

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
September 12, 2012

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p><u>Call to Order.</u> President Thomas C. Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM</p>	The meeting commenced.
<p><u>Approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2012 Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes.</p>	The minutes were approved as written.
<p><u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u></p>	No new business.
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let me begin by welcoming everyone to another academic year. I extend particularly warm greetings to the officers of the senate, two of whom are new to their positions. We already have been connecting and talking about the year ahead and I really do welcome a continuing partnership with you. • Last year was another terrific academic year for the University. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On the student side we claimed our fourth Rhodes Scholar since 2005. Because those honors are so hard to come by and because that is a record equaled by only one other public research university in the country. ○ We claimed 3 Goldwater scholars, the highest honors that an undergraduate studying science, mathematics, or engineering can claim. These were our 36th, 37th, & 38th Goldwater scholars since 1995, which we are averaging more than two a year. And since you can only nominate 4 a year that really is outstanding as well. ○ We claimed 3 of just 45 Whitaker pre-doctoral fellowships to be awarded nationally last year. ○ We were once again recognized as one of the country's leading producers of Fulbright scholars. This is a list that literally could go on and on. • Turning to the more senior members of the University community, it also was a year in which they did a lot of shining. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We claimed two of just 22 MacArthur Genius awards to be presented nationally. One, a faculty member, an alumnus. ○ We had 2 faculty members and 2 alumni elected to the Institute of Medicine. ○ Seven of the 25 initial Masters in Critical Care come from the University of Pittsburgh. ○ We were one of just 10 universities nationally to have 3 or more members of its faculty elected to the National Academy of Sciences, ○ Collectively we were ranked by the National Science Foundation as number 5 among American Universities in terms of the total federal science and engineering research and development support attracted by members of our faculty. That put us in a top 10 just behind Johns Hopkins, Washington, Michigan, and Penn, and just ahead of Stanford, Columbia, The University of California at San Diego, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. • It was a very difficult year in many other respects. 	

- When we last met the state budget for the current fiscal year had not been passed. In the end we enjoyed a pretty high level of success in resisting the deep cuts proposed in February 2012
- The state funding to the University of Pittsburgh and to the other institutions of public higher education was flat, that positioned us to develop a budget which was passed in mid-July that included both modest tuition increases and a modest salary increase pool.
- Soon we will be into the next budget cycle, as I was traveling over the last 2 days and getting emails from chief financial officer, Art Ramicone, about the materials that we are to submit to Commonwealth in the next week.
- This year may be a little bit less contentious but there are these looming issues such as the underfunded state pensions creating financial pressure. Pitt is not a part of those pension funds but the state system of higher education has its employees in those funds. A significant number of Penn State employees are in those funds. Pitt has always been a defined contribution institution so we are not either dragging down the state or getting any benefits from those funds for which we have not paid.
- The Governor's Advisory Commission on Post-Secondary Education has continued to meet all summer. It will make its recommendations to the Governor by the middle of November. Hopefully they will be generally positive toward public higher education.
- We were contending with bomb threats.
 - And all the while we were contending with the problems that those threats presented for us on campus, law enforcement agencies and particularly federal law enforcement agencies were hard at work in terms of their own investigations of these crimes.
 - In August, a federal grand jury did return indictments relating both to the weeks-long siege of emailed bomb threats and to the subsequent threats that were posted on YouTube.
 - As a lawyer I feel compelled to give the obligatory reminder that an indictment is not the same as a conviction. I did see a brief news report today suggesting that one of the YouTube threateners was scheduled to enter a guilty plea in the near future.
 - We are moving toward closure with those indictments returned and a good thing for the psychological wellbeing of the campus community that they were returned before the start of the new academic year.
- In any other year our Middle States Reaccreditation Examination almost certainly would have been bigger news.
 - There never was much doubt that that would be an outcome of the process for the University of Pittsburgh. But what is noteworthy is not only that we passed or even that we passed without any kind of qualifications but that in terms of our special topics examination we did focus on assessment which has been a major stumbling block for many very fine American universities going thru this process.
 - We made it thru with flying colors and the former Provost Maher and the current Provost Beeson convinced me that the assessment approach to the self-study and it worked out well.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition to that focus we are examined on our performance against every one of the accrediting standards. One of the things that was very heartening were the broad and entirely positive statements made by the evaluators about the progress at Pitt, the place of Pitt within the company of world class research universities, and the commitment to excellence that really has driven our momentum over the course of the last several years. ● Just about this time last year we announced that we had received and accepted an invitation to begin competing in the Atlantic Coast Conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That was very important to the University both in terms of providing a more stable home for our intercollegiate athletics programs and also providing a dramatically enhanced revenue base for our athletic programs. Also because of the collection of institutions in the ACC, their academic strengths and their geographic distribution. ○ During the course of the summer we were able to secure an “early release” from the Big East so that we will compete within the Big East this year and beginning next summer we’ll be a member of the ACC. ○ The ACC President earlier today announced that Notre Dame will be moving into the ACC for all sports except football and hockey. In football with a commitment to play 5 games against ACC opponents and other provisions that we believe will strengthen the conference. ● We also enter the year with another group of outstanding students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is something when you get up on the stage of the Peterson Center It’s a wonderful feeling when this kind of energy returns to each of our five campuses and you are visibly reminded of the importance of the work that we do here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The freshman class here in Oakland launched the year by setting a new world record.....the most people ever gathered in one place and dancing with an umbrella over their heads and marked the 100 anniversary of the birth of Gene Kelly, a distinguished University of Pittsburgh graduate. When you think about something like that it’s mainly fun but it’s really not a bad way to introduce students to the University of Pittsburgh as a place where we like to set records. We like to set our sights high and we like to achieve things that are distinctive. ● Even in the course of the first two weeks of the academic year we have inspiring examples of colleagues being recognized for their contributions of impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noreen Garman from the School of Education was selected to receive the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award. This is an award which honors educators who have inspired former students to create an organization of benefit to the community including Kakenya Ntaiya to come to the School of Education for her doctorate and then encouraged her as she raised funds to start a school for girls in a part of Kenya where girls previously got no schooling. This whole initiative has attracted enough attention that it’s been the subject of a documentary on BBC. ○ Toi Derricotte from the Department of English in the Dietrich School 	
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of A&S was selected to receive the PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry presented to an American poet whose distinguished and growing body of work represents a notable and accomplished presence in American literature. .

