The tradition does not spell out what calls into a specific category. Executive session includes only members and pro tem members. Those matters which are considered confidential...they are not up for explicit discussion outside of the group. If the committee determines that it needs to meet in executive session. The chair person determines what is confidential.</p> <p>Are there guidelines given to the chair?  <i>Bircher:</i> there are no written guidelines</p> <p>Is there a requirement for a vote to go in executive session  <i>Bircher:</i> no....there may be a way to protest.</p> <p><i>Spring:</i> one caveat...when they do meet in executive session they are required to report what decision has been made. Article IV, Section 4  “when a committee meets in Executive Session, a statement of any</p>	.

<p>decisions reached and its supporting reasons must be provided to the Senate Office.</p> <p><i>Balaban:</i> if it is an information only item, no decision made, not need to report anything.</p> <p><i>Bircher:</i> report confidential matters to Senate office separately.</p> <p><i>Spring:</i> not put confidential articles into the newspaper. T AFC has a particular burden given the nature</p> <p><i>Balaban:</i> when T AFC goes into executive session, the provost representative leaves</p> <p><i>Novy:</i> faculty are not aware of the committee agendas</p> <p><i>Frieze:</i> agendas for committees are available</p> <p>Frank: does open include open to the press?</p> <p><i>Bircher:</i> open means open to anyone.</p> <p><i>Spring:</i> plant utilization always meets in executive session because some of these issues are sensitive. T AFC is also. Benefits &amp; Welfare: runs meetings with part in Executive Session.</p> <p><i>Kovacs:</i> T AFC...issues of personal privacy for people who come to T AFC; some set of guidelines for when meetings are open and closed.</p> <p><i>Constantino:</i> Open means anyone can come?</p> <p><i>Bircher:</i> There are not clear guidelines right now. Open in open, this has been tradition. I would propose that we put a general set of guidelines into the handbook of the University Senate. It would be difficult to build into the bylaws. We should stress to the chairs that open is the default. Anything other than Budget and T AFC.....rate instance that executive session is imposed</p> <p><i>Spring:</i> there are committees that often disinvite the University Times when the topic is: 1, Concern about individual; 2. Concern for university</p> <p><i>Poloyac:</i> Closed does not mean any transparency. Rational for why it is closed, guidance on the report out from the committee. Still maintain transparency.</p> <p><i>Novy:</i> when minutes posted on the senate website...faculty should know about.</p> <p><i>Balaban:</i> anyone can asked to be a pro tem member on any committee....that issue needs to be included.</p> <p><i>Spring:</i> made an effort to get the minutes on the new senate site. Sent memo to all the chairs for their consideration. Chairs and their committees do all the work. You cannot dictate to the standing committees. We have made substantial progress on communication.</p> <p>Mark Redfern presentation was a significant advance...made a great presentation. Who else might we like to hear from in Faculty Assembly?</p>	
<p><b><u>Adjournment.</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>

Members attending:

Aggelou, Alarcon, Alexander, Atai, Bircher, Burkoff, Butterworth, Cauley, Clark, Cohen, Costantino, de Montmollin, Fort, Frank, Frieze, Goodhart, Hughes, Irrgang, Kear, Kovacs, Lewicka, Lyon, McKinney, Molinaro, Neft, Nisnevich, Novy, Poloyac, Ramsey, Savinov, Skledar, Smith, Song, Spring, Sukits, Tananis, Weinberg, Withers

Members not attending:

Ansell, Caldwell, Chiarulli, Clermont, Daley, Gold, Hravnak, Jones, Karp, Labrinidis, Leers, Lin, Majumdar, Mauk, McLaughlin, Morel, Mulcahy, Munro, Smolinski, Tisherman, Vieira, Weiss, White

\*Excused attendance:

Baker, Beck, Buchanich, Chase, Erickson, Flynn, Fusco, Gaddy, Gibson, Gleason, Groark, Jackson Foster, Kelly, Miller, Nelson, Riccelli, Savun, Shafiq, Slimick, Smitherman, Wilson, Withiam

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow

\*Notified Senate Office