

University of Pittsburgh  
Senate Council Meeting  
Minutes of November 10, 2003

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.
2. The minutes of the Senate Council meeting on October 13, 2003 were approved as written.
3. President Bircher asked for new items of business for the meeting. There were none.
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg:
  - The memorial service for Professor Ted Windt will be Thursday, November 13, at 2:00 PM in the Heinz Chapel.
  - He was stunned by the death of Todd Ridley, President of the CGS Board. Mr. Ridley was at the last Senate Council meeting and attended a student leader dinner that evening. He died a few days later. The Chancellor asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Ridley and in honor of Veterans' Day.
  - There were a number of big events in the last few weeks. One was the visit of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, to give the Heinz Distinguished Lecture. It was the first visit to Pittsburgh of a standing Secretary General and was timely given the tensions between the United Nations and the United States. Prince Andrew also visited the city and came to campus to designate Pitt as a Marshall Center of Excellence. The credit for this designation goes to the student winners and the Honors College. During his presentation, Prince Andrew indicated that Pitt's performance surpassed any other public university and that our students regularly surpassed candidates from Harvard, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.
  - There have been several important decisions in the last few weeks. The Board of Trustees approved an operating budget for the university. Approval was delayed over the summer in anticipation of a state appropriation. Since the state has still not made an appropriation, it was prudent to move ahead without it. The BOT also approved differential tuition rates, which are a reflection of the fact that our future is tied to quality and quality requires resources. They wanted to make this move in a responsible way by letting future students know about the increased tuition in a timely manner.
  - Two new initiatives have been launched. One is the Mascaro Sustainability Initiative in the School of Engineering. The MSI will build on the School of Engineering's educational program in green construction by helping to define the next generation of research in sustainability. The other is the new Center for Urban Education in the School of Education.
  - Two faculty members received important awards. Dr. Yuan Chang, who recently received the Mott Award with her husband, Dr. Patrick Moore, won the Paul Marks Award for cancer research from the Sloan Kettering Institute. The Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the most respected award for the study of the black experience, went to Professor Seymour Drescher. It is noteworthy that one prize went to one of the newest professors at Pitt (Professor Chang) and to one of the most distinguished, long-term faculty members (Professor Drescher). The University Press gave the Drew Heinz Award for short fiction to Suzanne Greenberg at California State University at Long Beach.

- The Big East is now bigger with five new members. Three will play in all sports and two will play in all sports but football. He is glad to close this chapter and believes this is a good result for inter-collegiate sports. The football team has had a number of big wins since the last Senate Council meeting and he hopes that there will be three more wins before the next meeting.
5. Report of the President of the Senate, Nicholas G. Bircher
- Professor Bircher thanked the Chancellor, the Provost and others for their participation in the Plenary Session on shared governance.
  - At the November 4 Faculty Assembly meeting, Shirley Haberman of Student Health Services and Kathleen Niznik of the School of Nursing reported on the work of the Task Force on Alcohol Issues and emphasized the importance of enlisting faculty support to help with this important problem. Professor Bircher added that this is a community and medical issue as well.
  - At the Faculty Assembly meeting, Professor Close, Chair of the Computer Usage Committee, brought a resolution to the floor requesting that access to the accounts of deceased faculty members be extended for a period not to exceed 90 days. The resolution passed. As requested by the Chancellor, this resolution will be sent to the CSSD professionals to review.
  - At the Faculty Assembly meeting, the Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee proposed changes to its mission statement to address more correctly issues of overall policies on tenure and academic freedom. The revised statement should be available on the Senate Web site by early next week. Professor Pinsky also talked about the potential IRB restrictive processes and academic freedom issues with respect to the HIPPA rules. The Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Schools is appointing a committee to work on these issues. TAFC has requested an update by February 4, 2004 and has volunteered to work with Dr. Levine on the issue.
  - Professor Bircher thanked Vice Provost Pack for offering to meet with Senate Committees to explain the new student information system that will affect admissions, financial aid, registration and many other areas of student life. The Computer Usage, Educational Policies and Students Affairs Committees have all asked Dr. Pack to present to their committees.
  - Four Faculty Assembly members who have not been able to attend meetings have been replaced with those who received the next highest number of votes in the last election. Those who will complete those terms are: Professors John Karns, GSPIA; Allan MacQuarrie, Business; George Pike, Law; and Michael Pinsky, Medicine. All will be members of both Faculty Assembly and Senate Council.
  - Revisions to the Senate Bylaws that were approved by the Faculty Assembly and the Senate Council in May are now officially in effect. An ad was placed in the September 11 issue of the *University Times* notifying all members of the University Senate of suggested revisions, giving them 45 days to file a petition requesting a vote of the full membership. No petition was received. This is the first time changes were made without mailing paper ballots to all Senate members. The revisions provided for a mechanism for selecting staff members to Senate Council and simplified the process for electing members of Senate standing committees.
  - Professor Bircher asked Vice President Irene Frieze to make an announcement regarding the Spring Plenary Session, "Examining the Roles of Women at Pitt." Professor Frieze reported that the date will be Wednesday, April 7 from 2 to 4. She

- said they are planning a number of different activities and asked for volunteers.
- Standing Committees:
    - Benefits and Welfare: The Advisory Committee on Recreational Facilities and Personal Fitness will be appointed within the month. Requests for reports on the utilization of the Petersen Center as well as alternative facilities for faculty and staff use are also pending. Automatic External Defibrillators: Human Resources and the Committee will explore optimal use of the devices we have as well as broader placement of these life-saving devices. The National Center for Defibrillation, located at Pitt, will advise us.
  - The report of the ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom is available on the University website.