- Earlier this week Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery Tom Starzl was selected to receive the 2012 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Service Award.
 - To put that into some kind of perspective, 81 Lasker Laureates have gone on to win Nobel Prizes. Tom Starzl is a person who has changed the course of modern medicine. I always have thought that it was a privilege to be a part of the same faculty as a person of the caliber of Tom. The Lasker people are honoring him for his pioneering work in the field of liver transplantation, an achievement that, in their words, “most physicians deemed an impossible dream.” In publicizing his selection identified Tom as a person considered to be the “Father of Transplantation,”
 - Starzl performed the first successful liver transplant. In subsequent decades, he trained a generation of surgeons to do the operation, mentoring emerging physician-scientists in a quest to unravel the intertwined complexities of biomolecular factors, immunology, infection control, and pharmacology, eventually applied in human clinical trials.
 - He is credited with evolving kidney transplantation into an effective procedure, and performed the first heart-liver transplant here in 1984. He also introduced four commonly used immunosuppressive drugs for clinical transplantation, establishing a foundation for successful immune-system management and drug-regimen therapies in the transplantation of all kinds of organs.
 - It really is wonderful to see someone who has made such a difference receive this kind of recognition. Dr. Starzl has received more awards than many of us could count but the Lasker award is really one of the highest honors in the world.
- Turning back to a younger member of the group; Tia-Lynn Ashman, from the Department of Biological Sciences in the Dietrich School is principle investigator on a \$2M to identify what role genetic diversity plays in polyploids, plants with 2 or more sets of chromosomes. This will help scientists predict the ecological responses plants may have to environmental change.
- In connection with the ACC meetings I was with Donna Shalala, the current president of the University of Miami, former chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, former Secretary of DHHS. Among other things she said to me, “Pitt is really known as a great place for women in science.” I hope that’s true. I hope it also is true that it’s known as a great place for women in poetry and education and other fields.
- Over the course of the summer the Swanson School was recognized as

