

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order</u> The meeting was called to order by President Frank Wilson. New members of Senate Council were welcomed.</p>	The meeting commenced at 3:02 pm.
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the October 19, 2016 Senate Council Meeting</u> Minutes were approved as written.</p>	Approved.
<p><u>Items of New Business</u> No items of new business were raised.</p>	None raised.
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor, Patrick D. Gallagher</u></p> <p>Chancellor Gallagher distributed his written report to the Senate, and highlighted several key notables:</p> <p>CMU and Pitt jointly hosted the Whitehouse Frontiers Event with President Obama. To use Pittsburgh as the backdrop for this was very powerful. Two notable award rankings were given: Reuters list of innovations leaders and a new ranking by Wall Street Journal higher education ranking (by outcomes), and University to Pittsburgh had highest score in student outcomes, academic resources, and student engagement. We had area to improve in campus environment. Pitt was the highest ranking in the Northeast. These rankings are validation of what we do.</p> <p>Related to grants and gifts, Dr. Mark Richardson from the School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute, Epilepsy and Movement Disorders Surgery Program UPMC, received a \$3.3 million grant from the NIH over a 3-year period. Dr. Charles Reynolds from the School of Medicine from the School of Medicine, GSHP, is one of two winners of the 2016 Pardes Humanitarian Prize in Mental Health given by the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. Related to student achievements, October 22nd was the 9th annual Pitt Make a Difference Day, with more than 3850 students and staff from Pittsburgh campuses and over 250 representatives from the regional campuses volunteering at the events, completing over 20,000 hours of community service.</p> <p>Pitt opened the Technology Resource Education Center at the Jeron X. Grayson Center in Pittsburgh's Hill District last month. There are 24 computer stations, large screen displays, etc. to deliver innovative STEAM programs for middle- and high-school students in the Hill District.</p> <p>Volleyball, basketball, diving, and football had a great weekend in Pitt sports. The success of our student athletes was commended by the Chancellor. The Trees Field Complex project will wrap-up in 2017, and it is an air-supported, domed field that will be completed by the end of 2016 with the complex completed in early 2017.</p> <p><i>Presentation of the Chancellor's UPSIDE Diversity Award by the Chancellor</i></p> <p>BRIDGES, a program for underrepresented scholarship recipients, and the Center for Urban Education (CUE), earned the 2016 University Prize for Strategic, Inclusive, and Diverse Excellence (UPSIDE) award. This was formerly the Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award. The</p>	No comments were raised.

<p>award acknowledges programs that support minorities, women, and other protected classes in fully participating in all aspects of the university. The two winners were recognized at the Senate Council meeting.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Senate President, Frank Wilson</u></p> <p>President Wilson noted that emotion is guiding our decisions, and it has been a different kind of presidential election. He noted that what we do now is more important than it has ever been. Teachers are in the midst of many “teachable moments.” There are questions about policy that will affect all of our lives, key issues at emotional times, objective pursuit of truth, and to provide fact in a world that is lacking in that. All teachers should know it is important to do what we do well, which is make the research we are doing known, to provide examples of how to pursue answers to questions in an objective, systematic way, and to discern facts and have serious debates. Our job as a public university is to pursue and demonstrate this. Remember we are a public institution with a variety of viewpoints and differences, and we can engage in a principled way.</p> <p>At Faculty Assembly, the Senate Committees have been working on particular problems at the University. At the December Faculty Assembly meeting, there will be several voting items from the committees’ work, related to research and other topics. President Wilson noted that a year ago, an adhoc committee of faculty, staff, and students, was formed for a diversity, inclusion and core values discussion. This work has not stopped, and several of the recommendations have been implemented already, such as the Year of Diversity in 2016, and open discussions have occurred about this. The two remaining recommendations are: a) should there be an advisory committee to work with Department of Diversity at Pitt; and b) can we develop an institutional statement of our core values. The EIADAC Committee will serve the role for the first question, so a new committee is not needed. The core values work is starting on Friday, November 18, and will continue, as it will take several meetings.</p> <p>Related to the political climate, beside change at the national level, there have been significant changes at the state level. These changes are very important and have implications down the road for us. To the extent of Senate involvement, the Senate Government Relations Committee is taking on the role to be more engaged with University Government Relations and increase faculty expertise in our existing good work.</p>	<p>No comments were raised.</p>
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board (SGB)</u> <i>Natalie Dall, President</i></p> <p>Board Member Samantha Jankowitz has taken over the Panther of the Month initiative started by Board Member Meghan Murphy last year, and Panther of the Month for October was Evan Turman. Evan is a senior in the College of Business Administration and the President of Alpha Kappa Psi (a Business Honorary), and he played a major role in the planning of the Financial Literacy Conference that took place on October 21st.</p> <p>Two important structural changes are being implemented.</p> <p>I. Communications Director Kara Boutselis has been working with other members of SGB to head the creation of a Communications Department. She received approximately 25 applications and is finishing interviews this week to build a committee of students who specialize in everything ranging from social media to videography. This will help with education and elections.</p>	<p>No comments were raised.</p>

