

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u></p> <p>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 March 22, 2017 Senate Council Meeting</u></p> <p>Minutes were approved as written.</p>	<p>Approved.</p>
<p><u>Items of New Business</u></p> <p>No items of new business were raised.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p>Chancellor Gallagher was not able to be at the Senate Council meeting due to travel commitments to Columbia. Provost Patricia Beeson presented the Chancellor’s report.</p> <p>The Provost noted that this has been a good year to work collaboratively: a good example is how we passed the Consensual Relationships Policy – these were conversations to strengthen the University. The Plenary was another example of successful collaboration. The discussions today that we will have about fossil fuel divestment and core values are ongoing good examples. The Senate was thanked for the report and recommendations on the non-tenure stream (NTS) part-time faculty. The Provost noted that she met with the Council of Deans last week, and they discussed plans to begin to implement the NTS recommendations starting this summer.</p> <p>Provost Beeson then noted what her goals for the year were and the progress made on each:</p> <p>1) Identify new leadership for a number of new areas: She stated that on that front, we have been successful. Dr. Kornelia Tancheva was selected as the new Hillman University Librarian and Director – she is a dynamic leader. Dr. Valerie Kinloch was named the Dean of the School of Education. She is meeting with people and thinking ahead of direction and plans. Kathleen Blee was announced as the Dean of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences; she was faculty here as Distinguished Professor and has been recognized for her teaching and research. Paul Cohen will be the Dean of our new School of Computing and Information, and he has been on campus and meeting with the faculty. He is a visionary leader. Gerald Holder, Dean of the Swanson School of Engineering, has announced that he will step down from his position to return to teaching in the Fall of 2018. Additionally, Rob Rutenbar has been named the University’s Senior Vice-Chancellor for Research. He is starting to reach out to people on campus. Next to come will be the selection of the Honors College Dean, and several Vice-Provost positions over the next few weeks. Still open is the position for Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement.</p> <p>2) Address a long-standing structural issue at the university: As we face budget cuts and growing enrollment, we addressed that by cutting tenured faculty lines and expanding our teaching faculty with use of part-time faculty and faculty on visiting appointments. We need to develop plans to address the unintended consequences of these activities. The work of the NTS Faculty Adhoc Committee has been very important to this effort. It is important to have a strong core of faculty devoted to teaching. We are trying to build career paths for these faculty to advance, look at their role in governance, and think of their compensation in</p>	<p>No further discussion.</p>

