

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
October 10, 2012

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM	The meeting commenced at.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the, September 2012 Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> No new business.	
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already approaching mid-October, things continue to be going right in our world • Continue to do well in range of institutional rankings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12th among America’s public research universities in QS World University rankings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following Michigan, Berkley, UCLA, Wisconsin, Illinois, North Carolina, Washington, Texas, UC San Diego, Georgia Tech, & Perdue • Faculty continue to attract support for work of impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rory Cooper and Mary Goldberg of Human Energy Research Laboratory, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences received award to study pathways for military veterans returning to education • Continue to receive sizable contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gift from Becky & John Surma of one million dollars to support ongoing renovation of GSPH • Individual faculty members and the institution continue to receive Honors of wide ranging types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prof. Tom Starzl, Lasker-DeBakey Award for Clinical Research (also known as the American Nobel) ○ Swanson School Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, a LEED Gold certified center of excellence of Sustainable engineering, received an international 2012 educational facility design award ○ Work being done in our School of Medicine that enabled a quadriplegic to move a robot arm with just his thoughts received one of Popular Mechanics breakthrough awards of 2012 • Continuing to move forward with Innovative initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ partner with Coursera, company collaborating with group of 32 top universities to provide free interactive course materials online to millions of learners • Continue to sponsor Special programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law School conference titled “There at the Creation: Nathan Hershey and the History of Health Law and Healthcare Reform” which, among other things, will honor the contributions of a former president of the Senate who really was there at the beginning of a lot of things in this area • We continue to give back to the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched 2012 United Way campaign, which almost always ends up being a pace setting campaign for the United Way • Alumni will begin to descend on campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promises to be the biggest homecoming celebration in the history of Pitt • In spite of all these good things it is an unsettling time for public higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After too many years of flat funding, last year we were subjected to deep and disproportionate cuts of state support ○ Took all our efforts to beat back a second year of reductions • Continue to serve as member of Governor’s commission on post secondary 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education, report out next month • At State level; many forces are in play, beginning with less than encouraging state of economy • At Federal level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ concern about the future of federal funding for research and federal student aid ○ Elections and Federal “financial cliff” • Time of justifiable anxiety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to keep watch while we keep working ○ Need to recognize advocacy efforts can’t be limited to a single day out of the year. • Critical time in the future of public higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Particularly true in PA ○ Should not assume that all appreciate the value of the university ○ We must deliver the message that the work of Pitt is important • Many challenges are still ahead 	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Senate, Thomas Smitherman.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Assembly met—as an experiment-- for the first time in Conference Room A of the University Club which is saving of \$500 per meeting (\$5,000 per year) and costs about the same as meeting in Posvar Hall. • Working to find ideal room set-up our experiment with Conference Room A, University Club will continue for 1-2 months. • Bomb threats like those that disrupted our life in the last academic year have afflicted other university campuses; no threats at Pitt for which we can all be very grateful. • Discussions between the Departments of German, Classics and Religious Studies and the Dean, School of Arts and Sciences continue on the status of their post-graduate programs. We anticipate resolution of these issues soon, possibly in November. Budget Policies Procedure Committee continues to monitor these developments for the Faculty Assembly. • October Faculty Assembly meeting, we held a discussion on the NRC Report of June 2012 on the research universities and the 10 vital steps that are needed to assure the health of these institutions for the security and prosperity of the nation. We plan additional discussions at meetings of the Faculty Assembly to discuss in greater detail these vital steps for which university action is necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first was given at the September meeting by Mr. Paul Supowitz, Vice-Chancellor for Government Relations which was a report from Harrisburg about state support of the University of Pittsburgh and other state-affiliated universities. • Beginning in November brief comments will appear once or twice a month in the Senate Matters column of the University Times. Dr. James Becker has agreed to be the editor of those entries and will include topics raised in the NRC report. • In the next few weeks, we will publish the first of our Senate newsletters for the faculty and plan to publish about 6-10 per year in a more journalistic and visually appealing design. This is one of our steps to improve communications between the Senate and the faculty. • We have opted to have a single Senate Plenary Session this year. The title is <i>The Oncoming Cyber learning Revolution in Higher Education?</i> As you read in a recent press report from the Provost, our choice is timely. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pitt announced that it will be participating in several of the on-line lecture series organized by the new company, Coursera, a company founded by two professors from Stanford University. ○ Pitt will be among an elite group of universities participating in an early 	