<p>the top American engineering school in terms of the percentage of doctorates awarded to women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also over the summer we were recognized by the <i>Scientist</i> magazine as one of the top two American Universities, along with the University of Michigan, for scientists of either gender. 	
<p><u>Questions/Comments</u></p> <p><u>Prof Mulcahy (Rep Titusville Campus):</u> An article appeared in the Erie Times News yesterday. While the article itself was good, some of the headlines could have been a little better written from Titusville’s point of view. Are you planning any sort of response?</p> <p><u>Chancellor:</u> I hadn’t planned any kind of response; actually maybe I should go back and take another look at it. When I did see it I thought, as you’re suggesting, that the content of the article was not bad. I don’t remember what about the headline would be disturbing. I don’t remember the headline.</p> <p><u>Prof Mulcahy:</u> The content is fairly good but the headline. I’m basically here just speaking for myself. I think the headlines create a bad impression; it comes at a very tricky time for us in terms of being able to recruit students since this newspaper is a major regional paper in the very 7-8 county region which is our regional base. If some sort of statement reaffirming the University’s commitment to the Titusville campus might go a long way towards counteracting any false impressions that the headlines.</p> <p><u>Chancellor:</u> I’ll go back and look at the article. And again I do want to say I appreciate the perspective that you’re sharing because there may be reactions to a headline or to an article from those who are immediately affected that would not have the same impact on people at a distance.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Senate, Thomas Smitherman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business of the University continued over the summer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the annual Pennsylvania budgetary policy, we and other state-associated universities got what can be described as the least bad outcome, although work on the final budgetary distribution continues. ○ We can be proud of the role that the Pitt Community, led by Chancellor Nordenberg, played in the outcome. ○ There was positive news on last academic year’s bomb threats and threats to professors. There have been no new events and several people have been apprehended and changed with these offenses. • Your executive committee worked hard over the summer as I will outline later in my report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Substantial communication continues between the Dean of the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and the Departments of Religious Studies, Classics and German to make certain that established policies and processes of the University will ultimately be followed in any potential restructuring of the graduate programs in those departments. The departments have until October to respond to the Dean and I understand that the deadline may be extended in one department. We should be able to report to you the final resolution late in late autumn or early winter. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I do not plan any new initiatives. I have propose that we further enhance our prior CERTS-Community Engagement for Research and Teaching through Service and to work to get more faculty involved in the Fitness for Life Plan, supported by the UPMC Health Plan. ● I also hope to greatly increase and improve the communications between the Faculty Assembly and the University Senate with all faculty members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have begun to develop plains for an enhanced Senate website, in conjunction with the current redevelopment of the entire University web-site that is now underway. ○ We are also working to enhance the Senate Newsletter to make it even more appealing and informative to the faculty at large. It is my hope to increase the frequency of the publication of the newsletter. ● We have opted to have a single Senate Plenary Session this year. It will be held in March of next year and chosen the title: <i>“The Oncoming Cyber learning Revolution in Higher Education?”</i> Preliminary plans are underway. You may have read in the lay press and educational journals about the rapid introduction of more computer-based teaching and learning in higher education. How fast will it come? Why is it coming? How will we apply these changes at Pitt? How will we maintain the best of our prior educational methods in the face of new technological innovations? All of these questions and more will be addressed. 	
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<p><u>Questions/Comments</u> None</p>	
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<p><u>Reports of the Committees</u> <u>President of Student Body Government Board: James Landreneau</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I am joined by Alex Murdoch, Gordon Lauderback, and Natalie Rothenberger, 3 of 8 board members on the University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate, non CGS Student Government Board. They have been tremendous leaders so far this year and will be to the end of their terms coming in December. ● Pitt Make a Difference Day on October 20th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Led by the Community Outreach Chair Mallampalli. This is something new with SGB this year to integrate Make a Difference day with SGB. ● Readership Program welcomes the New York Times and USA Today to Pitt’s campus with 7 new drop boxes which replace the open kiosks for the newspapers that are delivered each day to the students. ● A program on October 2nd will welcome New York Times journalist John Broder to talk about Deep Water Horizon and working on creating a panel discussion to discuss the future of offshore drilling in America. ● Transparency Initiative at SGB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SGB town halls, Allocations 101 meeting, and continuing with public meetings hosted at Nordy’s place on Tuesday nights. ○ Each board member is working on specific projects. They are centered on advertisement, sports, sustainability, food, academics, and Pitt advocacy. ● I will meet with Vice Chancellor Paul Supowitz as well as many other student leaders talking about general election programing and events for the student body. 	
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- The Pennsylvania Association of State-related Students, a collaboration of all state-related schools; University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, Temple University, Lincoln University, have begun a discussion on how to advocate for every state-related university in Pennsylvania.
 - Undergraduate SGB met with the Pitt Veterans President, William Cole who gave an informative presentation to the board about the needs of the veterans on Pitt's campus. I plan on meeting with both President Givens and President Coleman of CGS in the coming weeks to expand the discussion on how to improve the lives of veterans who are students on Pitt's campus.

