

University of Pittsburgh  
Faculty Assembly Meeting  
Minutes of May 2, 2006

1. President Frieze called the meeting to order at 3:03
2. Approval of the Minutes of the April 4, 2006 Faculty Assembly meeting without changes.
3. Introduction of items of new business: None
4. Report of the President, Professor Irene Frieze
  - a. General Items.
    - i. Facilities Plan for FY 2007-2018. The Provost asked that the Senate review and approve the University Facilities Plan. Copies of the plan were sent to all Faculty Assembly members asking for input. Vice Provost Bob Pack met with interested members of Faculty Assembly on Wednesday, April 26 to discuss the plan. President Frieze reminded Assembly members that the plan is still confidential, and that we would discuss and vote to formally approve the plan later in the meeting.
    - ii. The Provost met with about 35 members of Faculty Assembly on April 17 for a confidential budget discussion. Given the positive comments about the meeting, President Frieze asked the Assembly if this should be made a regular event. There was general agreement that this was a good thing to continue. President Frieze said that she would write formally to the Provost about presenting a report every year.
    - iii. President Frieze provided an update on the faculty portal. She and Fran Czak met with Jinx Walton and her staff on April 7 to discuss a new look for the Faculty Portal. They have developed beautiful pages higher up on the portal page. It will be up soon.
    - iv. President Frieze asked if it made sense to have another Senate Newsletter before August or September. There seemed to be an interest. President Frieze asked that anyone with an issue to contribute contact her.
    - v. Last month Harry Hilliard of the Office of Facilities Management invited the Senate to work with him and his office to develop a formal policy on recycling. While the Senate Plant Utilization and Planning Committee has too many things on its agenda to address this right now, President Frieze saw this as a great invitation to take advantage of. In light of this, she proposed that a Senate Ad hoc committee on Recycling be formed. If approved by Faculty Assembly, she could chair it or another interested person could be chair. Paul Munro expressed reservations suggesting that it should be a routine part of the University's waste management system. Vice President Pinsky suggested that the issue goes beyond this, involving, for example such things as policies on electronic vs. written communication and the use of video projection rather than handouts in lectures. ***Motion to form an Ad hoc Committee on Recycling was approved.***
    - vi. The Fall Plenary Session on Mentoring is scheduled for October 19, 2006. The keynote speaker will be Jeanette South-Paul of the department of Family Medicine. A panel is being formed. Also planned are video interviews about mentoring programs.
    - vii. Vice President Pinsky provided an update on the working group on the Fitness for Life program. The committee will be submitting recommendations for general fitness plans and University options in the next month and then will

tackle the Disease Screening and Disease Preventative programs in high risk individuals as part of the Faculty and Staff benefits. This will serve as a model of how the healthcare insurer improves the quality of health of the people they are serving.

- viii. Deadline for nominations for the Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award was April 19. The committee chaired by Bill Savage will make its recommendation to the Chancellor within the next few weeks. The award will be presented at the June 12 Senate Council meeting.
  - ix. Jo Olson received the University Senate Award for Outstanding Service to the University Senate at the April 10 Senate Council Meeting. Faculty Assembly recognized and thanked Jo with applause.
  - x. A Senate Handbook is being put together to explain the various precedents and procedures of the Senate. This is particularly necessary with the retirement of Fran Czak at the end of June. A first draft has been completed by President Frieze. It includes the Senate Bylaws plus discussion of procedures. Fran and the Senate Officers will comment on the draft. At that point the revised draft will be sent out to Faculty Assembly members for comments and suggestions.
- b. Committee Reports
- i. Athletics
    - 1. Vice President Pinsky reported that the head of the department of athletics reported on the academic aspects of the athletic teams. In particular, that the academic performance greatly improved and is the same as the school as a whole.
  - ii. Computer Usage
    - 1. The committee met Friday April 28. At the meeting Jonathan Miller of the Library System gave a TEACH presentation. Also discussed a request from Lew Jacobson to provide university-wide software to schedule meetings.
  - iii. Educational Policies
    - 1. Susan Sereika suggested that Peter Hart's article in the April 27 *University Times* gives an excellent report on the committee's work and recommended that members of Faculty Assembly read it. The committee will give a full report at next month's Faculty Assembly meeting.
  - iv. Ad hoc Committee on Consumer Satisfaction with UPMC
    - 1. Former Senate President Nick Bircher is working with the Benefits Office to better publicize mechanisms for faculty and staff to get answers to questions and discuss any problems they are having. Phone numbers for doing this are on our health insurance cards, though many of us were not aware of this. Nathan Hershey has resigned as chair of the committee. Nick will continue as chair.
- c. Announcements
- i. The next Senate Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 8.
  - ii. The last Faculty Assembly meeting of the term will be Tuesday, June 6.
  - iii. The last Senate Council Meeting of the term is scheduled for June 12.
5. Reports by and Announcements of Special and Standing Committees of the Senate
- a. Senate Committee for Elections
    - i. Herb Chesler announced the Election results for the new Senate Officers who will start in July: President: John Baker; Vice President: Michael Pinsky;

Secretary: Ellen Cohn. Chesler thanked all candidates and the members of the Election committee. For results of those elected to Faculty Assembly and to committees, Chesler referred to available handouts.

