

University of Pittsburgh
Senate Council Meeting
Minutes of February 9, 2004

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate Council meeting on December 1, 2003 were approved as written.
3. President Bircher asked for items of new business for the meeting other than the Electronic Communication item listed on the agenda. There were none.
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg:
 - The Chancellor reported that the State Legislature finally passed the University's appropriation on December 23. The amount was that recommended by the Governor and was a three percent decrease from the previous appropriation. They are now working on the fiscal year 2005 budget. The Governor's recommendation for FY 2005 is a 2.5 percent increase for E & G and no change for other line items. This means a 2.25 percent increase overall. If this goes through, state support will still be \$10 million below FY 2001.
 - The Chancellor said that the next day, February 10, Pitt alumni will be meeting with their legislative representatives in Harrisburg. The Pitt band will play and there will be exhibits in Harrisburg. Pitt students will also be involved.
 - Last month there were alumni events in Los Angeles and San Francisco. These events were very successful thanks to the work of the staff, students, officers of the Alumni Association, and members of the Board of Trustees.
 - Last week the University sponsored the premiere of a documentary on K. Leroy Irvis. He was a law student at Pitt in the 1950s and later became speaker of the Pennsylvania House. It was a good event to launch Black History month.
 - Professor Derrick Bell, another African-American alumnus of the Law School and a tenured professor at Harvard Law School, participated in the Irvis event and in another one on Brown vs. Board of Education sponsored by the Law School. The Chancellor reported that there will be two more events in the next few months related to Brown vs. Board of Education in cooperation with Duquesne University.
 - The Honors Convocation will be held on February 27. The speaker will be Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, a Pitt alumna, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and a member of the Board of Trustees. Other alumni, faculty and students will be also recognized at this event.
 - The Chancellor announced the winners of the Chancellor's staff awards for Excellence in Service to the Community and to the University. He also announced the winners of the Chancellor's awards to faculty for service, teaching and research.
 - The Chancellor reported that Professor Robert Brandom, Pitt Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy, was one of only four recipients of a Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award. In receiving this award, Professor Brandom had kind words for his department and the University and he discussed how he would invest the \$1.5 million award to strengthen the department.

5. Report of the President of the Senate, Nicholas G. Bircher

- President Bircher reported that the Senate Executive Committee met on December 11 with Chief Justice Cappy in his capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees. While by mutual agreement the content is off the record, the discussion was candid and collegial. The Chief Justice stressed his open door policy; faculty members are encouraged to submit to Professor Bircher any issues they would like to have the Executive Committee address with the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- Professor Bircher reported that Vice President Frieze has taken on the “University Senate Matters Column” in the *University Times* and he asked her to talk about it. Professor Frieze noted that there have been two recent columns and the one she wrote on electronic communication is the basis for the motion being considered at the meeting. She asked for volunteers to write columns.
- Professor Bircher asked Professor Frieze to report on the Spring Plenary Session. Professor Frieze said the Plenary Session will be held on April 7 on the subject “Examining the Roles of Women at Pitt.” There will be workshops leading up to this event. She will provide more information at the next Senate Council meeting.
- Professor Bircher noted that the Pitt Club closed its lunch service in December, apparently without due notice to the University community. Two themes that emerged from the discussion at the Faculty Assembly meeting were (1) the elemental courtesy of reasonable notice before a change is made, and (2) the need for a “Faculty Club,” with reasonable facilities for entertaining visiting faculty and other guests, as well as, potentially, athletic facilities. Professor Bircher stated that he was referring this issue to the Benefits and Welfare Committee.
- Standing Committees:
 - Anti-discriminatory Policies Committee. With respect to the domestic partner health benefits issue, Professor Bircher will try to contact his equivalents at the other three state-related universities to try to get some consensus among faculty senate groups on this issue. Professor Tobias had inquired earlier with limited success.
 - Athletics Committee. A so-called framework document regarding reform in athletics has been produced by the Steering committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). Professor Bircher noted that there was a recent article in the *New York Times* regarding this issue. The Athletics Committee will decide whether to endorse the document in whole or in part.
 - Benefits and Welfare: The Medical Advisory Committee met on December 5 and January 30 with representatives of faculty and staff present. While the mid-negotiation details are not subject to disclosure, the discussions are frank and collaborative. There is a common desire to improve the level of accountability of all our health care vendors and intermediaries. This is an integral part of the MAC’s fiduciary responsibility to produce the best possible advice. The Advisory Committee on Recreational Facilities and Personal Fitness has met. It will address previous requests for reports on the utilization of the Petersen Center as well as alternative facilities for faculty and staff use. Herb Chesler has articulated a vision of faculty and staff having access to recreational facilities which are equivalent to those enjoyed by students. In addition, health management programs are sought to improve the overall health of faculty and staff.
 - Commonwealth Relations. Professor Bircher said the committee will be holding luncheons on February 13 with Rep. Frank Pistella, 21st legislative district of

Allegheny County and on February 20 with Rep. Joe Preston, 24th legislative district. He encouraged Senate Council members to attend these luncheons.

- Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee. TAFC has not yet heard from Dr. Levine's ad hoc committee regarding IRB procedures. A memo with an IRB update was sent to all deans, directors, department chairs, division chiefs and all UPMC hospital administrators on December 3, 2003 from Randy Juhl and Loren Roth. Professor Bircher noted that copies of the memo were on the back take. He also noted that progress has been made on the Psycho-Social IRB and Dr. Juhl is in the process of reporting back to the Medical School on HIPAA rules for multi-site locations of experiments.
- Other Senate Committees:
 - The Committee for Elections met for the first time on January 21. Alice Kuller chairs the Committee and she provided a report at Faculty Assembly. Candidate selection is going on and those with potential nominations are encouraged to contact her promptly.
 - Nathan Hershey chairs the ad hoc Committee to study the Expedited Review Process and the committee met on January 13. The ongoing negotiation has resulted in the resolution of all but a few relatively simple points. The remaining points have been summarized in a memo sent to Provost Maher.
- Other University Committees:
 - The Conflict of Interest Committee is in the process of being restructured and receiving a new charge. He will discuss with George Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research, his concern regarding the relative paucity of faculty representation on this new COI committee.
 - Toby Chapman, Susan Albrecht and Jim Cassing have all agreed to serve on the 2004-05 Academic Calendar Committee.

Questions and Comments

Professor Frieze said that she has been appointed to the Psycho-Social IRB and asked anyone with issues related to that subject to talk to her.

Professor Munro observed that having a good faculty club could provide good public relations for the University.

6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council

Student Government Board

The new President of the SGB, Brian Kelly, introduced the other SGB representatives, Elizabeth Blasi, Joseph Pasqualichio, and Joseph Salvatore. Mr. Kelly said the goals of new SGB officers include fostering traditions, reviewing the student activity fee, promoting campus unity and getting more involvement in the political process. On February 18 there will be a student-run athletic forum. Other issues are women's history, a "swap-it" program, and student evaluation of professors. They will be attending a national student government meeting in Texas at the end of March.

Graduate and Professional Students Association

Mr. Danczyk reported that GPSA had its winter reception in January. He mentioned two conferences in which GPSA is involved. One is the Graduate Student Conference in March sponsored by Russian and Eastern European Studies. The other is a conference on

Security on April 2 and 3 sponsored by Public Health and Public and International Affairs. The GPSA will hold elections in March.

School of Arts and Sciences

Mr. McCausland said his organization's problems with health insurance were finally resolved. Next year they will meet with health care providers. He thanked the administration for its help. He mentioned that the upcoming Grad Expo is coming together well and there is a nice collection of papers and posters. They have already received 40 applications for ten \$100 travel grants and the deadline has not been reached. They are moving \$2000 from their party budget to travel to provide some more and some larger grants.

7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council, Mr. Richard Colwell.
Mr. Colwell reported that the University is offering CPR training. He noted that the dual email problem exists for staff as well. He thanked the Chancellor for the Staff Excellence Awards.

8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committee of the Senate
Computer Usage Committee
Professor Close, Chair of the Computer Usage Committee, reported on the recommendation accepted by the Faculty Assembly on UPMC/Pitt dual e-mail accounts. He reported that Dr. Kanter of the School of Medicine had met with Jinx Walton to identify Pitt e-mail accounts that have not been used by faculty at UPMC and then alert those faculty members to the problem.

9. New Business.
Professor Frieze introduced the new business item of electronic communication. She explained that Faculty Assembly had agreed that the default mailing of its agenda would be via electronic mail with a link to the minutes. She proposed the following motion for Senate Council:

As a first step in moving toward greater use of electronic communication rather than paper, the agenda and minutes for Senate Council meetings will no longer be routinely mailed to members. Agendas will be sent via e-mail with a link to the minutes found on the Senate Web site.

Members would be notified of the change in advance and informed that they should contact the Senate Office if they wish to continue to receive paper mailings.

When possible, other Senate documents relevant to meetings will also be e-mailed in advance; however, hard copies of materials will continue to be available at the meetings.

Questions and Comments

Professor Munro expressed concern that people might not receive e-mail. Professor Frieze responded that e-mail addresses would be verified first.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Announcements. There were no announcements.
11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine E. Olson, Secretary