

**Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Conference Room A, University Club, third floor
September 4, 2012**

Topic/Discussion	Action
<p>Call to Order. President Tom Smitherman called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.</p> <p>Tom introduced Dr. Jim Becker, Senate Vice President; Dr. Linda Frank, Senate Secretary and Lori Molinaro, Director, Senate Office. He introduced Dr. Carey Balaban as the new Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs.</p> <p>He introduced new members of Faculty Assembly, Jane Cauley, Russell Clark, Kevin Gibson, Jordan Karp, Marta Lewicka, Jerome McKinney, Anna Nisnevich, Najeeb Shafiq, Sam Tisherman and Clare Withers.</p> <p>John Baker gave an orientation over lunch today to new members.</p>	<p>The meeting commenced.</p>
<p>Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Assembly Meeting. President Smitherman asked for approval of the minutes of the June 5, 2012 Faculty Assembly meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as written.</p>
<p>Introduction of Items of New Business. President asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.</p> <p>Student Veterans Association – Jay Sukits, KGSB</p> <p>Jay involved with the organization since '06, he was a student at Pitt in '72 after serving two tours. He remembered his experiences and started meeting with people in the administration and then in '07 working on student veteran issues. At the time Veterans Affairs was in Thackery Hall. In '08 he was asked to cease and assist and then in '09 the Veterans Office was introduced. There have been challenges in coordinating Veterans Affairs office and the SVA.</p> <p>Startling statistics: one veteran every 80 minutes commit suicide, of the 2 million that served in Iraq and Afganistan. They have some degree of PTSD SVA groups try to provide support and intervention. Will Cole is the student pres. He was in attendance. Jay would like faculty involvement; he would like Faculty and Staff who are veterans to get involved in this organization. If you would please take this message back to your office we want faculty/staff who are veterans to get involved.</p> <p>Most important issues: communication. Must have the ability to communicate with them. Veteran's Affairs office has agreed to send one email per semester on behalf of the group and other groups that want to communicate with veterans</p> <p>William R. Cole, President, Pitt Vets, and Graduate Student in GSPIA: he has been the person pushing this agenda for Veterans. (Document distributed on their issues)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veteran transition class: give peers and opportunity to address traumatic brain injury, PSTD, other relevant issues. 2. Physical Space or a Veterans Resource Center: allow veterans with psychological and physical disabilities to meet, study 	<p>Jay Sukits discussed the Student Veterans Association</p>

<p>3. Hiring of a Director for the Office of Veterans Affairs: since November 2011, no director</p> <p>4. Means of communication: increased membership without University supported communications means</p> <p>Discussion: Becker: does it matter for which country they served? Sukits: No Hartman: do students have to self-identify? Sukits: we do not want the contact directly to veterans; we just want to be able to send out emails from the Veterans Affairs office. We need a more effective means of communication. Munroe: Is there a prohibition from setting up an internal email list? Sukits: There are signup sheets for email. Assumptions have been that Veterans are non-traditional students but in fact are throughout the University in all programs. Munroe: Could the request for the committee be a subcommittee of an existing committee. Baker: what about contacting Dean Humphrey Faculty told who the Veterans are in their classes Neufeld: As students fill out application and I assume that Veteran is on application Sukits: There are privacy issues that prevent obtaining this information.</p>	
<p>Report of the President. President gave the following report:</p> <p>Academic life cycles back with the beginning of the new year. Welcome to all the new faculty senate members.</p> <p>Increase and improve community between faculty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New website in concert with the revision of the new Pitt website 2. Enhance senate newsletter; increase publication of newsletter 3. Meeting today in conference A rather than the ball room; reduces costs, better acoustics, and reintroduction of modest refreshments while reducing the cost by half. More centrally located, reduced cost 4. Establishing special reports for these meeting beginning today with Paul Supowitz, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations 5. Reducing plenaries to 1 per year: coming cyber revolution in higher education. <p>In my initial thoughts so that we could have a short section in the newsletter for committees to provide a summary of their issues and work. Discussion: None</p>	<p>President's report was approved as submitted.</p>
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate.</u></p> <p>Paul Supowitz, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations (provided handout)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New federal government person as Jean Stoner has been out on medical leave • James Wilson: local government issues • Charles McLaughlin: also works on state government relations <p>Discussion of Handout</p>	

