

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
 May 9, 2012
 2700 Posvar Hall

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Michael R. Pinsky called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.	The meeting began.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the April 11, 2012 Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Pinsky asked for approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2012 Senate Council meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President Pinsky asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	No new items were brought forward.
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg.</u></p> <p>The Chancellor gave the following report:</p> <p>The mood on campus today is much different than when we last met a month ago. When all of the activities normally associated with academic life were still underway and when we also were in the midst of our bomb threat siege. However, what may be the most important message that I have to share has not changed. The people of Pitt handled those challenges in ways that reflect both strong individual character and a special sense of community. I mean it when I say I felt honored to be a part of Pitt. I came as a faculty member nearly 35 years ago and that feeling has never left me, but I have never been more proud of that affiliation than during those last several weeks. The students were spectacular, from beginning to end. Displaying the kind of purposeful resiliency which will serve them well in a wide range of settings that lie ahead. In particularly in the large group, middle of the night, evacuation sites. It was easy to see how much the students care for each other and their university. Faculty and staff stepped up in numerous ways, one example since we were last together monitoring doors in the buildings where exams were being held, during that week of tests.</p> <p>We had an absolutely spectacular commencement in a packed Petersen Events Center. Our commencement speaker was Lt. Gen. Patty Horoho and someone who was the perfect speaker Patty Horoho. The first woman and the first nurse to serve as Surgeon General of the Army and as you could tell from the rows of medals on her uniform, even if you did not know of her deployment to places like Afghanistan. Someone who knew a thing or two about dealing with stress and responding to threats. Among all the groups on campus, I do want to underscore thanks to three in particular: the Pitt Police, the Student Affairs Staff and the information technology professionals. They were people who were literally going around the clock, day after day, after day during that period.</p> <p>Looking around the room, I say thanks to you and through you thanks to the many people you represent. It was a shining moment for the</p>	The Chancellor's report was accepted.

university community in what was a very difficult time. Last week brought wonderful news on the faculty front. Three of our colleagues

Patrick Moore and Yuan Chang from the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and Peter Strick who is the Pitt co-director of the Center for Neural Basis of Cognition. The three of them were elected to the National Academy of Sciences. I believe we had three members before last week's elections and now we have six. Only eleven universities had three or more faculty members elected to membership in the Academy. Stanford had six, Berkley, Harvard and Princeton had four, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Penn, Pitt, UC San Diego and the University of Washington had three. We are traveling in very good company through that election process.

One of our less senior faculty members, Steven Little from the Swanson school has been selected to receive the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award; which carries with it a \$75,000 grant and which honors demonstrated leadership in education and research in the chemical sciences including chemical engineering. This is one of the highest honors in that discipline. John Wallace who holds the Hallen Chair in the School of Social Work, he received the 2012 Urban Affairs Association SAGE Marilyn Gittell Activist Scholar Award and was recognized for his work in establishing the Homewood Children's Village here in Pittsburgh.

Students also continued to claim high honors, Pitt seniors Wayne Dailey, Laura Dempsey and Danielle Rager claimed three of just 45 2012 Whitaker International Pre-doctoral fellowships to be awarded nationally. These fellowships are designed to bring international experience and insights into bio-engineering. In addition Pitt graduate student Nicole Ostrowski who also earned her undergraduate degree at Pitt received a Whitaker summer grant award for graduate students. Senior Ryan Gayman received a Humanity in Action Fellowship marking the seventh consecutive year that a Pitt student has won one of these national awards. Two Pitt students, senior Patrick Musgrave and Vanessa Wills who was just awarded he PhD received German Academic Exchange Service Awards for study or research in Germany.

Amidst all of this good news, we do of course have continuing challenges. Just as a sobering reminder we suffered \$67 million in cuts to our state support this year. That was \$40 million in the form of a reduction to our initial appropriation, \$7 million midyear reduction to the appropriation in January and a 50% reduction or a \$20 million to our capital projects support. In looking at the next fiscal year, we have been facing a proposed cut of another \$40 million to our appropriation as well as the complete elimination of the tobacco settlement funded health related research program. A program that varies a little bit from year to year, because some of the grants are competitive but has brought the university about \$13 million a year over the decade that it has been in place.