<p>the context of their peers at other universities. We have addressed many issues for NTS full-time faculty, and the part-time NTS faculty report had a strong set of recommendations that we have plans to implement this summer. The other side of this is that we need to look at our faculty and not treat this any longer as temporary solutions with part-time faculty and visiting professors, and developing plans to reduce reliance on visiting faculty by doing more permanent non-tenure positions and longer term contracts for NTS faculty. We want to bring in faculty on a full-time basis not course-by-course or Ad hoc basis, and have them part of the university community. We have been plans to expand the tenured faculty, and align budgets and rearrange positions to create as many as 50 new tenure stream positions across the university. Many are going to the new School of Computing and Information, some are going to Arts & Sciences, as well as Engineering and Business, to rebalance the faculty. These goals are moving forward.</p> <p>Related to other topics, the biggest thing that happened is that we graduated a lot of students. Kathy Humphrey was thanked for her work with her team to carry out the two graduations; they were successful. Capacity topped 10,000 for our undergraduate ceremony on April 30th, and over 2500 graduates and guests attended on April 29th. Separation of undergraduate and graduate ceremonies was very well-received. The live-streaming of the ceremony has been very successful, especially as our graduates span the world. Everyone who had a role in these events were thanked. Kathy Humphrey thanked the social media team, who was present at the Senate Council meeting, for their efforts. They noted that we were trending on Twitter in Pittsburgh for the entire afternoon.</p> <p>Student and faculty recognition were noted: Margaret Farrell was named a Beinecki Scholar, which is a national scholarship to support graduate work in arts, humanities, and social sciences. David Leftwich was awarded the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Scholarship, to help him prepare for a career in the foreign service. Alum Susie Pisarcik was awarded a German Chancellor Fellowship. From an institutional perspective, the Provost noted that for the second consecutive year, The Princeton Review included Pitt in its list of <i>Colleges that Create Futures: 50 Schools that Launch Careers by Going Beyond the Classroom</i>. Pitt was the only public institution from Pennsylvania to make the list.</p>	
<p>Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson</p> <p>President Wilson started his report by noting that at this Senate Council meeting, the last meeting of the year, we normally would present the annual Senate Service Award recipient. Nancy Brown, the editor of the University Times, was given this award last week at Faculty Assembly, due to travel commitments that she had, as well as the Chancellor’s travel schedule. The University Times has been in print for 49 years, with Nancy as editor for the last 37 of those years. President Wilson noted that the Faculty Assembly meeting was particularly rewarding as the past Senate Presidents were in attendance to honor Nancy, and her the objective journalism which was fostered at the Times under Nancy’s leadership. In the upcoming weeks, the Senate officers have a meeting with the new Times leadership to map our forward path.</p> <p>President Wilson thanked all of the officers of the Senate, the committee chairs, and others who stepped up this year, and participated in Senate activities. He noted when his health was failing, many helped him and he thanked them. Most amongst them were the Senate Officers, Robin Kear, Sue Skledar, and Michael Spring. The senate committees did a lot of work this past year. Vice-President Robin Kear stepped in at the end of the year, in particular, at the graduation ceremonies for President Wilson. He noted that he was sad to miss these Pitt main campus graduations and his at Greensburg, and he thanked Vice-</p>	<p>Discussion noted below.</p>

<p>President Kear for her effort. He also thanked Lori Molinaro, the backbone of the Senate for all of her work and appreciation for her efforts. He noted that we just completed the elections for Faculty Assembly and senate committees, and new faces will be coming as of the Fall. New student leaders also have been selected and were welcomed to Senate Council. This change is good, and we should not take it for granted.</p> <p>President Wilson continued his report to note that there were tense times this year, as we dealt with important issues, including debates, “no” votes, and in the end, this prompted conversations about process, and this strengthened our commitment to shared governance. This year, the Provost came to Faculty Assembly and gave us a full report and answered questions. This was a new type of report, and it was well-received. The Provost’s liaisons to the standing senate committees were strengthened this year. We do not take shared governance for granted. We have had a number of Ad hoc committees working this year. That work and Plenary Work, under the leadership of Vice-President Robin Kear, has generated much discussion and action going forward. Faculty evaluation and teaching is looked at much more seriously. The Core Values committee, which began as a small group charged from the Chancellor at Senate Council, is working on a tough issue, and has a working draft from the expanded membership of the original group. The intent is to distribute this for broader discussion, but the draft is not yet ready. The committee will meet again over the summer, to finalize the plan moving forward to make the final draft for broader dissemination/comment. Kenyon Bonner was thanked for his active work on this committee, along with Kathy Humphrey and Pam Connelly. New Senate Secretary Cindy Tananis was welcomed to her new Senate officer position.</p> <p>President Wilson agreed with the Provost that it was a year of moving forward, and noted that we still have work to do this summer into next Fall.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>Griffith: Was the core values committee an ad hoc committee?</p> <p>Wilson: It was a committee from the Chancellor from Senate Council. Committee members are anxious to say what we are passing on so this can come to a bigger university discussion.</p> <p>Griffith: Will the committee fizzle out once the document is sent for broad comment?</p> <p>Wilson: The original group will not meet any longer, but the document will be commented on. We don’t know exactly what will happen at our last meeting of the group, but the project needs to move this to the next level with the Chancellor and have the discussion for input out in the open.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u></p> <p><i>Nihita Manem, SGB Member presenting for Max Kneis, President</i></p> <p>Nihita reported that Max is not able to attend the meeting today as he is studying abroad for the summer in Prague and Krakow. She continued with the SGB report, noting that since the previous Senate Council meeting, all of the Committee Chair and closed Committee membership positions have been filled. During the first few weeks of the Fall term, they will be selecting students for the new Communications Committee, as well as first year students</p>	<p>No further discussion or questions on the student reports.</p>

for the First Year Council and spots reserved for them on the Allocations committee.