II. Chief of Staff Phil Anderson and Vice President and Chief of Cabinet Rohit Anand have drafted a structure for a new First Year Council. They are currently accepting applications to build a 10-person council of students interested in getting involved with both SGB Committees and Board Initiatives. Those applications are due next Tuesday, and hopefully interviews will be finished before finals week. This will increase student engagement in their first year and create students with long-standing interest.

The first Panthers and Politics of the year will take place on Wednesday, November 30th from 6-7:30pm in the WPU Lower Lounge. They will be bringing in a panel of students and other community members who have experience working in governmental offices to give a behind-the-scenes look at how our local officials operate. The Academic Affairs and Wellness Committees will be promoting productive and healthy studying during the two weeks leading up to Finals Week by tabling with information on good self-care practices, extended study hours, and giveaways in Towers Lobby and the Hillman Library. Also, the SGB has been working with the Division of Student Affairs to spread safety information around the neighborhood of South Oakland by hanging door hangers with reminders to students, on and off-campus, to lock doors and windows and to secure their house before leaving for Thanksgiving break.

College of General Studies Student Government (CGSSG)

Jessica Sevcik, President
(no report)

Report of Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG):

Justin Saver, President, GPSG

This month GPSG hosted a successful self-defense class with the Pitt Police. This Friday GPSG will be hosting their annual formal, with the theme of casino night. They hope to host an additional mental health focused event before the end of the term. For the Spring, GPSG is already planning several programs to highlight major initiatives. This term President Saver has been working with the Pitt Alumni Association, Career Development and Placement Assistance, and Office of Academic Career Development on a collaborative effort to increase alumni networking opportunities for PhD students and postdoctoral associates interested in exploring careers in the public and private sector. It has been great fostering natural collaboration between departments on such a unique task. They are hoping to host a kickoff in April while working to continually develop the program this Spring. They also are working with Student Affairs and the Provost's Office to bring Dean's Hour to the Graduate Students, and are planning several Dean's Hours sessions to increase interaction between students and Student Affairs and the Provost's Office. Additionally, they are working with Community and Governmental Relations to increase graduate student involvement in Pitt Day in Harrisburg. They are planning to showcase research from all 14 schools to legislators. More details to come. They are continuing to actively plan our joint TEDxUniversityofPittsburgh event in the spring and are interviewing for committee positions.

This month, GPSG issued 13 travel grants totaling \$3500. They also issued one supplemental funding award. To provide a brief financial update, they have spent approximately one third of our annual budget but this does not include allocations on hold and allocations yet to be withdrawn by our subsidiary cultural organizations. President Saver announced that through GPSG work with the University Library System, Hillman Library now offers noise cancelling headphones to all students to offer additional quiet study options when supply diminishes during final weeks.

Yesterday, the Assembly Board elected Jacob Kantorowitz to represent the Schools of the Health Sciences to the Senate Council. Jacob is a 1st year medical student and is highly involved in his school's graduate student government. Jacob will join the next Senate Council session in December to deliver updates from the Schools of the Health Sciences.

