

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Conference Room A, University Club, third floor
October 2, 2012

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Tom Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Record attendance last month of 52 members.	The meeting commenced.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting.</u> President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes of the September 4, 2012 Faculty Assembly meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	No items of new business.
<u>Report of the President.</u> President gave the following report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work of Senate has increased over the past month • Met as an experiment at the new room at the University Club saves \$500 per meeting and \$5,000 per year, same as Posvar Hall • Using new meeting arrangement for the room today and interested in comments • Other university campuses have had bomb threats recently • Arts and Science plans for changes in graduate programs is under review and will be settled hopefully in November • Opted for single plenary for this year; choice of topics was timely as the Provost announced involvement in Coursera • Dr.'s Golden, Perfetti, Lesgold have all agreed to participate as principal speakers for plenary speaker • Most likely will be in April • Dr. Irene Frieze forward a proposal that originated in subcommittee of the ADPC on non-tenured faculty....referred to TAFC for review and will eventually be reviewed by the Faculty Assembly. 	President's report was approved as submitted.
<u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate.</u> TAFC: presented by Constantino and Borgehsi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred cases for consultation for review, mediations, and appeals preparation; due process • Continue to be responsive to all faculty and concerns as it relates to academic freedom • Will provide report to faculty assembly on tenure and non-tenured faculty • Deep appreciation for Dr. Balaban's work with TAFC...leadership of the committee has been important and looks forward to working with him in his new role. • Ongoing cases: reviewing concerns by 2 faculty members of denial of tenure and promotion and 1 faculty member for due 	

process.

Comments

- Pinsky: can you please give report of the tenure and non-tenured faculty report before the end of the spring term?
- Frank: TAFC does not handle grievance directly
- Blair: TAFC is involved in preliminary review before the file for formal grievances. Grievances are specific detailed process. TAFC is in an advisory role in denial of tenure and promotion which may or may not go to an official appeal to Provost. Assists the faculty member in seeing with more clarity of the case
- Borghesi: we provide them with input from peers
- Pinsky: TAFC is involved in cases as a neutral third party.
- Constantino: also dealing with issues of perceives lack of due process; a balanced examination of the cases and last resort before faculty go to the University administration.
- Slimick: we have a statement of academic freedom but never approved by the board...TAFC is closest to this.
- Blair: if you read the University bylaws they are prominently there.
- Baker; at the time the statement on academic freedom, the provost accepted it and the chair of the committee did not accept it.
- Pinsky: can we ask the TAFC to approve?
- Smitherman: can we ask for discovery on all the pertinent documents?

Special Report: Research Universities and the Future of America, Smitherman

1. Will set agenda for research universities, boards of trustees...a very important report
 - Congress initiated this process and expressed concern that the nations universities are at risk; asked national academies to assess
 - Develop this document to put forward 10 vital steps that the US should take to augment our research universities;
 - 61 members of the Association of American Universities of with Penn State, University of PA, Pitt are the members in our state
2. Land grant act, congressional action set aside areas of land to that each state in the Union fund at least one University (1862)...partnership to provide practical education needed to make US a leader in agriculture and industry.
3. First nation in the world, make available to all citizens the availability of higher education. After great depression, investing in research and graduate education to provide steady stream of funding for NIH, NSF to develop new technologies, medical procedures, prosperity, security and public health
4. Now: political transformation of knowledge and innovation;

stimulate economy, new threats; science and engineering the keys to the future; US driven by innovation, products, processes; innovation increasing driven by educated persons; research universities are key to these challenges.

- Unstable revenue streams for Universities
- Need a reasoned set of policies; society, security, development
- State funding for higher education eroding for more than 2 decades and recently cut further
- Business and industry have dismantled large corporate research laboratories
- Research universities must improve productivity and cost management
- Young faculties have insufficient ability to launch academic careers. Age at which investigator get first grantup into the 40's; formerly expected to obtain grant in 30's
- Cost of sponsored research is not fully funded but those who procure it, which means that universities have to cross-subsidize sponsored research from other sources
- Burdensome federal and state regulatory and reporting requirements increase costs and sometimes challenges academic freedom and integrity.
- Doctoral and postdoctoral preparation could be enhanced by shortening time to degree, raising competition rates, and enhancing programs' effectiveness in providing training for highly productive careers
- Demographic changes in US population necessitates strategies for increasing the success of female and underrepresented minorities
- Institutions abroad are increasing competing for international students, researchers and scholars.

