

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2008
2700 Posvar Hall

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.	The meeting began.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the December 3, 2007, Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Baker asked for approval of the minutes of the December 3, 2007, Senate Council meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> President Baker asked if there were any new items of business to be brought forward.	No new items were brought forward.
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg.</u> On December 5, 2007, the University announced Dr. John Swanson's \$41 million-plus contribution to the capital campaign and re-named the School of Engineering in his honor. This level of support will make a tremendous difference to the people and programs of the Swanson School. This is a level of giving that further establishes Pitt in the top ranks of American universities when it comes to fundraising. The University is positioned to name the School of Engineering after not only a generous donor but one of its most distinguished graduates. Dr. Swanson is a past winner of the Fritz medal, the highest honor in engineering. Other recipients of this award include Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, Orville Wright and Alexander Graham Bell. Dr. Swanson is the founder of ANSYS, a world renown company and a major employer in our region.</p> <p>The School of Arts and Sciences passed the \$100 million milestone in its capital campaign, receiving more than 200 new endowed funds, including 9 chairs, 11 fellowships, 81 scholarships and student research funds and 25 awards. The School celebrated the Betty and Ralph Bailey endowment deanship in the School of Arts and Sciences</p> <p>The University climbed to 6th place nationally in NIH support received by members of our faculty. Pitt trails behind only Harvard, John Hopkins, Penn, UCSF and the University of Washington, and ranks ahead of UCLA, Duke, Michigan, and Washington University in St. Louis. While the competition is intense at these levels, Pitt is well positioned to move into the top 5; UCSF and the University of Washington are within striking distance. In terms of the total number of awards won by faculty members, Pitt ranks 4th, which is a promising sign.</p> <p>Highlights of Pitt work supported by NIH funding include the development of Pittsburgh compound B by researchers Bill Klunk and Chet Mathis, a breakthrough in detection of Alzheimer's disease before symptoms occur. This finding was selected by Harvard Medical School as one of the top five health news stories of 2007. Media</p>	The Chancellor's report was accepted.

outlets nationally and worldwide reported that a Pitt research team led by Patrick Moore and Yuan Chang discovered a previously unknown virus and linked it to an aggressive form of skin cancer.

On Friday, February 2, Pitt launched its Black History month observance with the world premiere screening of *The Fly Boys: Western Pennsylvania's Tuskegee Airmen*, which Pitt helped to sponsor. About 60 of the Tuskegee airmen came from Southwestern PA, and about 25 of them were Pitt graduates or in one case became a Pitt trustee. Pitt's Black History month programs have built a special following in the past years. These programs include: the world premiere documentary on K. Leroy Irvis, the first African American Speaker of the House in Pennsylvania and the first in any state since reconstruction; the award-winning Heinz History Center book on the 125 year history of Three Rivers Youth (founded as the Home for Colored Children); the premiere of the WQED documentary *Torchbearers*, a legacy of Pittsburgh's civil rights pioneers; and the world-premiere screening of the documentary on Freedom House ambulance service, Pittsburgh's first ambulance staffed with residents of the Hill District and lead by Dr. Peter Safar. Robert Hill, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, deserves a great deal of credit as a driving force behind this series.

In recent years, Pitt has experienced challenges of dealing with government at all levels, including local, state and federal. The University is a public research university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that state appropriations for higher education have seen the biggest jump in decades, with a 7.5% increase in 2007-2008 (the highest annual increase since 1985). In sharp contrast, state support for higher education in PA only rose 1.8%, which is less than 1/4th of the national increase and 47th in the 50 states. The states that border Pennsylvania, who presumably share the same economic circumstances, show a different trend. Increases were seen in West Virginia (14%), Ohio (7.7%), New York (6.8%), Delaware (4.2%), and New Jersey (2.7%). In states with whom Pitt competes with its universities, increases were as follows: Minnesota (12.6%), Texas (11.2%), North Carolina (10.5%), Wisconsin (8.2%) and California (5.7%). In all fairness, the increases in Virginia at 0.9% and Michigan at .1% were lower than Pennsylvania, but their leading universities have larger endowments, a longer tradition of private fundraising and a longer pattern of success in attracting top-notch students. Pitt is working hard to close gaps.

The Governor released his recommendations for the next fiscal year; Pitt's line has been targeted for a 1.5% increase, lower than last year. Most of Pitt's other line items were held flat and some were substantially reduced. Pitt's overall recommended increase was 1.2%. Therefore, some daunting challenges lie ahead, and it is encouraging to know that the University will be moving to meet those challenges from a position of strength.

The Chancellor concluded his report, and President Baker asked if there were questions or comments for the Chancellor. The Chancellor commented that the trends in state funding show that when he was a faculty member, state appropriations were 30% of the budget, as interim chancellor they were 20% and as chancellor they are 10% of the University's budget.