<p>effort in cyber learning on a mass scale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Cynthia Golden, Director, CIDDE, Dr. Charles Perfetti, the director of our Learning Research and Development Center and Dr. Alan Lesgold, Dean, School of Education have agreed to be our principal speakers. A tentative date of April 18th has been set. The Faculty Affairs, Educational Policies and Computer Usage Committees will be involved in planning and organizing the Plenary Session. ● Dr. Irene Frieze of the Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee forwarded a proposal to us which originated in the Gender Subcommittee regarding issues related to non-tenure stream faculty. Dr. Frieze consented to our request that this proposal also be sent to the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee for their review as these topics are within the purview of the committee. We will consider a final proposal at a later meeting of the Faculty Assembly, most likely in December. ● An expanded meeting of the Executive Committee with representatives of all of the 15 University Senate committees met from 9 am -12:30 pm on Monday, October 8th. Committees have convened their first meetings of the year or plan them in the next few weeks as well as establishing committee plans for this academic year. ● Faculty Affairs Committee, which had been dormant for a year, has been successfully revitalized under the leadership of Dr. Tony Bledsoe. The committee has agreed to take on the veterans student issues that were discussed at last month's meeting. 	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council.</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board: Landreneau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PITT Make a Difference Day (PMADD – October 20, 2012 [Saturday]) ● Readership Programming – Featuring NYT journalist John Broder speaking on Deep Water Horizon (Board Member Hallinan) ● General Election Programming – 2 student watch parties, student debate Republicans/Democrats, voting location in WPU, student “results” party ● SGB Town Hall – October 28th in Sutherland lobby ● SGB Student “Gift” – Ideas have ranged from an advertising paw in the Quad, mural design, marking PITT shuttle stops and a “living panther” ● Board member projects at the moment: Murdochis getting more food places near campus to accept Panther funds and serving as liaison to the Student O’Hara center; Louderback “power flower” table and traditions committee; Rothenberger working on advertising options on campus promoting better buy-back; Hallinan: Readership program and helping with general election programming; Armstrong making the allocations process more “online friendly”, Samudzi: student group pamphlet; Genus bus shuttle markings; and McGrath: advertising options. ● Pitt Make a Difference Day; 4,000 registered; record attendance by the students <p><u>SGB – CGS: Coleman:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up peer mentorship program occurring on October 19 ● Nov 10-15, 2012: promotion for study abroad for CGS student; include scholarship for study abroad for non-traditional students ● Veterans day, Nov 12,2012 members of committee and council to do the roll call at the William Pitt Union <p><u>Graduate and Professional Student Assembly: Givens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involved with Pgh Student Government ● October 23, 2012 safety nightlife: understand how universities can assist ● Direct graduate student outreach; online survey; response by 1000 student; 	

<p>interest, needs, attitudes about policies; on campus efforts (lactation; library); suspension of programs at Arts and Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student life art exhibition with a focus on graduate student life to be held at Wiggle Whiskey; will be permanently displayed • Voter registration initiative; one stop webpage for registration information • Enhance student experience through difference events • Masquerade ball next week <p><u>Schools of the Professions:</u> <u>Arts and Science Graduate Student Association: Moriarty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSO met last evening and formed a subcommittee for events to better serve our student body with events that have wider appeal and are more accessible to our demographics' schedules and needs • Caroline Hopper, Information Center Desk Manager at Hillman Library, attended and gave a brief presentation and explanation concerning the recent and on-going improvements to better accommodate graduate students' needs with the University Library System. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opening of the Dissertation Writing Room on the 4th floor ○ Houses 71 private study carrels with locking storages. ○ Grateful for the efforts that GPSG, the ULS staff and countless others from the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies making this space a reality for current and future students. • Linguistics Department at Pitt along with their counterparts at CMU will be hosting the Second Language Research Forum conference from October 18-21, 2012 hosted on CMU's campus. International conference for second language and bilingual research bringing over 300 presenters from 20 countries to Pittsburgh. Organizing committee would like to thank the A&S FRSP (Faculty Research and Scholarship Program) and the Vice Provost for Research for financial support. • The Graduate Student Lambda Association at Pitt, an organization which represents the GLBTQ graduate and professional students at Pitt will be hosting its inaugural Gender Week in November 2012 which will include presentations, charity events and a Drag Show. The event has received 16 sponsors from the Pitt and Pittsburgh community. 	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Deborah Walter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual safety fair, Oct 17 on Pitt Union Lawn • Workshop, Oct 24 309 Parran Hall • Staff participating in the Day of Caring 	
<p><u>Announcements.: None</u> <u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
Senate Secretary
Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing
Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology
November 1, 2012

Members attending:

Arnold-Blais, Becker, Beeson, Buchanich, Clermont, Coleman, Costantino, Frank, Givens, Hravnak, Humphrey, Juhl, Kear, Landreneau, Levine, Lin, Louderback, Lunsford, Lyon, Miller, Molinaro, Moriarty-de Biasi, Murdoch, Neft, Nordenberg, Ramicone, Rothenberger, Singh, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Tananis, Walker, Wendell, Wilson

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Chiarulli, Culley, Daley, Gaddy, Gallagher, Gleason, Kearns, Kory, Majumdar, Mulcahy, Savinov, Vieira

*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Beck, Butterworth, Cochran, Flynn, Hartman, Kovacs, Matychak, Neufeld, Pinsky, Savoia, Skledar, Song

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Borghesi, Clark, Fedele, Frisch, Harding, Hill, Hoogendoorn, Moore, Supowitz

*Notified Senate Office