In dealing with these challenges we are moving forward as you would expect on two different fronts. First we are in the midst of what may well be a long process of making budget adjustments. At our last meeting Provost Beeson discussed the decision to suspend graduate admissions to three departments within the Arts & Sciences. Since then we have publically unfolded a staff early retirement program and just this week, we announced an administrative realignment affecting both the Titusville and Bradford campuses. Since this is recent news I want to add a few contextual comments about that development in particular. First, the university's commitment to our regional campuses has been both visible and strong. Most visible perhaps is the work that has been done to transform most of those campuses physically over the course of the last 15 years. Johnstown was a pretty well established campus although we have added facilities there, but really Bradford, Greensburg and Titusville campuses do not resemble what they were 15 years ago. That commitment also has been reflective in other ways and perhaps most notably in terms of the departure that we have implemented from the all undergraduates pay the same tuition model that was characteristic of Pitt through most of its history. We have very deliberately developed a fairly substantial tuition differential now for in-state undergraduates who are enrolled on this campus and those who are enrolled on the regional campuses.

As I have said this past year, with the continued, dramatic reductions to state support our regional campuses are the most vulnerable of our academic units. By extracting administrative costs from the Titusville campus and shifting some of those responsibilities to the existing team at Bradford, we believe we have better positioned the Titusville campus to be viable as we move through this difficult funding period.

We also continue to advocate zealously for increased support from the commonwealth. The last day or two brought good news, when the Senate Appropriations Committee by a unanimous vote approved a budget that would restore our funding for the next fiscal year to current year levels. You need to put all of that in context: current year levels again are \$67 million less than the year before. But it's a lot better than what was proposed in the governor's budget address in February. This is just a first step; the next step is for the whole Senate to vote on the bill. It is important to remember that it is the Senate Appropriation Committee which took this action, the same committee that came to campus last year, wanting to give us the chance to make our case. I'm not saying there is a direct cause/affect, but we did do a good job at making the case for Pitt in that hearing and again that is one of the steps that has taken us to this point this week.

I thank everyone who participated in that process, I thank everyone who has advocated for restoring our funding, I thank everyone who has contributed to building momentum here at the university. I'm hopeful by the middle of the summer we have a budget that is better than we anticipated at the beginning of February.

The Chancellor concluded his report.

President Pinsky asked for questions or comments;

Professor Gaddy: Inquired about the administrative realignment at Titusville and Bradford. Citing the Provost's statement from Monday, this was in light in part of future anticipated cuts to Pitt's appropriation and to assess the viability of the campus at Titusville. My question, in assessing the viability of the Titusville campus, what is that process? And how can the faculty be involved?

Chancellor Nordenberg responded that the Provost will make her own remarks but he didn't believe that the Provost said anything that tied this action directly to the anticipated budget cuts, but instead tied it to the losses that have already been suffered. Which mean that we do need to take steps to increase our cost effectiveness and efficiency which always have been a priority. Second, it is important to recognize that this was an administrative realignment; this is a move that is designed to extract administrative costs from within the organizational structure. I'm not sure what the processes are that will be followed as we monitor that situation moving ahead, but they will be participatory.

Provost Beeson added that the statement that she made was the \$67 million that we already have experienced and anticipated cuts. It was not exclusively the anticipated cuts and in fact right now we still trying to adjust to the losses we have experienced. As the Chancellor said, the viability of that campus will be assessed over the coming year. There are processes in place through the Planning and Budget Committee where we seek the input of all affected parties into these discussions. Our immediate step is to pull out some of the administrative costs to see if we can't reduce the costs of operating that campus relative to the revenues that it generates. From there we will start looking at it more carefully; the first step is to reduce the cost of operation.

Professor Mulcahy – I realize what happened at Titusville was an administrative realignment; it was a shock to hear what was happening. Does the university maintain its commitment to keeping the Titusville campus open?

