

University of Pittsburgh  
Faculty Assembly Meeting  
Minutes of October 5, 2004

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.
2. The minutes of the Faculty Assembly meeting on September 7, 2004 were approved as revised. A statement regarding the electronic resources of the library system that suggested that Faculty Assembly members had felt the library could do better was removed as it misrepresented the discussion.
3. Introduction of Items of Unfinished Business and New Business  
President Bircher asked whether there were any items of unfinished business other than the tabled motion of the Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee or any new business. There were none.
4. Remarks of the President, Nicholas G. Bircher  
Professor Bircher noted that his remarks would be brief.
  - He reported first on activities of the standing committees.
    - The Senate Athletics committee will redraft its report to incorporate the discussion at the June meeting regarding the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). Professor Bircher and the Co-chair, Professor Zamboni, will produce a cover letter which (1) prefaces the Committee's report regarding the decision not to join at this time, and (2) invites Professor Eno, the head of the Coalition, or his designate to speak at the Spring Plenary session entitled "Athletics: Do we have enough say?"
    - Benefits and Welfare. Professor Bircher said that the committee's revised mission statement was available on the table. He said that he and the committee would be working on an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) map, which will hopefully spell out the location of available AEDs, and provide a one-page set of instructions on the flip side. He mentioned that there is a new AED in the School of Public Health.
    - Budget Policies. The Committee's first meeting of the term is scheduled for October 8. Related to Budget Policies, Professor Bircher said the Provost has agreed in principle to revise the rules governing financial aid for out-of-state graduate students and GRA funding so as to more fairly balance the distribution of funds where grant money is available to pay for them and where it is not.
    - Bylaws and Procedures. Professor Bircher announced that the new co-chairs for this committee are Alice Kuller (Health Sciences Library System) and Ted Rice (School of Pharmacy).
    - Commonwealth Relations. Professor Bircher noted that the committee has its usual excellent schedule and this provides an opportunity for faculty to speak up as constituents. The next Commonwealth Relations luncheon is scheduled for October 22 on the Bradford Campus. The guest speaker will be Rep. Martin Causer from the 67th District, which includes Cameron, McKean, and Potter Counties.
    - Community Relations. Professor Bircher announced that Tracy Soska is on the agenda to give an update of the November 3 Plenary. The topic is "The Scholarship of Community Service."

- Educational Policies. The committee was on the agenda regarding the Campus Climate report, but they asked to postpone their report until the next meeting.
- Library. The new Co-Chairs are Rosemary Hoffmann (School of Nursing) and Michael Vanyukov (School of Pharmacy). As Co-Chairs of the Library Committee, they were invited by the Provost to serve on the Information Technology Steering Committee (ITSC). Professor Bircher noted that the evolution of information acquisition and management is absolutely crucial for the entire University community and he looked forward to a substantially revitalized role for the Library Committee in this regard.
- Plant Utilization and Planning. After searching for a new mission, the Committee decided to stick with the current mission statement and to be more active within its scope. The Committee met on September 13 and Carolyn Carson was elected Chair. Professor Bircher said that everyone looks forward to her leadership in broadening the horizons of this committee.
- Professor Bircher then reported on other Senate Committees
  - Ad hoc Committee for the Support and Advancement of Women at Pitt. Professor Bircher asked Professor Frieze to give an update. Professor Frieze said the committee is beginning to meet and will take on a couple of specific agenda items this year. The committee will review the current Sexual Harassment policies, how people are educated about those policies, and whether they are working well or need revisions. They will also look at the consensual sex policies. The second task will be how mentoring is done and things that can be done to improve mentoring for women in particular, but more generally for faculty and staff, both from the point of view of helping younger people and teaching people how to become mentors. They will also be working on developing a fund to support women and women's projects. They are working with the Provost's Office and Women Studies in doing that. Finally, at the suggestion of Faculty Assembly they are looking into whether they should become a regular Senate Committee.
  - The Ad hoc Committee to study the Expedited Review Process was chaired by Professor Hershey. The Expedited Review Process Policy is now posted on the University's Web site. Professor Bircher thanked Vice Provost Blair for his help in the matter.
- Professor Bircher next reported on other University Committees/Organizations.
  - Regional Campuses. The Senate officers hope to coordinate a meeting with the Faculty Senate presidents on November 16.
  - Professor Bircher said he met with the officers of the Staff Association Council on September 28. The principal areas of mutual concern for the Faculty and Staff are the University's contributions to health care costs for both active and retired individuals. Another is the maintenance of salary in real dollars accounting for increased direct health cost and job related costs such as parking.
- Professor Bircher ended his remarks by announcing meetings. These included the Senate Council meeting on Monday, October 11, the Faculty Assembly meeting on Tuesday, November 2, the Plenary Session on Wednesday, November 3, and Senate Council on Monday, November 8.