- ii. Asked about voter turnout, Chesler said that of 4,000 ballots mailed, 943 were returned (23.7%). 56 of these were not valid to be counted. This was a typical return rate. Pinsky wondered if the rate of return will increase with electronic ballots.
  - iii. Linda Hartman thanked Peter Hart for the article that presented the candidates and their views in regard to specific questions. Pinsky suggested that such information could be built into the electronic balloting.
- b. Bylaws and Procedures Committee
- i. Ted Rice reported that the committee met April 18.
    - 1. With regard to representation from Pitt schools and units, their discussion will continue. Jonathan Miller suggested that they consult Jennifer Nicoll Victor in Political Science.
    - 2. With regard to electronic voting, they have moved forward, but one member suggested that there will need to be a paper trail for the electronic system. This seems to be a difficult matter to address. Pinsky suggested that it would be nice to get closure on the electronic voting by next month's assembly meeting (June). He said that the concept of electronic voting is already present in the University and thus shouldn't be a problem. John Close raised the issue of UPMC members needing to do electronic voting via Pitt, not UPMC accounts. Pinsky said he would look into this.
  - c. University Press Committee
    - i. Evelyn Rawski said that copies of the report from Cynthia Miller (Director of the University Press) on the work of the University Press Committee are available on the back table. The committee meets 2-4 times per year.

6. Unfinished Business and New business

- a. Final Review of the University of Pittsburgh Facilities Plan: FY 2007-2018
  - i. President Frieze reminded the members that the details of the plan are confidential. Given the public nature of the meeting, only general issues can be discussed here.
  - ii. President Frieze reviewed the procedures of the review of the facilities plan.
    - 1. Administration sought input from all units and did a physical inspection of all buildings.
    - 2. The facilities planning committee developed a plan. Chairs of the Senate Budget Policies Committee and Plant Utilization and Planning Committee are on this committee.
    - 3. The draft of the plan was presented to several committees, including Senate Committees and the University Planning and Budgeting Committee.
    - 4. The final plan was sent to all Faculty Assembly members, along with members of Senate Committees. President Frieze requested comments and received several, all positive.
    - 5. Dr. Pack presented the plan last Wednesday (April 26) at a meeting open to all Faculty Assembly and Senate committee members. Sixteen people attended the meeting and gave unanimous support. There were questions raised about the need for additional parking in Oakland, and

about the possibility of having rooms throughout campus set aside for fitness activities. But these concerns were not great enough to make anyone vote against the plan.

6. We need to provide a formal recommendation.
- iii. Discussion of the plan ensued.
  1. Paul Munro asked Bob Pack whether campus aesthetics were taken into consideration in the plan. Pack responded that they had a set of architectural issues, e.g. standardized lighting.
  2. Hartman asked if the plan will be revisited periodically between now and 12 years from now. Pack said that the plan is reviewed annually with the budget. The mechanism for review is the University Planning and Budgeting committee (UPBC). The chair of the Senate Plant Utilization & Planning (PUP) committee is on the UPBC. Pack emphasized that the plan is an outline of directions. Opportunities will arise, challenges will present themselves. We will have to be flexible with regard to its implementation. They will balance the long-term plan against year-to-year opportunities. This plan is minimal—what we must do, not what we believe we will do.
  3. A member praised the plan but commented that at the point we're able to see the plan, it is late in the process to have real input. He asked about earlier input. President Frieze suggested that faculty involvement is through the PUP committee. They have had input all along the way.
  4. Hall commented on choices involving where to put increased classroom space. Pack said that they took advantage of the opportunity that arose.
  5. ***The motion to approve the Facilities Plan as provided was passed with two abstentions and the rest in favor.***

7. Announcements

- a. Newly elected President John Baker said that if there is important business, he would like to reserve the right to call Faculty Assembly meetings in the summer months (July/August).

8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Ellen Ansell*, Secretary

Members attending:

Ansell, Balaban, Belle, Bircher, J. Carr, S. Carr, Chattopadhyay, Chesler, Close, Coley, Costantino, Czak, Deasy, Donegan, Flynn, Frieze, Greenberg, Hall, Hampton, Hartman, Kaufmann, Kirkwood, Manfredi, Munro, Nelson, Olson, Pinsky, Rawski, Rice, Sciote, Sereika, Skledar, Smolinski, Sussman, Weber, Wion, Withiam

Others attending:

Baker, Blair, Cohn, Fedele, Hart, Pack