Provost Beeson – As I said in my statement and when I was up in Titusville, we are hopeful that by pulling out administrative costs we will be able to continue offering educational programs in Titusville. Part of what we are doing is assessing the viability moving forward of the campus. Again, I'm hopeful that we're going to be able to pull out enough costs that we will be able to look at the programs and we will be moving forward.

Professor Mulcahy – In your opinion how much pressure is being taken off assuming the full state senate votes to maintain current funding levels as opposed to going along with the governor's plan to

<p>continuing slashing the budget?</p> <p>Chancellor Nordenberg – It would be a significant reduction of pressure.</p> <p>Professor Mulcahy – I assume the university leadership would let legislators know that the University of Pittsburgh does not sit aloof in Oakland, but the presence of the regional campuses puts Pitt in their backyards. And that each campus represents a significant contributor to the local economy.</p> <p>Chancellor Nordenberg – We do feel that way. That is a part of almost every presentation that we make to legislators. We welcome the support of administration, faculty, staff and students from those campuses in making the broader case for the university. We have seen that support from all four campuses, particularly in the last two years.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Senate, Michael R. Pinsky</u></p> <p>President Pinsky gave the following report:</p> <p>This has been a very trying month for the students, faculty, staff and administration for the University with the cyber bomb threats. This domestic terrorism has had a hurtful impact on the lives of Pitt students, interrupting their classes, disrupting their study for final exams, and turning what should have been a final welcome month of study and celebration into one of fear, frustration and regret. As is usually the case with such toxic juvenile behavior of the “Threateners”, often little thought goes into the consequences of such actions. What they do not realize is that they repeatedly pointed a gun at the head of the university and said they would shoot. It grieves me greatly to realize that there is an element, presumably small and hopefully consisting of only one terrible disturbed child, who has used their knowledge to hurt and tear things down in an institution that for 225 years has focused only on building things up and making its students the leaders of tomorrow.</p> <p>Leaving this unpleasant topic behind, the Graduation Commencement ceremony was an amazingly joyous affair. As the Senate President, I was again honored to be the Chief University Marshal. After opening the convocation I stood at the podium and saw all the students assemble as their families and friends cheered. It is always an inspiring sight to see the students file into the Peterson Event Center, school by school, each in their own school’s colors and with the camaraderie that four years or more has instilled in them all. To hear cheers from family and friends of each group, named person or just the entire event reminds one why we teach and teach at this level. I wish the graduates Godspeed and good fortune as they embrace their futures.</p> <p>The other major item we have been working on is the creation of an Ad Hoc committee to review transgender use of public and personal</p>	<p>The President’s report was accepted.</p>

facilities, mainly locker rooms and dormitory housing. The issue is under legal determination by the city we have been asked to hold until that is resolved before the group meets. Except for the students the rest of the committee has been created.

The Senate Benefits & Welfare Committee met and addressed the newly announced Voluntary Early Retirement Program (VERP) for eligible classified non-union staff. To qualify, eligible employees must be 59 years of age as of April 1, 2012 and have a minimum of 10 years of continuous service. This offer is not presently available for faculty. New enhancements for the VERP include: 1) Retiree medical coverage starting at age 59. And coverage is also provided for the eligible spouse/domestic partner. Furthermore, contributions to retiree medical coverage are waived until age 65. 2) A transition to retirement payment equal to six months of base pay less required tax withholdings will be provided. And 3) a one-time infusion of DDB credits equal to \$6500 for the retiree and \$6500 for the eligible spouse/domestic partner. These credits are in addition to the monthly credits received by retirees. To qualify, employees must make an election to retire by June 30, 2012. Group meetings will be conducted on campus to explain the programs. In addition other resources will be available including TIAA-CREF, Vanguard, and Life Solutions.

