

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
September 8, 2009

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President Michael R. Pinsky called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.	The meeting commenced.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2009 Faculty Assembly Meeting.</u> President Pinsky asked for approval of the minutes of the June 2, 2009 Faculty Assembly meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President Pinsky asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	No new items of business were brought forward.
<p><u>Report of the President, Michael R. Pinsky.</u> President Pinsky gave the following report:</p> <p><i>Announcements:</i> The Fall Plenary, Interacting with the 21st Century Student, will be held Wednesday, October 21, from noon-3pm in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union. Lunch will be served. More details will be provided at next month's Assembly meeting.</p> <p>The Provost is holding a closed-door meeting with the Faculty Assembly on February 4, 2010, 3pm-5pm in 2700 Posvar Hall. The topic is the University budget.</p> <p><i>Welcome to all new and retuning members of the Faculty Assembly</i> President Pinsky welcomed the Faculty Assembly. He reviewed the statement of charge for the Assembly, which includes attending the Assembly meetings, voting for Senate committee members, and serving the people who voted for us. We are an academic community, and we should behave like one. This means supporting and defending academic freedom, academic conduct and academic responsibility in all of their guises. The faculty is the University's most valuable asset. We, as the University Senate and through the Faculty Assembly, represent that asset to the University. Immediate Past President John Baker gave a presentation to the new Assembly representatives today at noon. It was very informative, and I urge all who did not attend to download the PowerPoint presentation available from our University Senate website. I have been involved in University Senate activities for over 10 years serving in many different capacities, and I learned much from reviewing these slides.</p> <p><i>Faculty Assembly meeting structure for 2009-2010</i> President Pinsky described the Faculty Assembly meeting structure for the upcoming year. We will plan on having presentations of at least two University Senate committees each month, summarizing new and ongoing work, plus additional presentations, as needed. We will attempt to keep these presentations short and focused. I will also keep</p>	President Pinsky's report was approved as submitted.

my comments brief but reserve the right to comment after each presentation if appropriate. The Senate Executive Committee (President: myself, Vice President: Susan Hansen, Secretary: Lisa Bernardo, Immediate Past President: John Baker) will be present for one-half hour before each Assembly meeting for private discussions about any issues large or small your constituents may have.

Excluding today, I will host a post-Faculty Assembly informal meeting at the University Club for all the Faculty Assembly members who wish to come, as my guest. The first beverage is on me, but I want you to know I will be paying for it out of my own pocket. I am doing this for several reasons. First, I think it is a good thing to promote community. Second, I like the idea of an informal forum where colleagues can speak their minds and open discussion on important issues becomes commonplace. I hope this and similar gatherings become tradition. Third, the University Club is a fantastic venue and just opened, and I want you all to see it. You are all eligible to join, and its monthly dues are minor and its benefits great. It is your University Club, use it.

Overview of present challenges facing the University and faculty this year President Pinsky spoke to the following challenges at the University:

- on-going budget crisis
- forced departmental budget reductions
- faculty and staff salary freeze for the year

We need to have a greater voice at the table at deciding where cuts will be made and once the crisis resolves, to reinstate support staff, programs and salary raises. To do this, we must be engaged.

- H1N1 Swine flu

The Swine Flu Pandemic is real, and this is the year it will be at its height in North America (report of the World Congress of Critical Care Medicine Societies August 2009, Florence, Italy). In the southern hemisphere, H1N1 already had its 2nd year hit. Sydney, Australia, had 40 patients with Swine Flu requiring extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) with approximately 400 patients requiring ICU admission. Argentina was hit even harder, but it was difficult to ascertain severity since reporting is incomplete and levels of care varied widely. The total number of people affected (around 500) out of millions is a small number of people. There is a good possibility that this swine flu epidemic may not be as severe as the 1918 influenza pandemic. From a public health perspective, the last influenza pandemic came about in 1918, but the deaths were in 1919 because the influenza was already present.

There are patients with H1N1 and acute respiratory distress syndrome

(ARDS) requiring mechanical ventilation in the ICUs of UPMC now. These patients tend to be sicker, with stiffer lungs, who are younger and healthier than those in the 1918 pandemic. Faculty need to know the University of Pittsburgh's Emergency Plans, including self isolation, and common sense hygiene (hand washing, covering one's mouth when coughing and sneezing and avoiding large crowds). Web-based learning opportunities should be utilized when needed.