Assembly Member Lotze commented that news reports indicate that large universities such as Harvard and Yale dig into their endowments; would Pitt need to do the same? The Chancellor replied that the pressure is on those institutions with a sizeable endowment, and Pitt does fit into that category. The Chancellor spoke about the endowment process, where funds are designated for a particular purpose. There is little money that can be spent at the administration's discretion; endowment money is tied to the people's intention who gave the money. Endowments are created to provide a means of insuring the institution's future. President Baker offered that Pitt uses about 4% of the interest come from its endowment every year. Vice Chancellor Ramicone stated it was 4.4% of the three-year trailing average.

President Baker commented that the *Fly Boys* movie will be broadcast on WQED on Thursday, February 7, at 8pm. Assembly Member J.F. Carr enjoyed the report on Pitt's Black History month activities and that the University was creating new knowledge. The Chancellor responded that it was great every year to see the historical elements we've been able to showcase.

Assembly Member Coley mentioned that every year it is the same situation with state appropriations. What incentive is there to increase our appropriations? The Chancellor replied that there are different perspectives in raising money. When raising money from private sources, those most likely to be donors are those who support excellence and don't want to hear about the needs. They want to hear that you are the best, and that their money will have impact. State funders have the tendency to respond to need. Despite the case that we can make for the important role Pitt plays in both education and research, there is a tendency to believe we can take care of ourselves, students will continue to pay higher tuition because of the quality of the product we are offering, making this a hard sell.

President Baker added that 10 years ago the Chancellor wrote an op ed piece as part of a series on economic impact in education in our area; things haven't changed too much. That op ed piece is appropriate today. The Chancellor said that what has changed is the attitude within the institution. Earlier on, there was too much of a tendency to say if only the state would do more, we could do better. That was the answer to everything that wasn't going as well. At some point, there is a realization it won't get better, and there must be other ways to push the University forward to move its mission ahead. The Commonwealth

<p>support is a large amount of money each year that comes our way, and we would have a difficult time without it. When looking at the increasing expectations on institutions like Pitt, reflecting on the corporations that are now gone, the University has become ever more important in jobs that we generate indirectly through our spending. The hopes of our region are tied to the ideas we are generating through technology and in other ways. Assembly Member Carr asked that with cuts in aid to students, do we have enough fellowship money? The Chancellor added that he was referring to federal programs. The University increases the institutional dollars to financial aid every year. In the second half of this \$2 billion capital campaign there is nothing more important than generating more money for fellowship and scholarship dollars.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the President of the Senate, John J. Baker.</u> The new procedure for Pitt faculty to waive royalties on their own authored textbooks that are used in Pitt courses is being implemented. The Senate discussed this issue several times during the Fall term, so this should not be a surprise.</p> <p>Under the new procedure, the faculty member simply needs to notify the Pitt bookstore that he or she is using a book for their course that is authored by a Pitt faculty member. The bookstore will then monitor whether the publisher deducts the royalty fee from the price of books ordered by the bookstore, and will pass the deduction on to students who purchase the book. If the book publisher is unwilling or unable to deduct the royalty fee from the price of the book, then the faculty member must donate the royalty money they receive for books sold to Pitt students to their department. It then becomes the responsibility of the department to use the donated money in a way that will benefit the students enrolled in the course requiring the book.</p> <p>A Commonwealth Relations luncheon has been scheduled for April 18 in Johnstown with State Senator Wozniak. Anyone interested in attending should contact Cindy in the Senate Office.</p> <p>President Baker concluded his report and asked for questions or comments. Assembly Member Munro commented that President Baker discussed royalties on bookstore sales, but what about books sold via Amazon.com and other venues. Provost Maher responded that there is a long-standing policy that faculty members are supposed to return money on books sold to Pitt students. When students choose to buy through a vendor we can't monitor, the faculty can't know that they got royalties from Pitt students or someone else. The Provost hoped that students would purchase from the Bookstore. And any book sold through the Bookstore would be subject to the policy.</p>	<p>The President's report was accepted.</p>
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council.</u> <u>Student Government Board.</u> Sumter Link, the new 2008 SGB president, introduced himself and Board Member Gary Sanderson. The Board is working on a final</p>	<p>The SGB report was accepted.</p>

exam policy for students. There is a proposal that students having more than 3 finals in one day could get one exam moved. The Board has been meeting with the administration on this issue, including the Provost, and they are looking further into this issue. SGB President Link has been meeting with administrators within the Provost's Office on the feasibility of having a fall break; next week meet he is meeting with the calendar committee.

The SGB is working on releasing an off-campus student housing survey, in which Oakland landlord responsiveness and housing opportunities are graded by previous residents. The goal of this survey is to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate housing before signing a lease. On February 26 at 8:45 pm in the William Pitt Union the SGB will be holding a town hall meeting concerning issues regarding minority students on campus. The Panther statues were unveiled in January, and were located around the William Pitt Union. They will be placed around campus this year. SGB member Varner and the Traditions Committee chairperson are working on next year's Paint the Panther for homecoming. SGB members are working with University housing, Pitt police and other departments to address a handful of other issues.

President Baker asked for questions or comments. Immediate Past President Frieze asked if the Panthers were intended as a fundraising activity? SGB President Link replied that there was talk of the Panthers being attached to a fundraising activity, and the SGB might try to do this next year.

College of General Studies.