The Senate Education Policies Committee reported at Faculty Assembly it's year's activity which included revising the Pitt Student transcript to report to other institutions. The present transcript does not list AP (advanced placement) or IB (international baccalaureate) courses on its official transcript. Rather, the transcript merely reflects that a block of courses worth x-number of credits were accepted by the University. In essence, the Pitt transcript only lists courses that were taken at the University. A design of a new XML Transcript is in progress to include listing these courses as well as test credit information. A second item the committee addressed was the request from students that course evaluations be made accessible prior to them registering for classes. The students would like to have legitimate access to student feedback about specific courses and faculty before they register. They also made the point that many students are currently using information on public websites such as 'Rate My Professors'. Mr. Zimmerman the undergraduate representative presented the committee with benchmark data that he and his SGB colleague collected from several institutions including Tulane, Maryland, CMU, Duke, Rutgers, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins. The summary of these schools' experiences with student review of course and faculty evaluations prior to registering for those courses was generally positive and in many cases there were incentives built in for students to complete the evaluations so they would have access to the information. The committee will continue to review this proposal but also understands that it needs to carefully study the implications of such an open critique system.

The Senate Community Relations Committee met last month and had a

presentation from David Wohlwill from the Port Authority on the Bus Rapid Transit. Sustainable Pittsburgh began a study in August, 2011 in collaboration with over 30 organizations to look at improving the quality of transit service. BRT would go from Downtown to Oakland, and possibly beyond, to Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, East Liberty, and the Hill District, though this is still just in the discussion phase. BRT will be tailored to each unique corridor.

BRT aims to reduce travel time, reduce gaps in use, and ease overcrowding. Key intersections are being identified, and one option is to extend bus lanes in targeted areas. Site visits have been made to New York City where they are trying to implement a similar system.

2025 plans - Tara Sherry-Torres from Oakland Planning and Development Corporation gave an update on the Oakland 2025 plans. One recommendation is to create an umbrella group to bring together all of the groups affected by the plan to function sort of like an Oakland Community Council. They would review development project documents, and allow all of the constituents to be represented. There are already similar groups, like the South Side Community Forum and Uptown Partners. The goal is to make residents feel more engaged in the process and keep them informed. Residents would be able to build their own relationships with the developers.

now I would like to change gears and do one of the things that makes my role as President of the University Senate enjoyable. I would now like to present the award for Service in the University Senate. This is an annual award given to a faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to the University through service in the University Senate. It gives me great pleasure to say that this year members of the Senate Executive Committee were unanimous in their selection of awarding the Senate Service Award to two faculty members: Professor Lou Fabian, School of Education and Professor Carol Redmond, Graduate School of Public Health.

Lou Fabian has been a faculty member since 1974 which by my arithmetic is 38 years of continuous service to the University. He served on the Senate Athletics Committee beginning in 2000 and was active on that committee through 2006. In 2006 - 7 he was an elected member of the Senate's Plant Utilization and Planning Committee and then in 2007 he returned to the Senate Athletics Committee and has been their chair since 2007. He also is a faculty representative on the Board of Trustees Athletics Committee since 2011. He has been very active with the athletics committee and has served as a wonderful liaison offering extremely detailed and interesting presentations to Faculty Assembly regarding Pitt joining the ACC as well as the building of the Peterson Sports Complex. Joining the Chancellor and me in presenting Lou his award is Steve Pederson, Athletic Director for the University of Pittsburgh.