1. Section 1: budget process in Pennsylvania; process begins in September for developing the budget for FY 2013-14: delivered during second week in February by the Governor
2. Pitt Days in Harrisburg: usually occurs in March; more than 500 Pitt representatives last year; increasing grass root involvement of alumni, faculty, staff
3. Commonwealth Funding Trends: private higher education has always had a place at the table, PA has one of the largest numbers of private institutions
4. 7 of past 11 Years, Pitt appropriation has been cut. public welfare, corrections; pensions get the most increases
5. level of funding flat until 2011 when our appropriate cut by 27%
6. Funding for State Related Universities vs. Inflation: we have not kept up with inflation
7. Governor's Proposed FY 2012-13 Budget State for state-owned and state-related: cut last year was proposed at 30% and budget completely restored. Previous year, the cut was 50% and reduced to 27%.
8. Public higher education is being used as a place to deal with budget problems. These have been disproportionately cut to higher education when the overall budget cut were 1% and 4% respectively. The state is not constitutionally required to fund higher education unlike primary and secondary education.
9. Recognition from appropriations for state-related universities to be cost effective; Chancellor Nordenberg was key to restoration of the budget for the state-related universities. Penn State and Temple did not have a presence in these negotiations during this past year due to issues at their own universities.
10. There has been pressure and push back, tuition would be no more than inflationary rate. Governor's office signed on. State revenue and tax collection was more than expected in spring 2012 which was helpful in some restoration of funding.

Frank: It is my understanding that Penn State faculty and staff get PA State Pension. Isn't the need to reduce the funding to universities due to the obligation to fund the growing state pension plan? Doesn't this mean that Penn State gets more of the state budget

Supowitz: they don't get more funding directly. In fact, many of the legislators were surprised to learn this that Penn State faculty and staff are part of the state pension plan.

Slimick: PA College of Technology budget was not touched

Cauley: if Penn State has more students and calculate the cost per student

Supowitz: never been funded on a student basis; state appropriation only covers the discount we give to in-state students We don't expect increase in funding; must find efficiencies. Pension liabilities are daunting. Highlighted other states around Pennsylvania we are not being funded at a comparable level.

Getty: what other issues does the office address

Supowitz: legislative issues, such as disclosure, faculty background checks;

<p>federal level: work with APLU, AAU....advocate for the larger sources of research funding. Different from the state owned universities</p> <p>Constantino: What about the Tobacco Settlement funding?</p> <p>Supowitz: PA was very deliberate so that all the money went to health related causes; and health related research via formula (based upon amount of research funding) and non-formula funding. Pitt has gotten \$7-8M and has gotten the most along with the University of Pennsylvania. Non-formula (topic was identified each year); proposals submitted and reviewed. Every year there has been discussion of using these funds for other issues.</p> <p>This year the Governor has proposed to move these funds from current focus. Ultimately the formula funds remained but the non-formula funds were redirected. It is unlikely that these non-formula funds will be restored.</p> <p>Smitherman: Congress asked the National Research Council (NRC) to examine Universities. Highly recommend that all read the Executive Summary: Research Universities and the Future of America.</p> <p>Supowitz: One of the sections was that the legislature of the state should look carefully at the funding for research university It was suggested at a minimum that funding be restored to the level at 2007-2008</p> <p>The new Governor's Commission on post secondary education that includes for-profits, private schools, industry has been working and it is difficult to predict the outcomes. However, it gives state-related universities an opportunity to provide information on their role in innovation, workforce, and industry. Some legislators may feel that the University of Pittsburgh will contribute the same as a private or state-related university.</p>	
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business</u></p> <p>None</p>	.
<p><u>Announcements.</u></p>	Information only; no action needed.
<p><u>Adjournment.</u> The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.</p>	Meeting adjourned.

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:

Baker, Bartholomae, Becker, Bircher, Butterworth, Cauley, Chaiklin, Clark, Clermont, Costantino, Daley, Erickson, Fabian, Flynn, Frank, Frieze, Gaddy, Gibson, Gleason, Hartman, Hravnak, Kear, Kearns, Kelly, Lewicka, Lunsford, Lyon, Majumdar, McKinney, McLaughlin, Miller, Molinaro, Munro, Neft, Neufeld, Nisnevich, Riccelli, Savinov, Savoia, Sereika, Shafiq, Slimick, Smith, Smitherman, Spring, Sukits, Tananis, Terry, Tisherman, Wendell, Withers, Withiam

Members not attending:

Barker, Bauer, Bonneau, Chase, Chairulli, Cohen, Culley, Feuer, Gallagher, Labrinidis, Mulcahy, Rougeux, Skledar, Smolinski

*Excused attendance:

Beck, Buchanich, Burkoff, Caldwell, Constantino, Karp, Kovacs, Lin, Looney, Pinsky, Shaiman, Song, Vieira, Wilson

Others attending:

Balaban, Barlow, Borghesi, Fedele, C. McLaughlin, Supowitz

*Notified Senate Office