"It is essential that we as a nation reaffirm, revitalize, and strengthen substantially the unique partnership that has long existed among the nation's research universities, the federal government, the states, and philanthropy by enhancing their individual roles and links among them and also by providing incentives for stronger partnership with business and industry. In doing so, we will encourage the ideas and innovations that will lead to more high-end jobs, increased incomes, and the national security, health, and prosperity we expect.

Ten Strategic Actions

- 1. Federal Action:** Within the broader framework of US innovation and R&D strategies, the federal government should adopt stable and effective policies, practices, and funding for university-performed R & D and graduate education so that the nation will have a stream of new knowledge and educated people to power our future, helping to meet national goals and ensure prosperity and security.

2. **State Action:** Provide great autonomy for public research universities so that these institutions may leverage local and regional strengths to compete strategically and respond with agility to new opportunities. At the same time, restore state appropriations for higher education, including graduate education and research, to levels that allow public research universities to operate at world class levels.
3. **Strengthening Partnerships with Business:** Strengthen the business role in the research partnership, facilitating the transfer of knowledge, ideas, and technology to society, and accelerate “time-to-innovation” in order to achieve our national goals.
4. **Improving University Productivity:** Increases university cost-effectiveness and productivity in order to provide a greater return on investment for taxpayers, philanthropists, corporations, foundations, and other research sponsors.
5. **A Strategic Investment Program:** Create a strategic investment program that funds initiatives at research universities critical to advancing education and research in areas of key national priority.
6. **Full Federal Funding of Research:** The federal government and other research sponsors should strive to cover the full costs of research projects and other activities they procure from research universities in a consistent and transparent manners
7. **Reducing Regulatory Burdens:** Reduce or eliminate regulations that increase administrative costs, impede research productivity, and deflect creative energy without substantially improving the research environment
8. **Reforming Graduate Education:** Improve the capacity of graduate programs to attract talented students by addressing issues such as attrition rates, time-to-degree, funding and alignment of both student career opportunities and national interests
9. **STEM Pathways and Diversity:** Secure for the US the full benefits of education for all Americans, including women and underrepresented minorities, in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology
10. **International Students and Scholars:** Ensure that the US will continue to benefit strongly from the participation of international students and scholars in our research enterprise.

Discussion

- Frank: we need to work with economics as well as legislators on Capitol Hill and visits directly by faculty are needed to discuss research, services and other work that impacts their jurisdictions.
- Attacks from the bottom and top...challenges on taxes; creates wide impression that we are occupying space; partnership with non-profits

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank: We have federal representative from Pitt for DC and we should seek their input in working with Federal senators and representatives. We should find out who in Congress pushed the development of this document and contact them. • Slimick: Involve faculty from the regional campuses more. • Becker....send out this report to others; book the "Great American University" former provost at Columbia....provides an historical perspective; series of lectures at Harvard in 1963 and 1993. • Pinsky: Status of Pitt minutes: produced about 1-2 per month, focused on specific legislators and specific group. Found on the Pitt home page. 	
<u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u> None	.
<u>Announcements.</u> Smash Hits; benefit sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh at the Peterson Events Center. Proceeds of the tennis match featuring Billy Jean King and Sir Elton John benefit the Elton John AIDS Foundation. The VIP reception directly benefits the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. (flyers available)	Information only; no action needed.
<u>Adjournment.</u> The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM	Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rose Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, FAAN
 Senate Secretary
 Associate Professor of Public Health, Medicine, and Nursing
 Graduate School of Public Health
 University of Pittsburgh
 October 3, 2012

Members attending:

Baker, Beck, Becker, Borghesi, Buchanich, Butterworth, Cauley, Chaiklin, Clark, Clermont, Constantino, Costantino, Flynn, Frank, Gleason, Hartman, Karp, Kear, Kearns, Kovacs, Lewicka, Lin, Lyon, Molinaro, Nisnevich, Pinsky, Savoia, Sereika, Shafiq, Slimick, Smith, Smitherman, Song, Spring, Tananis, Vieira, Weiss, Wendell, Withers, Withiam

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bledsoe, Bonneau, Chase, Chairulli, Daley, Fabian, Feuer, Gallagher, Gibson, Hravnak, Labrinidis, Leers, Majumdar, Mulcahy, Riccelli Rougeux, Skledar, Smolinski, Tisherman

*Excused attendance:

Bartholomae, Bircher, Burkoff, Caldwell, Culley, Erickson, Gaddy, Kelly, Looney, Lunsford, McKinney, Miller, Neft, Neufeld, Savinov, Shaiman, Sukits, Terry, Wilson

Others attending:

Aggelou, Barlow, Blair, Fedele

*Notified Senate Office