

University of Pittsburgh
Senate Council Meeting
Minutes of November 8, 2004

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate Council meeting on October 11 were approved as revised. (An attendee's name was listed incorrectly.)
3. President Bircher asked for items of new business for the meeting. There were none.
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg

Chancellor Nordenberg reported that Toni Carbo, former dean of the School of Information Sciences, and Bibiana Boerio, a graduate and member of the Board of Trustees, were designated Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania. Donna Gabaccia from the History Department delivered the lecture leading into the PACWC (Provost's Advisory Committee on Women's Concerns) reception for new female faculty members. Peter Blank from the University of Iowa delivered the inaugural Thornburgh Family Lecture on Disability Law and Policy. At Homecoming eleven alumni were recognized as Legacy Laureates in recognition of their contributions and six former athletes were recognized as Varsity Letter Winners of Distinction based on what they have done with their degrees as well as what they accomplished at the University. The fall meeting of the Board of Trustees included two faculty presentations. David Bartholomae, chair of the Department of English, talked about building a culture of writing in the undergraduate curriculum. Peter Strick, the co-director of the Center for the Neuro Basis of Cognition, and a recently elected member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, offered a presentation entitled "Old Dogs Can Learn New Tricks: Motor Learning and Its Broad Implications." Both presentations were well done and well received. Last week a symposium was held on "Modernity and Contemporaneity." This was convened by Terry Smith, Mellon Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory; Nancy Condee, the Director of our Graduate Program for Cultural Studies; and Okwui Enwezor, a visiting professor from Germany, in connection with the Carnegie International Exhibition. It brought a group of distinguished visitors to our campus for three days. Last week we presented the Drue Heinz prize in literature. This year it went to Professor Darrell Spencer of Ohio University. This is the most highly regarded award for short fiction. The selected work and author always get a lot of attention. The University is fortunate to offer that award, which is supported by an endowment created by Mrs. Heinz. It ties in well with the work done by the University Press. Pitt also hosted the 34th Annual University of Pittsburgh Jazz Seminar and Concert. That is a Nathan Davis extravaganza; it is unique to the world in higher education and is a credit to him and the institution. Last week the fall plenary session was held. It was built around a presentation by Professor Lorilee Sandmann from the University of Georgia, which explored the scholarship of community engagement. It followed closely on the heels of the press conference the week before at which they announced the "Healthy Black Families Initiative" being undertaken by the Center for Minority Health, an initiative designed to tackle problems stemming from hypertension and diabetes. This is a good example of community engagement. Chancellor Nordenberg also spoke about the election. Driving home about 7 PM he noticed a long line of students waiting to vote in the Towers. He was concerned that they might not be able to vote before the official closing time of 8 PM. Fortunately, the matter was resolved.

He discussed how energizing and satisfying it was to see students so determined to vote. Many waited two or three hours. People at the voting booth had nothing but good things to say about our students. He also had a good meeting with a number of student leaders at their annual dinner last month.

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

Professor Bircher said that he had also seen the lines of students waiting to vote and he thanked the Chancellor for making certain that the students could exercise their right to vote.

Professor Bircher reported that the Plenary Session entitled “The Scholarship of Community Service” was an enormous success and had a very productive set of discussions. He thanked Linda Hartman, Tracy Soska, and Steve Zupcic for their efforts. Dr. Lorilee Sandmann, as a nationally recognized expert in the area of the scholarship of engagement, presented a very thorough outline of the issues. The members of the panel and the surrounding workshops provided an excellent discussion of the issues and personal examples of how civic engagement can be successful. He also thanked the Chancellor and the Provost for their prominent roles in this set of discussions. He thought the plenary was a useful stepping stone to examine the current rules and develop a plan for being more cognizant of the scholarship that can also provide community service.

- Professor Bircher next reported on the activities of standing committees of the Senate.
 - The Commonwealth Relations Committee just completed two successful lunches: one with Rep. Martin Causer on October 22 at the Bradford Campus; and one with Rep. Paul Costa on October 29. Three additional luncheons have just been scheduled: November 12 with Rep. Don Walko; November 19 with Rep. Frank Dermody; and December 10 with Rep. Jake Wheatley.
 - The Community Relations Committee presented a resolution to Faculty Assembly, which was approved. It called for faculty members and the university community to contact their legislators urging passage of pending legislation to provide the dedicated funding for public transportation in the Commonwealth. If students and faculty members are interested, Linda Hartman can provide information on how people can contact their legislators at the address provided on the handout available on the back table.
 - The Computer Usage Committee chair, John Close, provided a detailed update, which is available on the University Senate Website in the Faculty Assembly minutes of November 2.
 - Tom Metzger, chair of the Educational Policies Committee, described the Campus Climate report at the November 2 Faculty Assembly meeting, as noted in the handout available on the back table. Professor Bircher thanked Vice Provost Jack Daniel for his informative remarks regarding this report, and for keeping the lines of communication open and working.
- Professor Bircher then reported on other Senate committee activities.
 - Professor Nat Hershey, chair of the Ad hoc Committee to Study the Expedited Review Process, will be invited to address related issues at Faculty Assembly on November 30.
 - The Expanded Executive Committee will meet December 6, for a luncheon graciously hosted by the Chancellor. SAC and student members of Senate Council will

also be invited to attend. The Senate Council meeting will be cancelled.

