

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**Senate Educational Policies Committee**  
**January 26, 2015**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Aggelou, Amy; Falcione, Bonnie; Horvath, Zsuzsa; Kaynar, A. Murat; Kelley, Kathy; Manfredi, Juan; Sbragia, Alberta; Weinstein, Aliyah

**Excused:** Beck Jr, David; Brown, Shelly; Mary Lou Leibold; Petracchi, Helen; Roberts, Laurel Bridges; Skledar, Susan; Cynthia Tananis

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Zsuzsa Horvath (Chair) at 3:06pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 2014 meeting were approved as written.

**Guests:**

- Marc Harding, Chief Enrollment Officer
- Kellie Kane, OAFAs Director of Operations and Strategic Planning

• **Topic:**

- Mr. Harding and Ms. Kane provided the committee with an update on undergraduate admissions, including attributes of the current freshman class, ongoing and evolving recruitment strategies, and application, acceptance and enrollment statistics. A multitude of highlights presented engaged committee members in discussion; topics included the continued increasing trend in SAT scores for entering freshman, importance of the campus visit on prospective students, and upcoming changes to the SAT exam that will affect the entering class in the Fall of 2017. Mr. Harding's presentation materials were provided for SEPC committee member internal review.

**New Business**

• **EPC Membership vacancy**

- In light of the confirmation from the Provost's office that Rizk Nashaat is no longer at the university, Chair Horvath reviewed the procedure for addressing a committee vacancy.
  - Since there were only three people who ran in the election last year there is no candidate to fill the remainder of the term, thus according to our Bylaws the position could be filled by appointment by the Chair following guidelines in Article V, Section 6 and made official for the remainder of the unexpired term upon ratification by a majority of the voting member of the committee. However, at this time, with only a few months of the current year remaining no appointments will be made by the Chair.

• **Council of Deans Task Force on Online Programs and Learning Technology**

- Committee members were reminded of the Jan 16<sup>th</sup> email (<http://www.universityannouncements.pitt.edu/survey16.pdf>) from the Council of Deans' Task Force on Online Programs and Learning Technology containing a link to a short survey ([https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_difpUoZZW1KtSzz](https://pitt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_difpUoZZW1KtSzz)) for input on ways the University could better support innovative teaching as it relates to educational technologies and online programming.

- **End of term EPC meeting**
  - Chair Horvath proposed, and committee members agreed that the last meeting of the Spring term to take place at the University Club, as was coordinated at the end of the Fall term.

## Old Business

- **Working group updates**
  - OMET Student evaluation and opinion of teaching online surveys
    - Chair Horvath reported that the first meeting took place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The working group reviewed their goals, determined a meeting schedule and outlined a plan to begin their work.
  - Digital Ethics
    - Chair Falcione reported the first meeting is deferred to February. Requests to the Senate Computer Usage, and Tenure and Academic Freedom committees were revisited to recruit additional members in addition to EPC members Aggelou, Kaynar and Kelley.

## Vice-Provost updates

- **Undergraduate**
  - Dr. Manfredi reported:
    - The University of Pittsburgh's 2015 Annual Assessment Conference is to be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 sponsored by the Office of the Provost. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Marco Molinaro, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Innovation, Research and Analytics and Hub Director for the interdisciplinary Agriculture Medicine Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (iAMSTEM) at the University of California, Davis.
    - Surveys are being conducted this term including the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) internal survey, the Student Experience in the Research University survey (SERU) for benchmarking, the Association of American Universities (AAU) Climate survey on sexual assault, and the Gallup-Purdue Index (survey of graduates).
- **Graduate**
  - Dr. Sbragia reported:
    - Meeting of the Graduate School Associate Deans on January 30<sup>th</sup> planned with the goal of sharing information and understanding of commonly applied terms in graduate programs.
    - New Senior Director of International program, Ariel C. Armony will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> with overarching goal of extending the global reach of graduate programs at the university.
    - Chancellor Gallagher gave a presentation on the impact of science policy on Doctor of Philosophy students on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the University Club. The program was open to the public; a wide variety of questions were answered by the Chancellor. The program was not recorded. The event was sponsored by the Graduate and Professional Student Government.
    - Progress is being made with collecting data from the graduate school programs on placement of their students; all indicators are positive thus far.
    - Versatile PhD (<http://versatilephd.com>) – a resource for students not planning to enter the academy; indicators suggest our students have taken advantage of this resource (48% from STEM fields and 38% from the humanities).

## Faculty Assembly updates

- Faculty Assembly minutes:  
<http://univsenate.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Jan%2013%202015%20FA%20Minutes.pdf>
- University Times coverage: <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=33814>
  - Chair Horvath informed the committee that she provided the EPC annual report to the Faculty Assembly on January 13<sup>th</sup>. This report included the EPC recommendation on expanding course descriptions. Input from faculty in attendance was shared with the EPC committee in addition to Senate President Spring's request to gather faculty input via on-line postings for 15 days following Faculty Assembly and then return to Faculty Assembly on February 10<sup>th</sup> with revisions reflective of faculty input and language consistent with a resolution. Input provided at Faculty Assembly was summarized for EPC committee members by co-chair Falcione and a handout with the online posted input from the Faculty Assembly webpage was distributed to committee members for review. Concerns included that a template would be too specific and that faculty, especially adjuncts, who are hired close to the start of the term would not be able to provide this information prior to registration. A revised recommendation based on this and all other input, in the format of a draft resolution, was provided to committee members prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued and further revisions to the draft resolution based on committee members' suggestions were incorporated. The revised draft resolution will be presented by Chair Horvath at the Faculty Assembly on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Reports from Athletics and NTS faculty subcommittee were also presented. A request for faculty input to be posted to the Faculty Assembly web-page for the work being conducted by NTS was also made by Senate President Spring. This web-page will also be available for 15 days following the Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Faculty Assembly.

## ACIE update

- Liaison Falcione reported:
  - ACIE Subcommittees on Diversity and OMET on-line student evaluations of teaching met on January 20<sup>th</sup> and their reports were provided to ACIE on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Liaison Falcione was a member of the OMET subcommittee. A brief summary of both reports provided to ACIE was summarized for committee members. A representative from CIDDE will join the Senate Cross-Committee OMET working group in an effort to maintain communication between Senate committees and Provost council work.
  - Innovation in Education proposals due January 26<sup>th</sup>. The review process was revisited and streamlined at the last ACIE meeting. Review dates are scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>:

## SEPC future planning

- Spring meeting dates:
  - Feb. 16 – Tour at CIDDE
  - March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>
    - TBA 2015: a representative from the Office of the University Registrar will be invited to an upcoming meeting based on committee members' inquiries pertaining to availability for "walk-in" requests to the Registrar for transcripts.

**Adjournment:** 5:30pm

**Additional Documents posted in SEPC Box folder**

Location: SEPC recourses >> References Resources from Meetings

Link to folder: <https://pitt.box.com/s/x3d6qb24xo9sc79i2xzm>)

- Office of Admissions presentation (treat it as internal document--not for distribution)  
<https://pitt.box.com/s/6kqv8inqpbdp1xvjyl99iisuwafurxcf>
- EPC annual report to Faculty Assembly <https://pitt.box.com/s/z4hivmrwf83h6t304m07kil64ktb4gou>
- Course description resolution <https://pitt.box.com/s/176rghtlyxmv003j1ppdnz6eyjp4mbko>