Faculty Executive Committee voting

Faculty Executive Committee election results were determined by <15% of the eligible voting faculty. One issue is the lack of faculty awareness of the University Senate, its role in shared governance and how the rank and file relate to their elected representatives and the administration. I see this issue as complex, multi-tiered and cultural. To address this issue I have asked help to develop three initiatives:

1. We need to make sure that faculty receive timely, appropriate and brief notices of issues directly related to their academic and professional lives at the University of Pittsburgh. We will be seeking to increase the frequency of brief University Senate notifications.
2. We will be requesting a greater presence of the University Senate on the University of Pittsburgh's home page so that faculty from within and outside the University can more readily access our website and the information it holds. Concomitant with this request will be the never-ending improvements to the already good website to keep its information useful to you, the Faculty Assembly representative, and the University faculty.
3. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I have initiated a Faculty Assembly Outreach Program, chaired by Professor Wes Rohrer, which is tasked with increasing communication between the Faculty Assembly and the University faculty. He will be speaking on this issue later in the program.

Unless we increase faculty awareness and participation in this important legislative body, the power of our voice with the administration and the community at large, and our collective perspective will be undermined by indifference. If we want a place at the table of shared governance, we must truly represent the faculty for whom we are listed to represent. This point underscores a major theme of this year and one I hope will result in great faculty awareness of the University-wide issues, greater faculty involvement in University Senate standing Committees, ad hoc committees, plenary sessions and elections both by running for offices and voting.

<p>President Pinsky concluded his report and asked for questions or comments. No questions or comments were made.</p>	
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate.</u></p> <p><u>Athletics Committee</u> Mr. Lou Fabian, Chair, described the Athletics Committee. The Committee is comprised of 9 faculty members. The Committee provides oversight within the Athletic Department and the Department of Recreation. The Athletic Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examines and votes upon NCAA rule changes that have any academic attachment to them. • reviews various functions within the Athletic Department, such as the drug testing policy. • receives facility updates, such as the acquisition of Robinson Court. • reviews academic support services, which are provided to athletes in addition to what is provided by their advisors, who function through the Provost’s Office. • reviews the outreach program of the Athletic Department, where athletes contribute 3000-4000 hours per year of volunteer community activities. <p>Mr. Fabian reported that the work of the Athletics Committee this year includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looking at the NCAA rule changes (every fall). • receiving a facility update. • reviewing the secondary violation reporting process. • looking at graduation rates (later in the year). • reviewing the drug policy (spring term). <p>President Pinsky asked what will be built in the Robinson Court area. Mr. Fabian said there will be additional athletic fields for the University’s teams, such as track, soccer, baseball and softball fields. Actual designs and layouts have not been released, but will be ready next fall. Professor Slimick asked about how much interaction the Athletic Committee has with similar committees in other schools of the same conference as Pitt. Mr. Fabian responded that not much contact is made with these schools’ athletics committees. Pitt, like the other Universities, has a faculty athletic representative. Pitt’s representative is Professor Susan Albrecht from the School of Nursing. Most NCAA universities have this representative. Professor Albrecht represents Pitt nationally and heads a committee which reviews internal systems within the Athletic Department, reporting directly to the Chancellor, the NCAA, and the Athletic Department.</p>	<p>Information only; no action required.</p>

<p><u>Benefits & Welfare Committee</u></p> <p>Ms. Pat Weiss, Chair, described the Committee’s work. The Committee is comprised of retired and experienced members, as well as new members joining this year. Work in the past year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • receiving a report twice a year from the Director of Health and Safety on the issue of smoking violations. • receiving reports from the pro tem member, who chairs the Child and Dependent Care Subcommittee of the Gender Equity Ad Hoc Committee, and on its charges, such as changes in the University’s Child Development Center. • receiving a report on the tuition exchange program. • devoting time to reviewing the UPMC health plan and its existing and eliminated services (for example, the smoking cessation program was eliminated). The Vice President for Pharmacy Services addressed the Committee about the push to substitute generic medications for trade brand ones. <p>The Committee’s work for this year includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiating a standard curriculum, proposed by the senior administrative liaisons, whereby each month a different topic of concern is presented regarding benefit and health issues. • reviewing ways to communicate with and inform faculty and staff about health and welfare-related topics, such as using the flexible spending option, whose usage has increased on campus; problems with the electronic benefits data system (EBDS); and formulary changes. <p>Faculty Assembly member Gaddy noted that a fee will be charged to faculty and staff on the Greensburg campus for using the recreational facilities. Is using a recreational facility considered a benefit of working at the University, and should a fee be charged? Greensburg faculty used to have access to the recreational facilities in Oakland. Now, they no longer have access to the Oakland facilities either. The University ID cards for regional faculty have been changed and they are now excluded from using the recreational facilities. This issue will come before their Senate Council. Ms. Weiss said that using a recreational facility was not an official benefit. Mr. Fabian responded that there was no policy, to his knowledge, and it may have to do with the individual campus or facility.</p>	<p>Mr. Fabian will discuss the issue of non-Oakland faculty not having access to Oakland facilities at an upcoming Athletic Committee.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business.</u></p> <p><u>Faculty Assembly Outreach Program</u></p> <p>Professor Wes Rohrer presented on the faculty outreach program. There has been an issue of a lack of awareness or interest in the Faculty Senate at the University, as evidenced by the low participation rate in the last Senate election. To that end, the new faculty outreach program is geared to enhancing communication between the Faculty</p>	<p>President Pinsky and Secretary Bernardo will work with the Senate Office to create a spread sheet</p>