➤ The Senate Officers will meet with the Faculty Senate Presidents of the Regional Campuses on November 16. One of the issues that is likely to be discussed will be comparative faculty salaries for the regional campuses. He has heard that the Senate Presidents are formulating a letter to submit to the Editor of the *University Times* regarding comparative faculty salaries. He has not seen that letter.

➤ A note to the University Calendar Committee: We will in the future endeavor not to schedule Faculty Assembly meetings on Election Day. The inherent complexity of the Calendar, however, may preclude this.

➤ Susan Neuman, faculty representative on the Board of Trustees Property and Facilities Committee presented a report on the Board of Trustees' Property and Facilities Committee. The details can be found in the October 28 issue of the *University Times*.

- The next Faculty Assembly meeting will be on November 30, 2004. The next Senate Council meeting will be February 7, 2005. The Spring Plenary Session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2005. The topic will be: "Athletics: Do we have enough say?" They are still trying to get Professor Eno, Co-Chair of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, or one of his designates as the keynote speaker.

6. Report of Student members of Senate Council

Student Government Board

Joe Salvatore reported in the absence of Brian Kelly. SGB will sponsor a light-up night on the campus to showcase different religions and ethnicities celebrating upcoming holidays. New SGB officers will be elected at the end of the month. A record number of students voted in the national Presidential election. They do not have all the numbers yet, but about 3000 students voted at Towers alone. They are currently dealing with Sodexo and the University Administration regarding some food issues. There are issues with quality, service and pricing. Students on smaller meal plans pay more per meal than students on larger plans. They are working with Athletics to determine how to eliminate problems with the internet program to get tickets. It malfunctioned for the second year in a row. They are trying to revive an event to distribute tickets. In the past they had "Midnight Madness," but this was cancelled. The students held a small demonstration to support PAT. He thanked the Chancellor for the Student Leadership dinner.

College of General Studies

Rebecca Labancz said they were sponsoring a toys for tots toy drive through December 16. This week CGS is sponsoring a National Nontraditional Students' Week in the McCarl Center. Student government is sponsoring several events during this week. They are having a networking social with alumni and they will have a social on Saturday in connection with the Pitt-Notre Dame game.

Graduate and Professional Students Association

SCHOOLS OF THE PROFESSIONS

Mr. Anzoise reported that there were several activities. The Council of Graduate Students in Education provided support for three events. There was a welcoming event in honor of visitors from Tanzania: the Minister of Education, Culture, and Sports, Mr. Haroun Seliman, and the Principal Secretary, Mr. Abdulhamid Mzee. They also

provided support for the brown bag session on the “Politics of Morality and Religion in the Current Administration” on October 27. The officers helped students to attend the regional CISE conference in Washington, D.C. In their last meeting they expressed concern about the threat of PAT to cut services and whether Pitt fees will be refunded if services are cut.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mr. Fagley said they have begun accepting paper and poster abstracts for the Grad Expo which will be held next semester. The committee for the Elizabeth Baranger Teaching Excellence Award met and came up with criteria for giving this award. In January they will begin accepting nominations for the award. They are trying to get a representative on the Library committee. Many SAS students enjoyed the conference on modernity and contemporaneity. They are also concerned with the PAT service cuts.

7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council, Mr. Richard Colwell
Mr. Colwell said the SAC supports the resolution of the Senate Community Relations Committee with respect to the Port Authority. He has encouraged all SAC members to contact their legislators urging passage of the pending legislation. *SAC Tracks* was mailed last week. Fall Assembly is Wednesday, November 17, in 532 Alumni Hall. The title is “Everything You Wanted to Know about Benefits” and Human Resources will be helping out with the Assembly. November 1 was the deadline for the SAC book fund. The committee will meet next month to make recommendations on awards.
8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate.
There were no reports.
9. New Business.
There was no new business.
10. Announcements.
There were no announcements.
11. Adjournment.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine E. Olson, Secretary

Members Attending:

Anoise, Baker, Belle, Bircher, Brush, Cain, Cochran, Colwell, Cothran, Czak, Dunbar-Jacob, Fagley, Flynn, Friedman, Frieze, Goodhart, Juhl, Labancz, MacQuarrie, Maher, Marts, Munro, Nordenberg, Olson, Pike, Salama, Salvatore, Singh, Soska, Sukits, Wion, Worman

Others Attending:

Blair, Coleman, Ellies, Fedele, Frisch, Hart, Kuller, Pietryga, Savoia, Steele, Wilds