From Sunday April 30th Tuesday May 2nd, the new SGB Board attended their annual retreat along with advisor Steve Anderson at Outdoor Odyssey. Material regarding how SGB operates and good practices for working with the Administration and with each other was covered, and they ended the retreat with a brainstorming session for new and ongoing initiatives. They are all very excited to serve for the upcoming academic year and look forward to working with the Senate. This coming Fall, SGB will be taking their Collegiate Readership Program digital. This program will provide each non-CGS undergraduate student with free access to the New York Times on-line. It will replace the hard copies of papers that they have been providing in the past to expand the program dramatically as well as be more environmentally friendly. One of our biggest goals for the upcoming year is to make SGB more visible to incoming freshmen, and they hope to increase student engagement by participating in Orientation Week festivities as well as hosting a Meet-and-Greet with the Board in place of public meeting during the first week of classes. Additionally, they are working with the Office of Residence Life to place information about SGB in every residence hall room for students moving in this August.

To improve the connection to the student body, they have launched several new communication tools. They have created an email list as well as text message updates so students can enroll to receive updates from SGB for events, involvement, and feedback, should they choose to sign up. Additionally, they are working to rebrand and relaunch our Fix-it Pitt portal, which is an opportunity for students to share feedback with us about anything related to their experience on campus. Finally, throughout this summer, the Board Members and Committee Chairs are going to start working on their initiatives, so do not be surprised to receive emails from SGB. They will definitely be working on planning their annual Safety Fair (late September) and Mental Health Awareness Week (October 16th-20th) in addition to pursuing other initiatives.

College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG)

Jackie Gross, President

The CGSSG is commissioned to serve the College of General Studies student body. To better perform this charge, CGSSG is developing a survey to send to the entire CGS student body over the summer. This survey will include questions pertaining to demographic, geographic information; what activities CGSSG can do which would benefit them the most (i.e. workshops/activities); resources to make available at the McCarl Center (i.e. text books in our McCarl library); what is known of CGSSG, and provide some resources for how they can become engaged with student government; community service work they would like to support; and what student organizations on campus they participate/would like to participate in. Along with the survey, student government is focusing on enhancing the efficiency of the CGSSG. One of our focal points is better data, and another is increased participation. Through hopefully improved involvement, they will be able to better serve the student body.

CGSSG is in the final stages of reaching an agreement with Pitt Program Council, to ensure that their student body maintains access to their excellent events. They have reached out to the traditional Student Government Board, and look forward to collaborating with them soon. CGSSG is brainstorming initiatives that could help serve the CGS student body members, who participate in student organizations which have predominantly non-CGS memberships.

Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG):

Chris Staten, President, GPSG

Chris reported that the GPSG is elated to collaborate with administration, faculty, and staff to enhance the experiences of all graduate and professional students at Pitt. As they look toward to the next academic year, the GPSG is committed to promoting an atmosphere of unity amongst graduate and professional students by focusing efforts on communication, creativity and connectivity. The GPSG Executive Board has created their Long-Range Plan for the new year as follows with these efforts in mind: (copies distributed at meeting)

Mission Statement of the Executive Board

To empower Pitt's graduate and professional students to maximize their opportunities and impact by fostering a sense of community within the University of Pittsburgh and local community.

Goals

Developing career-conscious graduate and professional students who are equipped to make immediate and consistent impact in industry, academia, and society.

- Launching recurring personal and professional development opportunities for graduate and professional students

Raising awareness and support for the equality and empowerment of the University's diverse populations

- Encouraging campus-wide unity through social interaction and engagement
- Offering targeted programming for underrepresented demographics
- Increasing diversity and representation on university-wide committees

Enhancing communication between GPSG and graduate and professional schools

- Effectively market and disseminate information of GPSG services
 - Form partnerships with school-specific governments to increase participation and awareness of GPSG events and services
 - Promote interdisciplinary work between graduate and professional schools

The new officers were announced: Christopher Staten, President; Caitlin Sniezek, VP of Committees; Srilakshmi Kavikkal, VP of Communications; Shreyas Vamburkar, VP of Finance; Clarissa Leon, VP of Programming; Sarah Mahan, Administrative Assistant.