College of General Studies Student Representative: Brian Coleman

- The peer mentoring flagship program has now gone underway.
 - Student leaders in CGS Student Government, Alpha Sigma Lambda, Lambda Alpha Epsilon, and returning Veterans are mentors of the program. All mentors have now completed training and will be meeting with advisees after the application process.
- Non-traditional Student Week is scheduled November 10th thru 15th this academic year. The weeklong celebration will include alumni socials, and dinners with CGS Student Government. Among the events is, "One Night in Paris," a photography exhibition by CGS SG President Brian Coleman. The exhibit will discuss education abroad, and how other non-traditional students may accomplish the same.
 - Among other CGS Student Government items is an appreciation dinner for Jim McCarl, the alumni who contributed funds for the 4th floor McCarl Center.
 - CGS alumnus social with David Newell, who played Mr. McFeely on Mr. Rodgers Neighborhood.
 - CGS SG will initiate co-sponsoring a Veterans Day event with student organizations SGB and GPSG, for Pitt students within all sectors of each population active in the military.

No Comments

Graduate and Professional Student Government: David Givens

- We have also given significant thought and reflection to our student organization over the past few years. The culmination of our internal evaluation has led to several important positive changes.
 - The G-P-S-A has voted to rename and rebrand itself as G-P-S-G. This was determined by our board and representatives from each school to more accurately reflect our increasing role as a voice and central resource for students and graduate student organizations at Pitt.
 - This comes at the same time we are working to increase our partnerships with each individual school's graduate/professional student government, as well as making us and our function in student life more immediately identifiable. We hope that people will also be less likely to confuse our acronym with GSPIA's.
 - Accompanying this change is a new logo and slogan for our government – engage, enhance, experience – that captures our

<p>commitment to improving and supporting graduate and professional student life across the university.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With the gracious support of VP Sbragia’s office, we were able to accomplish this without using any graduate student activity fees. ● Another acronym we’re working with this year is that of the PSGC – the Pittsburgh Student Government Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GPSA in 2009 founded the PSGC in response to the mayor’s proposed tax on student tuition. ○ For the coming year, I have been elected to serve as the chairman for that organization. We have garnered regional/national attention by other institutes of higher learning looking to emulate what has begun here at Pitt. We are providing consultations to other student governments at Cornell, Ithaca, and SUNY Cortland. ○ I have had the honor of representing the PSGC and our own students here at Pitt to the city, community, and business partners through the Sociable City Initiative. ● The Sociable City Initiative, a city-wide collaboration of elected officials, the mayor’s office, community representatives, health care professionals and advocates, PCHE, and local business owners have started a number of workgroups to address specific focuses for Pittsburgh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ workgroup on Integrating Youth and Reducing Harm in Pittsburgh’s nightlife economy advocating for increased nighttime transportation options, night life safety and accountability for students, patrons, and communities, identifying and creating targeted educational campaigns for nightlife participants, and fostering greater community cooperation. ○ Coordinated student participation from CMU, Carlow, Chatham, and Pitt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive results from this initiative include the state liquor control board, which is a member of this project, who will sponsor a statewide Sociable City Summit for each major city’s governing officials in Harrisburg. ● With the One Young World Summit being held in Pittsburgh - and partially at Pitt – this October, we have encouraged our students to volunteer just as they did at the G20 as guides, translators, and welcome teams for the second largest gathering in the world of people under the age of 30. ● Supporting more new graduate student organizations, in particular Pitt Lambda, Pitt’s graduate LGBTQ group, and the Pitt Vets, who support our students who have served our country. ● Through our office renovations, we are now able to offer meeting space, printing resources, and dedicated computers to graduate organizations. ● Supporting and working more closely with Pitt’s graduate cultural organizations with more resources and finances ● Partnering with the Office of International Services to developing initiatives to support international graduate students ● Helping students deal with the ongoing concerns raised by A&S’s suspension of graduate admissions in several programs ● Attending colleges’ orientations to introduce students to the many 	
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services we offer