<p>Carol Redmond was Senate Vice President twice, both times for two years, first 1989-1991 and then again 1999-2001. She was the Senate appointee to the University Research Committee 1989-1991, GSPH Faculty Assembly representative from 1992-1994. From 1999 through 2001 she chaired the Senate Task Force on Evaluations for department chairs and deans and in the 2000-2001 year chaired the Senate Working Group on Revising Integrity Policy. She was also the Faculty Representative for the Institutional Advancement Committee BOT from 2001-2005 and from 2006 onward is serving as a Senate appointee to the University Research Council. She is a current member of the Senate Budget Policies Committee and the Faculty Assembly. Carol would you please come forward for your award.</p> <p>And that concludes my report. President Pinsky concluded his report and asked for questions or comments.</p> <p>John Baker commented that in President Pinsky’s report that the ad hoc committee to review transgender use of public and personal facilities has been put on hold until the discrimination case with the city of Pittsburgh has been resolved. Do you have any idea how long that will be? President Pinsky asked that the Chancellor respond.</p> <p>Chancellor Nordenberg – Let me say a couple of things. I will begin by saying I have a fair amount of positive experience working with committees like the one Michael proposed we impanel. I was a member of the special committee dealing with divestment issues in South Africa in the mid 1980’s. I impaneled the special committee dealing with domestic partner issues. We have taken the position that if we are engaged in litigation then our focus will be on litigation and will not involve activities of this other type. I remain hopeful; I can’t predict how long it may take to unfold. We just have been served with the papers, we just have begun talking to outside counsel about representing us. If there is some way to move forward with the committee with then we will look to find that way, but as I said to Michael over lunch today, we are not in a position to commit to that at this point in time.</p> <p>President Pinsky added that we cannot go in both directions at once. When we did discuss this before, I thought the university’s anti-discrimination approach was totally reasonable and was the right way to go and I was hopeful it could be resolved quickly until the legal suit was brought.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council.</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board</u> Vice President of the SGB, Natalie Rothenberger, gave the following report.</p> <p>Updates from SGB:</p> <p>NY Times and USA Today stands are up and functional around</p>	<p>The SGB report was accepted.</p>

campus when the students swipe their Pitt ID's.
Community Outreach chair Mary Mallampalli is working on Pitt make a difference day which will be held in the fall. SGB is also working on bringing together the different groups for the Panther Gold leadership summit, which is held right before the start of the fall semester. The Traditions committee is working on finding out if we will have a throwback theme Homecoming football game this year.

President Pinsky asked for questions or comments.
President Pinsky commented that he hopes they continue with the excellent proactive work they have done previously, it really is commendable.

College of General Studies Student Government Report
CGSSG President Brian Coleman

CGS will partner w/SGB to recruit peer mentors for the incoming nontraditional adult students matriculating for the first time. The flagship program should be up and running in the fall.

The Excellence Reception was held this past April. Staff and students were honored with awards in achievement and appreciation, scholarships were also awarded and new council was inaugurated at this event.

Elections for student government took place in April and five students including me are now serving on the Council: Christina Hornack, Belinda McQuaide, Kim O'Connor and Mark Adams. We will be meeting over the summer to discuss the fall agenda. Our first meeting will be held May 19.

End of term survival bags were delivered for our population during finals.

We are also negotiating getting involved in the NY Times & USA Today readership program.

President Pinsky asked for comments/questions.

President Pinsky asked about the Office of Veterans Services which is through the College of General Studies.

Brian Coleman responded they were looking to hire a new Director for that program; CGS is also looking at having more veterans engaged in the peer mentoring program and campus life.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.
David Givens, GPSA President, gave the following report.

GPSA held annual officer elections at the end of February. My perception is that GPSA and the University as a whole will surely

The CGSSG report was deferred to the next meeting.

The GPSA report was accepted.

encounter many opportunities and challenges in the semester ahead. GPSA has had many successes over the past year:

220% increase in email readership

Continued success in students understanding and partaking in political engagement

We have already enhanced our relationship with the Pittsburgh Student Government Council. GPSA was just this week chosen to represent the council and all students within the City of Pittsburgh on the City's New Socialable City initiative.

We have had more student representatives serving on university wide committees, attending our academic, service and extracurricular events and continuing to achieve outstanding accomplishments in their research and academic fields.

President Pinsky asked for questions or comments. No comments were made.

Schools of the Professions

Lacey Ecker gave the following report

Law School: Three second year law students over this past semester have been the recipients of the Peggy Browning fund fellowships those students are Megan Walker, Bandon Elliot Gatto and Amanda Bundick. These are fellowships that provide for summer internships that focus on Labor Law and workers' rights.