Amber Griffith, Schools of Arts & Sciences (A&S)

Amber reported that the GPSG A&S Diversity Climate Survey was launched in late April, and so far there are 132 participants. The GPSG plans on closing the survey at the end of this month and from there, they will begin planning for programming related to diversity on campus as it pertains to higher education. Amber also noted that she is brainstorming the focus for the upcoming year as president. She noted that Career Services for graduate students in A&S may be a focus for next year, as well as strengthening alumni relationships. Amber also noted that Shelby Brewster from the Theatre Department will be new Vice-President.

There were no reports from the Schools of the Professionals or the Schools of the Health Sciences.

Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC):

sac@pitt.edu

Rich Colwell, President and Andy Stephany, School of Medicine

No further discussion.

It was reported that SAC is content with the current standing of the University budget and salary raise pool, pending the appropriation from the Commonwealth. The University Planning and Budget Committee has traditionally not met over the summer following the appropriation. SAC would like to ask for consideration of an additional meeting to either confirm the budget plan matches the appropriation or allow for additional discussion if there is a change.

SAC thanked Cheryl Johnson and her Human Resources team for their communications about annual staff appraisals. There has been training material distributed to both parties – supervisor and employee – on how to make the annual review a more beneficial experience. The SAC Open Enrollment Brown Bag seminar earlier this month was well-attended. They thanked Lori Carnvale, the Director of Benefits for presenting, and they thanked her and her Benefits team for making themselves available after the presentation to answer questions from staff. The annual Staff Spring Assembly is next Tuesday, May 23rd in the William Pitt Union. The theme celebrates the diversity of staff. The main program starts at noon with lunch, a presentation of the inaugural Staff Development Award in honor of Ronald W. Frisch, and speeches by Vice Chancellor Connelly and Chancellor Gallagher. Enriching breakout sessions will follow. The Assembly will conclude with a Resource Fair. There are a few seats remaining. Registration and further information about the Assembly can be found at sac.pitt.edu.

SAC will have a new board of Officers when we meet here again in the fall. The new Officers will be announced at our June General Meeting following elections. SAC has had a productive calendar year:

- Paid Parental Leave proposal was approved by the University
- Endowed a scholarship fund in honor of Ronald W. Frisch for the professional development of Pitt staff
- Hosted 10 different Brown Bag seminars for the professional development and personal enrichment of the University community
- Conducted a thorough strategic review of our standing and role in the University community, which will set our direction for the years ahead
- Doubled staff representation on Faculty Assembly committees
- Four members participated in Senate Council's Inclusion Task Force
- Sought to be active partners on several initiatives that have helped us develop meaningful productive relationships across campus, including but not limited to PittServes, Community & Governmental Relations, Student Affairs, and Diversity & Inclusion.

They look forward to the start of a new year to continue this momentum. It was reported that today is the last meeting of Senate Council where Rich Colwell will preside as Staff Council President for at least 2 years, when he will be eligible to run for President again. They would like to acknowledge his decades of service as a fierce advocate for staff. There are several staff benefits and salary increases that may not have happened without his tireless activism. Andy Stephany was announced as the new SAC president. President Wilson acknowledged Rich's input and participation on many committees this year.

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

Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Fossil Fuel Divestment

Presented by President Frank Wilson

This Ad hoc committee was put into action last Spring at Faculty Assembly, upon request of Professor Michael Goodhart, related to student issues raised on fossil fuel divestment at the University. President Wilson was instructed to form an Ad hoc committee on this issue. The other members of the committee were acknowledged:

Ronald Brand (Law), Nick Coles (English), James Doty (Engineering), Gena Kovalcik (Engineering), David Sanchez (Engineering), Frederik Schlingemann (Business), Jay Sukits (Business), Ayres Freitas (Physics and Astronomy), Sage Lincoln (Fossil Free Pitt Coalition), Michael Goodhart (Political Science), and Frank Wilson (Senate President).