<p>Senate and the University community. The Faculty Assembly representative can be seen as a conduit for communication among faculty, their home departments and the Faculty Senate. There is a new program to enhance communication to faculty about what is going on in the Senate. In this program, Faculty Assembly members give updates once or twice a year to their departments regarding the work of the Faculty Senate. Professor Rohrer gave a powerpoint presentation that provided an orientation to the Faculty Senate, which was excerpted from Immediate Past President Baker’s presentation.</p> <p>President Pinsky reinforced that we were elected by the faculty, and we need a structure to give back to the faculty via communicating, once or twice a year, the work of the Faculty Senate. The powerpoint presentation to be given by Faculty Assembly representatives is individualized to each member’s department or school. If others want to be involved in this initiative, they can contact Professor Rohrer. Positive comments were made about the initiative.</p> <p>Assembly members engaged in a lengthy discussion on faculty participation in shared governance and communication among faculty, departments and administration. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty may be pre-occupied with their own work and may lose sight of being a part of a community of scholars. We should try to emphasize the values shared by all faculty. • Follow up on issues before the Faculty Senate, including issues of the faculty from the regional campuses, are not always communicated in a timely manner back to faculty. There should be a way to track the way issues come forward, move through the system, and are resolved. • The roles of faculty and the Faculty Assembly in shared governance should be strengthened and articulated. • Suggestions to improving communication among faculty include improving the Senate website, improving the visibility of the Senate link on the University’s website (e.g., placing the link on the home page), and utilizing electronic communications more fully. Evaluating faculty senate websites of our peer universities would provide us with guidance and examples. • Faculty should reach out to their Faculty Assembly representatives for information and should bring issues of concern to the Senate officers, in keeping with the Senate bylaws. 	<p>on work that is underway and its movement through the Senate process. This spread sheet would be made available throughout the academic year.</p>
<p><u>Announcements.</u> <u>Senate Matters Column</u> Vice President Susan Hansen discussed how Assembly members can be involved in writing for the Senate Matters column of the <i>University Times</i>. This column is 800 words or less and focuses on issues of</p>	<p>Assembly members can contact Vice President Hansen with topics for the Senate Matters</p>

interest to the University faculty. Also, Assembly members should consider writing letters to the editor.	column.
<u>Adjournment.</u> The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.	Meeting adjourned.

Members attending:

Baker, Balaban, Bauer, Beatty, Bernardo, Brush, Burkoff, Butt, Caldwell, Chaiklin, Close, Deitrick, Fabian, Frank, Gaddy, Gallagher, Galloway, Hall, Hansen, Hartman, Henker, Iwema, Johnson, Kelly, Latimer, Lunsford, Majumdar, Molinaro, Otto, Pinsky, Ray, Rohrer, Seitz, Seybert, Shaiman, Singh, Slimick, Smith, Smitherman, Smolinski, Sparto, Spring, Tuite, Twiss, Weiss, Wendell, Wilson, Withiam, Yarger, Zutter

Members not attending:

Berry, Chasens, Chisholm, Coat, Coontz, Daley, Erlen, Greenberg, Karapinka, Labrinidis, Mark, Munro, Petracchi, Slaughter, Sommer, Stuckart, Towers, Tress, Trovato

*Excused attendance:

Becker, Bircher, Boone, Costantino, Juffs, Landy, Pan, Rougeux, Saunders, Skledar, Sukits

Others attending:

Blair, Brendel, Fedele, Hart, Meyer,

*Notified Senate office