Three, third year students (soon to be alumni): Willis Bish, Robert Holland and Hillary Stemple created the first ever Pitt Law team to compete at the National Health Law of Transactional Competition. They placed third in both the written memo and oral presentation.

Last week Pitt law student Whitney Hinds Coble was featured on CBS Sunday morning discussing college tuition and student debt. She discussed the Sponsored Change Organization.

The School of Social Work will be hosting the President & CEO of NAACP as the keynote speaker for their 10th anniversary celebration for the Center on Race and Social Problems.

The Katz Graduate School of Business was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal for their partnerships with PNC and Westinghouse, who both use MBA students for consulting work. Katz will also be hosting an event this Friday for alumni and incoming MBA students in Tokyo to kick off networking opportunities.

School of Education – The Institute for International Studies in Education will be hosting this year's international workshop on higher

The Schools of the Professions report was accepted.

<p>education reform which will be held in October. This is the first year this event is being held in the U.S. and it will be held right here on our campus.</p> <p>On a personal note, thank you, this is my last meeting; I'm finally graduating on Friday. I've had the pleasure to be an SGB member as well as a graduate representative and I've enjoyed it very much.</p> <p>No comments or questions were made.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council.</u> SAC President Deborah Walker gave the following report.</p> <p>Wednesday, March 21 the SAC Benefits Committee held its first HR series "Aiming for Success, Utilizing your Education Benefits at Pitt", we had 50 university staff in attendance for that workshop.</p> <p>April 18 we presented the second in a series of Brown Bag workshops – Flex Spending More Money in your Pocket, Ms. Dana Stump of UPMC was our guest speaker.</p> <p>May 2 – SAC sponsored a Volunteer Retirement workshop with HR and we had 40 staff in attendance.</p> <p>SAC is proud to announce that two of our members were selected to receive the 2012 Distinguished Chancellor's Awards for Staff Excellence. Ms. Natalie Blais from Public Health and Mr. Penny Semaia who works in Athletics.</p> <p>Due to the recent budget concerns SAC has decided to suspend Pitt Day at Kennywood this year. Instead we will have a staff appreciation day picnic. Details will follow and we are asking all senior administration to participate with us.</p> <p>President Pinsky asked for questions or comments. None were made.</p>	<p>The SAC report was accepted.</p>
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate.</u></p> <p>President Pinsky gave Bylaws Report and read the resolution regarding the Guidelines for Search Committees for Senior Academic Administrators.</p> <p>Asked for discussion: no comments or concerns were raised the resolution passed, there were no no's and 1 person abstained.</p> <p>John baker announced that the newly elected committee winners were listed on the back table and that information was presented at last week's Faculty Assembly meeting and it also has been published in the University Times.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business.</u> No unfinished business or new business was brought forward.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Announcements.</u></p>	<p>No action needed.</p>

President Pinsky	
<u>Adjournment.</u> With there being no further business, President Pinsky adjourned the meeting at 4:05	The meeting was adjourned.

Members attending:

Arnold-Blais, Baker, Beeson, Caldwell, Chaiklin, Cochran, Coleman, Costantino, Ecker, Elliott, Gaddy, Galloway, Givens, Harbert, Hravnak, Humphrey, Juhl, Lin, Miller, Molinaro, Mulcahy, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Ramicone, Rothenberger, C. Singh, V. Singh, Smith, Smitherman, Walker, Weiss, Wendell, Wilson

Members not attending:

Bauer, Bonneau, Burkoff, Culley, Daley, Gallagher, Greenberg, Kearns, Kory, Louderback, Moriarty, Muenzer, Murdoch, Pan, Savinov, Slimick, Smolinski, Sukits, Towers

*Excused attendance:

Balaban, Bartholomae, Buchanich, Frank, Hartman, Kear, Kovacs, Landreneau, Levine, Neufeld, Rickman, Rosborough, Savoia, Spring

Others attending:

Barlow, Blair, Bonner, Clark, Fabian, Fedele, Hart, Harvith, Hoogendoorn, Mohamed, Pederson, Redmond, Supowitz, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office