CGS Vice President Ric Fera gave the CGS report. On December 7, 2007, Deborah Morris led CGSC participation in Project Bundle Up, the second year for that event. An all-day spring planning event was held at the Wyndham on January 5, Council also reviewed the bylaws and constitution. The deadline for scholarships was extended to January 18. The regular CGSC meeting was held on January 25, followed by pizza and a trip to Phipps. Members will be attending ANTSHE in February.

President Baker asked for questions or comments; none were raised.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.

Pinar Yildirim, President, GPSA, gave her report. She is looking into an online transit visualization system. This is a live system to track shuttles. Other universities have a system where students can go to the computer and see where the shuttles are located. This provides students with the ability to be safe and productive while increasing the utilization of shuttles. The GPSA hopes to work on this project further and include the SGB. GPSA will take this proposal to the next transportation committee meeting. Another project is in regards to the rights of graduate students. Some universities have given their graduate students the right to collective bargaining for stipends,

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vacations and other things. While the GPSA is not proposing unionization, they want to bring this issue to graduate students, discuss it and form a bill of rights for graduate students. The content would include their pay, types of vacations and would provide new graduate students a basic constitution, which could help to attract more students.

Upcoming events include: A Friday, February 8 event at the Andy Warhol Museum; a Sunday, February 10 brunch for CMU and Pitt students, followed by a show at Heinz Hall. Tickets are available for the Vagina Monologues, followed by an opera at the Byham Theatre.

President Baker asked for questions or comments. Assembly Member Munro was interested in the efforts or exploration of unionization. Are there any national organizations that sponsor graduate students? GPSA President Yildiram replied that there are a couple of organizations, not necessarily academic ones, but there are faculty members involved in these efforts. Assembly Member Munro clarified that sometimes a national organization sends representatives in and tries to get things started. GPSA President Yildiram said that no representatives have been asked to come in; at this time, the GPSA is information-seeking only. Assembly Member Wion offered that there were efforts in previous decades to win collective bargaining rights for faculty at Pitt. There are national organizations, such as the AAUP, which do at some campuses represent graduate fellows and teaching assistants. Assembly Member Wion offered that if the GPSA would like to be put in touch with those groups, he would be happy to help. GPSA President Yildiram thanked Assembly Member Wion.

Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization.

A&SGSO Vice President Margarite Matthews gave the report. The Grad Expo is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, in the William Pitt Union. There are 43 papers, 17 posters and 1 musical presentation from 23 departments in the Arts and Sciences. They are pleased with the increased participation from the humanities. The A&SGSO is working with the University Marketing and Communications Office to finalize the banner stand and signage, which can be used in future years. Nominations for the Elizabeth Barringer Award were due January 29; they received 74 nominations for 40 nominees. The Committee has required that evaluations and letters of support be included with all nomination packages. Professors Anthony Bledsoe and H. David Brumble are serving on the selection Committee. The Finance Committee will meet for discussions on the budget for fiscal year 2009. Vice President Matthews is working on a tax workshop for graduate students utilizing H&R Block.

President Baker asked for questions or comments; none were raised.

Schools of the Health Sciences

Chad Kimmel, President of the Schools of the Health Sciences, had no report at this time.

The A&SGSO report was accepted.

<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council.</u> Angela Coldran gave the following report. The SAC Benefits Committee is: 1) reviewing recent research linking flexible working schedules to lowered healthcare costs; 2) reviewing a proposal for a benefits customer satisfaction survey; and 3) working with the staff of Human Resources to look for inconsistencies in benefits offered to regular part-time staff. Next week the SAC General Membership will be voting on a proposal that is addressing re-employment after involuntary separation. The SAC Salary and Job Classification Committee is in the process of preparing the annual letter regarding staff salary increases.</p> <p>President Baker asked for questions or comments; none were raised.</p>	<p>The SAC report was accepted.</p>
<p><u>Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate.</u> No reports were presented.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business.</u> There were no items of unfinished business or new business.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Announcements.</u> President Baker announced that the next Senate Council meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 2008.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Adjournment.</u> With there being no further business, President Baker adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>

Members attending:

Baker, Belle, Bernardo, Carr, Close, Cochran, Coldren, Costantino, Dunbar-Jacob, Flynn, Frieze, Greeno, Hodgkiss, Juhl, Kimmel, Kory, Levine, Link, Lotze, Maher, Molinaro, Munro, Nicoletti, Nordenberg, Pike, Ramicone, Sanderson, Singh, Stoy, Wion, Yildirim

Members not attending:

Aaron, Anzoise, Carlin, Cham, Chattopadhyay, Coat, Colwell, Deasy, Hall, Hampton, Hansen, Hawthorne-Burdine, Kirkwood, McKinney, Muenzer, Novesel, Rechter, Rubin, Slimick, Smolinski, Soska

*Excused attendance:

Alexander, Devanath, Ecker, Harbert, Hughes, Husted, Nelson, O'Connor, Olson

Others attending:

Blair, Brendel, Clark, Farber, Frish, Hart, Hoogendoorn, Humphrey, Kelly, Matthews, Mohamed, Wilds

*Notified Senate office