#### Questions and comments

Chancellor Nordenberg clarified that he recommended that the Faculty Assembly resolution on access to email of deceased faculty go to the professionals. They need to look at it before it is authorized. Letters have gone out asking people to serve on Advisory Committee on Recreational Facilities and Personal Fitness. The group is broader in composition than requested by Benefits and Welfare. It will include students and staff and will look at future needs as well as use of current facilities. He said that Professor Bircher's report on the alcohol abuse study, a problem on almost every university campus, reminded him to congratulate our students for the generally good conduct, especially at major athletic events. We have not had the problems that have marred the reputations of some other universities.

#### 6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council

##### *Student Government Board*

Ms. Culliton reported that elections for student government will take place on November 20 and new officers will be inaugurated in January. Panther Pride was a big success and she thanked everyone who helped. The SGB is working on a proposal to raise the student activity fee. There are more and more student organizations and the fee has not been raised since 1999. SGB is also developing a SWAP IT program which will allow students to sell books online and avoid the middleman.

##### *Graduate and Professional Students Association*

Mr. Danczyk introduced Gerald McCausland who will represent graduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences. He reported that graduate student organizations are increasing their visibility. They held a biomedical symposium. Public Health students are holding a blood drive tomorrow. The Council of Graduate Students in Education has been holding brown bags on marketing yourself in education. Social Work held a mixer that allowed students to network with alumni. GPSA officers attended a national meeting of graduate student associations in Washington and also made some lobbying efforts.

#### SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mr. McCausland said his organization has been trying to resolve health coverage issues for teaching assistants and fellows. The current plan is quite good but there are some administrative glitches. In October not one student had received the paperwork, although UPMC claimed they had been mailed in August. He thanked the Provost's office for helping to resolve this problem. They would also like to meet with the UPMC account manager. About five percent of students still do not have their paperwork. In the past his organization has published a graduate guide for new graduate

students. They could not revise it last year for financial reasons. This year it will be put on the Web, which is cheaper and will allow it to be more up to date. Their travel grant program is popular and he thinks there will be a record number of applications.

Questions and comments

Professor Bircher asked what the problem was with TAs and TFs. The Provost reported that they have a separate policy and it seemed to be an administrative problem on the part of UPMC. Professor Bircher asked if this plan could be consolidated with the employee plan and Mr. Cochran said no.

7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council, Mr. Richard Colwell.

At the Staff Assembly meeting, Dr. Randy Juhl, Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance, talked about the socio-economic trends in the pharmaceutical industry that contribute to the high costs of drugs; alternative drug delivery systems that have arisen as the result of costs; generic versus prescription drugs; over-the-counter (OTC) drugs; and public policy decisions facing the country. Mr. Colwell thanked Dr. Juhl for being the speaker at the SAC Fall Assembly. If you would like to learn more about the assembly, there is an excellent write up in the *Times* by Peter Hart. This year for the first time two Chancellor's Staff Awards are offered, one for excellence in service to the community and one for excellence in service to the university. For the past six years, those two categories were merged under one award. On behalf of all staff at the University, Mr. Colwell thanked Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg for expanding the awards and recognition of staff. Members of this year's Medical Advisory Committee appointed by Mr. Cochran are, in addition to the benefits professionals, Kathleen DeWalt (faculty), Angie Peskie (staff), and Pam Sabol (regional - Johnstown). SAC appointments are: Carol Hodgkiss and Linda Marts. Mr. Colwell and Professor Bircher will be ex-officio members. Regarding over-the-counter drugs, Mr. Colwell thanked HR for the speedy implementation of the OTC drug list. The Staff Association Council has asked HR to expand their examples of "covered OTC drugs" and the "not covered drugs" in the near future and have them available on their website. You must still retain your receipts in the event you are audited. Mr. Colwell reported that staff salary ranges were increased by 2.5% by HR this year. In an ideal world, if the salary maximums are reviewed and raised every year, no one should reach their maximums. Social Security had an increase of 2.1% for cost of living. He hoped that everyone at the University who earned a satisfactory performance would also get their salary increased by at least the same amount. The next SAC meeting is this Wednesday in the Babcock Room on the 40th Floor of the Cathedral of Learning.

8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committee of the Senate

*Community Relations Committee, Professor Tracy M. Soska, Chair*

Professor Soska distributed the three-year report of the Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC). He noted that the late Todd Ridley was a student liaison to the committee. He thanked all the students for their involvement in the community, including a community clean up last weekend. He mentioned that a recent Pitt graduate is now an organizer with the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. The committee dealt with the trash problem at the beginning of school by providing a number of dumpsters. The Committee took a trip to Hazelwood earlier in the day. Hazelwood is an important corridor neighborhood and has the last strip of unused land along the river. The committee participated in a teleconference last month sponsored by HUD and other agencies, which underscored the impact of universities

on the community. The *Journal of Community Practice* will have a special issue on this topic. The Oakland Community is linking two of their websites to the University's website. The committee will be doing a survey to gauge the interest in employee-assisted housing. The committee will study pedestrian safety. This is a concern of the community as well as the university. The committee will help sponsor a children's book drive with the books to come to Jump Start Pittsburgh and to Jamaica.

9. New Business. There was no new business.
10. Announcements. There were no announcements.
11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine E. Olson, Secretary