- Offering a number of cultural, service, and social events around Pittsburgh for graduate and professional students

No Comments

Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Organization: Kathleen Moriarty-de Biasi

- A&SGSO had its first official meeting yesterday with record attendance.
- We have 6 professionalization workshops in progress thru a variety of topics from CV and teaching portfolio creation to academia and family issues, salary negotiation once you do go out in the job market, etc. We are making a concerted effort to introduce our graduate student body to the important but often unseen aspects of a career in academia.
- It our sincerest hope that during this academic year we will be able to work more closely with University administration, to learn from their experience and to be kept better aware of how this University and academia in general is evolving to meet today's challenges and tomorrows needs in education.
 - I would just like to thank Dr. Alberta Sbragia, the Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional students and Dean Humphrey for being so supportive of the new organization, the Graduate student Lambda group which was formed over the summer which it is a group that was formed to represent graduate students who identify with the GLBTQ open to anyone on campus who feels in a minority group.

No Comments

Staff Association Council: President Deborah Walker

- Today during our monthly SAC meeting I presented the council with highlights of our FY12 accomplishments and how these accomplishments interfaced with our FY12 goals.
 - First goal: Broaden our message
 - Enhanced our website communication tools. Developed an online registration of all SAC programs which enabled us to increase participation at all programs.
 - Participated in a 225 community service project by working with South Oakland to beautify the community. We weeded and planted flowers. If you travel along route near the Schenley Park Bridge you can see the beautiful flowers we planted along with the community in South Oakland.
 - Provided representation on the Middle States Accreditation.
 - Utilized Pitt Portal and Read Green to further broaden our message.
 - Held SAC meetings throughout the campus, "SAC on the road", where we were meeting in various sites around campus.
 - Increased our membership by 12% and held the first ever installation ceremony.
 - Conducted conference calls with our regional officers.
 - Partnered with students, governmental relations, and alumni affairs for a letter writing campaign for Pitt Day in Harrisburg.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our second goal of understanding staff issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Held the first ever technology fall assembly ▪ Partnered with HR to have a brown bag workshop series. ▪ Held training for our committee chairs and vice chairs and established liaisons for each committee. ▪ Established a mentoring committee. ○ Our last goal, build pathways to solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed our goals which helped us structure and make sure we were on task for meeting these accomplishment for this year. ▪ Held meetings with our senior administration ▪ M more fiscally responsible last year ● As we move forward this year we will have 3 brown bag workshops for the fall; October – FMLA, November – Retirement Savings Plan, December – Staff Benefits Workshop. ● That concludes my report. <p>No Comments</p>	
<p><u>Announcements.</u> The Chancellor is hosting a reception in his office. I hope you will all walk over to the Cathedral and go to the Chancellor’s reception. Thank you very much for your attendance and this meeting is adjourned.</p> <p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting adjourned 4:08 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
October 1, 2012

Members attending:

Arnold-Blais, Beck, Becker, Beeson, Butterworth, Cochran, Coleman, Costantino, Frank, Gallagher, Givens, Gleason, Hartman, Humphrey, Juhl, Kear, Kovacs, Landreneau, Levine, Lin, Louderback, Lyon, Molinaro, Moriarty-de Biasi, Mulcahy, Murdoch, Neft, Neufeld, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Ramicone, Rothenberger, Savinov, Singh, Sallie Smith, Sharon Smith, Smitherman, Song, Vieira, Walker, Wilson

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Buchanich, Chiarulli, Clermont, Daley, Elliott, Gaddy, Hravnak, Kory, Mujumdar, Savoia, Slimick, Wendell

*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Culley, Flynn, Kearns, Lunsford, Miller, Skledar, Tananis

Others attending:

Balaban, Borghesi, Clark, Frisch, Hill, Hoogendoorn, Mohamed, Supowitz, Wilds

*Notified Senate Office