The Schools of the Health Sciences graduate student governments have been planning a variety of social, professional, and academic events. The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine are both planning upcoming formals. The School of Pharmacy is hosting their annual Tucci Lecture featuring School of Medicine's Vice Dean Ann Thompson to discuss implicit bias in healthcare as part of the Year of Diversity and Inclusion. This Friday the School of Pharmacy is also hosting a seminar on antibiotic resistance featuring Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania's Physician General and Dr. Karen Hacker the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. The Biomedical Graduate Student Association is working on efforts to increase alumni engagement opportunities for students and is actively building an alumni database. The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is working on a fundraising challenge with Marquette University to raise money for physical therapy research. In addition, SHRS is working on a fundraiser for their alternative spring break trip to Guatemala to provide free physical therapy services to underserved populations. The School of Medicine, School of Social Work, and Graduate School of Public Health Graduate Student Governments will all be holding elections this month to elect new executive board members which allows for extended transition time between outgoing and incoming board officers before graduation.

The cultural groups have also been very active this month. ANKUR, our Indian Graduate Student Association is planning a Diwali celebration with the School of Information Sciences this Saturday, and GOSECA, our Eastern European student group is planning their annual conference to highlight broader political themes in Eastern Europe. Additionally, the Iranian Student Association is planning a celebration for the longest night of the year, a traditional Persian celebration. They are planning this along with Carnegie Mellon University's Iranian Student Association.

President Saver thanked the advisors in the Office of the Provost, Vice Provost Sbragia and Jennifer Walker for their hard work in the past few months on the redesign of the Graduate and Professional Student Life and Admissions pages, which now serve as a hub for resources for current and future Pitt graduate students. He concluded that GPSG is very excited for their upcoming events across the graduate schools and are looking forward to meeting the new executive boards elected in some of the schools.

Corbin Powlus, Schools of the Professions

Since last month, many of the Professional Schools have finished finalizing their student board positions and approving spending budgets for the 2016-2017 school year. From a diversity perspective, the Professional Schools are doing their part to match the commitment Pitt has a whole has devoted to making this the Year of Diversity. For instance, the Schools of Business, Information Science, and Public & International Affairs are each planning events with emphasis on celebrating the differences between their students. At Katz, the second-annual International Friendsgiving event is currently being organized. This event is focused on providing students with full bellies as well as exposure to authentic foods from different countries they might otherwise not have the opportunity to try. In addition to delicious food, Friendsgiving is a time to learn about the cultural norms around dining that various countries

have. All are invited to attend the event in Mervis Hall on December 2nd (where I will be serving my family's recipe for Polish kielbasa and sauerkraut). From an educational standpoint, the Professional Schools have also been busy. As mentioned last month, workshops around obtaining and managing grants have been a focus area specifically for the Schools of Education and Engineering. Other school specific educational events include Engineering's information session on Title IX, a combined event from GSPIA and the Law School focused on the differences between State and Federal voting rights, the iSchool's workshop on interviewing and job searching, Social Work's talk on the importance of self-care, and a Katz symposium on supply chain management. To help students relax and blow off some steam, the Professional Schools have also provided their students ample opportunities to socialize. With the Halloween holiday behind, schools have held costume contests as well as events at local scare-houses. Additionally, many of the Professional Schools have recurring trivia nights that encourage students to stay sharp-minded. As always, the Schools of the Professionals are an active group of students who not only have dedication to their academics and the University, but also to each other, especially with this year's focus on the importance of diversity and inclusion. As the Fall term rushes to a close, the Professional Students are poised to keep up this effort with the reprieve that is Winter Break so close within reach.

Dominique Johnson, President, Graduate Student Organization, Arts & Sciences

A formal report from Arts and Sciences is not available at this time. They are making decisions for how they will move forward with programming for the next semester and also doing some internal restructuring to improve our processes and develop policies around how the GSO should function moving forward. Dominique noted that this may be her last meeting at A&S GSO President and why. She stated that "As someone who is deeply affected by the failings of academic institutions on issues of diversity and inclusion, I stand in solidarity with the Sanctuary campus movement that is happening right now on Pitt's campus as well as across the nation. This movement insists on Pitt and other universities establishing itself as spaces for anti-racist and anti-xenophobia on campus. So, with that, I think that these are important goals to be considered especially in light of Pitt's failings and in light of the programs that we have happening right now regarding diversity and inclusion on this campus." She noted that she is grateful for the time she has spent here, and she hopes to take the lessons she has learned in and working with everyone into other spaces where she can more actively do the work that needs to be done.

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

Rich Colwell, President

Andy Stephany

SAC website: www.sac.pitt.edu.