President Wilson continued his update and stated that this work started as a narrow-focused question, and quickly evolved into something more. It was a discussion of more than fossil fuel divesting and investing. It became an issue of the role of the Board of Trustees to do their fiduciary responsibility and preserve our endowment (and increase it), so it can be used to advance the University. We talked about socially responsible investing, and over the year as the committee met, the group became involved in meetings with the Chancellor, Kathy Humphrey, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The topic began to open up, and a willingness to explore possibilities through shared governance occurred. Many views were in the room, and the complexity of investing was largely taken for granted. Additional student input was received, along with input from Kenyon Bonner. The final meeting led to the idea of taking the fossil fuel topic to a larger scale for education and ways that research could be done with socially responsible investing. Engagement with students, faculty, and Trustees would be part of this.

This resolution presented today was approved unanimously at Faculty Assembly on May 9, 2017. It is a reduced version of the original draft, and at the core, the committee wants to enable a process that can lead to serious education and debate on this issue with the right parties involved, including Administration. This will be another story of shared governance as it moves forward. We are asking the Chancellor to take the next step and put together a planning group that can set parameters for this university-wide. The resolution was distributed in advance, and was reviewed below.

Resolution of the ad hoc committee on Fossil Fuel divestment

Whereas the University of Pittsburgh Faculty Assembly, at its May 9, 2017 meeting, voted without opposition to create an ad hoc committee to explore questions related to the University's investments in fossil fuels and to possible alternatives;

Whereas the President of the University Senate constituted a committee in accordance with this resolution to investigate and discuss these matters;

Whereas the committee recognizes significant potential for a socially responsible investment strategy to help align the University's investments with its core values and responsibilities as a public institution of higher learning;

Discussion and questions are noted below.

The resolution was approved unanimously (none opposed; no abstentions)

<p><i>Therefore, now be it resolved:</i> That the Faculty Assembly encourages the Chancellor to form a committee of faculty, staff, students, and administration, and initiate a systematic process for consideration of socially responsible investing as a strategy for the University to orient its investments, and issue a public report on its work and findings in support of this decision process.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Loughlin: Should the date on this in the first line be May 2016? This is when the idea came up. At the 3rd “whereas,” can this say mission instead of the word values, since we do not yet have the core values statement completed?</p> <p>Wilson: Yes, we can change that.</p> <p>Tananis: I will say at this meeting that I am not going to make any other corrections.</p> <p>Wilson: Can we vote? The resolution received unanimous approval, with no opposition and no abstentions. All were thanked. This is a good example of shared governance.</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p> <p>No new business items were raised.</p>	None
<p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <p>No further announcements.</p>	None
<p><u>Adjournment:</u> President Wilson adjourned the meeting.</p>	Adjournment at 4:10 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Members attending:

Beck, Beeson, Cohen, Colwell, Costantino, Dewar, Donihi, Griffith, Gross, Humphrey, Kear, Labrinidis, Loughlin, Manem, Molinaro, Mulvaney, Phillippi, Ramicone, Skledar, Smith, Staten, Stephany, Tananis, Triulzi, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Bonner, Bratman, Clark, Gleason, Helbig, Jacob, Kanthak, Kantorowitz, Kaufman, Kaynar, Kory, Leers, Muenzer, Mulcahy, Munro, Nelson, Powlus, Rodzicz, Rohrer, Schmidhofer, W. Scott, Sukits, Swanson, Vieira

*Excused attendance:

Cole, Czerwinski, Dahm, Fall, Flynn, Gaddy, Gallagher, Kent-Smith, Kneis, Levine, Rigotti, G. Scott, Spring, Stoner, Washington

Others attending:

Balaban, Becker, Connelly, Farwell, Fike, Graves, Harding, Kirsch, Olanyk, Rogers, Sahni, Supowitz, Walker, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office