### Questions and Comments

Professor Holland said the memo sent out to announce new AED equipment in the Cathedral of Learning said one should call the campus police first, but in fact AED should be used first. Professor Bircher agreed and said that would be corrected in the new AED memo to be sent out.

### 5. Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate

#### *Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee*

Tabled motion: Resolution on Safe Zone Program

Professor Buchele, chair, said the subcommittee met last week. In light of the comments and concerns expressed at the last Faculty Assembly meeting, they have decided to withdraw the resolution asking for Faculty Assembly support. He said he wanted to emphasize that the withdrawal does not mean they do not intend to move forward on the Safe Zone program. They are just reconsidering whether they need Faculty Assembly support.

#### *Community Relations Committee*

Professor Soska provided an update of the plans for the fall plenary session on November 3<sup>rd</sup> on “The Scholarship of Community Service.” He passed around a draft of the program. This is a full day program but the plenary will be at 2 PM in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union. The keynote speaker will be Professor Lorilee Sandmann, School of Education, University of Georgia. She is the Co-Director of the National Clearinghouse and Review for Engaged Scholarship. There will be a reactor panel afterwards. Professor Sabina Deitrick will moderate the panel. There will be representation from administration, faculty and the community. There will also be roundtable sessions afterwards to help think through recommendations. At lunch, there will be a showcase of service. They want to showcase service that has scholarship and research tied to it. Also at lunch will be a forum on Community Experiential Learning Opportunities. Gregg Behr, President of the Forbes Funds, will facilitate the discussion. In the morning, in co-sponsorship with the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education, they are inviting teams from institutions around the area to begin a cross-institutional dialog in areas of service learning, community outreach, and scholarship and research. It is a full morning and he hopes it will lead to a valuable plenary.

#### *Educational Policies Committee*

Report on Campus Climate Reports

Professor Bircher said he would entertain a motion to postpone this report. The motion was proposed and was passed by a voice vote.

### Questions and Comments

Professor Frieze said she had a suggestion. There have not been committee reports for several meetings. We need to have committee chairs come forward and make reports. She said Professor Bircher will be contacting the committees to request reports on their activities.

6. Unfinished Business and New Business  
There was no unfinished or new business.

7. Announcements

Professor Metzger announced the Teaching Excellence Fair, on Wednesday, October 27 from 9 AM to 2 PM in Alumni Hall. Presentations will be made by the winners of last year's awards from the Provost's Advisory Committee on Instructional Excellence. They will present their projects. A new RFP will be coming out for new projects.

Professor Soska reminded the Faculty Assembly of the concern for pedestrian safety in the Oakland area. The Community Relations Committee is co-sponsoring with the European Union Center and others, a speaker for Friday, October 15. The talk is on "Enhancing Public Transportation and Pedestrianisation: A Trans-Atlantic Dialogue." The speaker is Professor Carmen Hass-Klau, of the University of Wuppertal, Germany. She is also a principal in Environmental and Transport Planning in the UK. He said there was a flyer with more information in the back.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine E. Olson, Secretary

Members Attending:

Baker, Balaban, Belle, Bergen, Bircher, Boston, Buchele, Cain, Carson, Cassing, Chesler, Constantine, Costantino, Cothran, Czak, Deitrick, Flynn, Friedman, Frieze, Goodhart, Greenberg, Hampton, Hartman, Holland, Kuller, Metzger, Muenzer, Munro, Nelson, Olson, Pike, Platt, Puri, Rice, Salama, Soska, Stoy, Sussman, Vanyukov, Wion

Others Attending:

Blair, Daniel, Fedele, Hart, Tobias