The SAC Executive Committee met with Vice Chancellor Cheryl Johnson for the first time this month. The meeting was productive and they are very excited about her approaches and perspectives to human resources at the University. Administration has provided Cheryl with the support and resources to make Human Resources a collaborative partner across the University, and we are enthused about the possibilities. The Executive Committee also met with Vice Chancellor Geovette Washington and Assistant Vice Chancellor Patrick Noonan recently where they shared great ideas for moving the University forward relating to communication, technology and culture. We look forward to developing a partnership with the Office of General Counsel. During both these meetings with administration, the SAC officers discussed 3 specific ongoing initiatives – Parental Leave, Staff Ombudsman and Mandatory Supervisory Training.

<p>SAC is working diligently on a number of items:</p> <p>In response to questions and confusion from the University community, our Staff Relations committee hosted Director of Compensation Mark Burdsall and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Steve Ferber to discuss the University’s approach to the new FLSA rules which will directly affect approximately 1400 staff. Their willingness to meet was appreciated. They hope to work with them to disseminate more information to the University community. This committee is also in the early stages of developing a professional development panel, which will be open to <u>all</u> University staff. This career panel will be a Q&A format informing staff how others have progressed through the ranks and expanded their career here at the University and prior.</p> <p>Our Health, Safety and Information Technology committee is partnering with our External Relations committee to host a Brown Bag presentation about University levels. Cathy Lewis from FIS will present. This will be held at noon tomorrow in the William Pitt Union. Over 150 people have registered. There is still time to register at sac.pitt.edu. SAC is looking at low-cost methods to digitally communicate our Brown Bag presentations to Pitt’s regional and satellite campuses, and hopes to have this resolved in the spring. The Operations committee is reviewing students’ applications for our Book Fund scholarship. The winners will be announced at the Chancellor’s Staff Recognition Ceremony next month. The External Relations committee is running a food drive this fall that will benefit the Pitt Pantry, which protects members of our University community against food insecurity. This will run this in the coming weeks and stay tuned for details if you wish to contribute. Terry Brown from Institutional Advancement was thanked for presenting about Charitable Giving yesterday as part of the Year of Humanities programming. The final event will be December 8 at noon in the William Pitt Union. The topic will be Holiday Cultures and Traditions. Registration information will be released soon. The entire University community is welcome to attend.</p> <p>Please send all SAC correspondence to us at sac@pitt.edu. Do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, comments, or concerns.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate</u></p> <p>N/A</p>	None
<p><u>Unfinished Business or New Business</u></p> <p>Vice-President Kear announced that Wednesday, March 29, 2017, is the date of the Spring Plenary, which will be held from 12 pm-3 pm, and will focus on research metrics in faculty evaluation. Teaching metrics is not part of the Plenary. President Wilson noted that another adhoc committee being formed as a working group between Educational Policies and Computer Usage Committee related to teaching evaluations of faculty at the University. One or two public events in conjunction with (and leading up to) the Plenary will follow the Faculty Assembly meetings in the Spring on these topics leading up to the Plenary.</p>	
<p><u>Announcements:</u></p> <p>President Wilson noted that working with Dominique Johnson has been part of a great mix of graduate and undergraduate students he has had the opportunity to work with. He noted it is a stimulating experience to get the students involved. We should be proud of our student body. He wished her all the best.</p>	None
<p><u>Adjournment:</u></p> <p>President Wilson adjourned the meeting.</p>	Adjournment at 3:46 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, Bonner, Cohen, Cole, Colwell, Costantino, Dahm, Dall, Gallagher, Harper, Horowitz, Johnson, Karpuzi, Kaufman, Kear, Labrinidis, leers, Levine, Loughlin, Molinaro, Mulcahy, Mulvaney, Phillippi, Powlus, Ramicone, Rohrer, Saver, Skledar, Spring, Stephany, Stoner, Sukits, Swanson, Washington, Wilson, Withers

Members not attending:

Clark, Dewar, Donihi, Gaddy, Gleason, Helbig, Jacob, Kanthak, Kaynar, Kory, Muenzer, Munro, Nelson, Schmidhofer, G. Scott, W. Scott, Tananis, Triulzi, Vieira

*Excused attendance:

Bratman, Czerwinski, Flynn, Humphrey, Rigotti, Smith

Others attending:

Barlow, Connelly, Costanza, Farwell, Harding, Moore, Olanyk, Rogers, Sahni, Supowitz, Walker

*Notified Senate Office