

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2007
2700 Posvar Hall

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.	The meeting began.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2007, Senate Council Meeting.</u> President Baker asked for approval of the minutes of the November 12, 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> The School of Engineering received a \$2 million National Science Foundation project to help engineering students learn how to effectively approach problems in which societal goals conflict. The School of Nursing received a \$2 million National Institutes of Health grant to study the health of those who are caregivers for individuals diagnosed with malignant brain tumors. The Center for American Music received a National Endowment for the Humanities award to host a summer workshop to train teachers on how to incorporate popular American music into their teaching of history, civics, economics and other courses. The School of Education and the Department of History have joined to offer a Master of Arts in History Education degree. New partnering opportunities with the Pittsburgh public schools are under consideration. The Nationality Rooms are decorated for the holiday season, and yesterday was the annual holiday open house, which appeared to be well attended. The University will host the second annual Salvation Army Christmas dinner at the Market Central facility in Litchfield Towers on December 25. The Pitt volunteer pool is looking for volunteers to staff that event. It is a satisfying way to spend a part of the holiday season.</p> <p>The Chancellor concluded his report, and President Baker asked if there were questions or comments for the chancellor. No questions were asked.</p>	The Chancellor's report was accepted.
<p><u>Report of the President of the Senate, John J. Baker.</u></p> <p>Former Senate President Gordon MacLeod died on Sunday, November 24. He was Senate President during the 1997-1998 academic year, a multi-term representative to Faculty Assembly and Senate Council from the School of Public Health, and a long time member of the Benefits and Welfare Committee. Gordon was a medical doctor by training and an outspoken advocate of universal health care. He wrote numerous articles and letters on the subject, and served as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health during the Three Mile Island crisis.</p>	The President's report was accepted.

<p>He was a strong faculty advocate. I will always remember him for the support he gave me during the turmoil in the Dental School in the 1990s. The <i>University Times</i> will have an obituary in the December 6 issue.</p> <p><i>Attendance Matrix:</i> At its April 4, 2007, meeting, Faculty Assembly voted to make attendance records at Senate meetings publicly available. We have done that this term by making an attendance matrix table for Faculty Assembly and Senate Council meetings publicly available on the Senate web site, which is updated after every meeting. We also are making the attendance matrix available at the last Faculty Assembly and Senate Council meeting of each term, which is today for this term, and placing it in the minutes for that meeting. The attendance matrix was sent to all members by email and is also available on the back table. Please let Lori or Cindy know if you discover an error in the matrix. I welcome further discussion on the attendance matrix.</p> <p><i>Commonwealth Relations Committee Luncheon:</i> There will be a Commonwealth Relations Committee luncheon on Friday, December 7. Representative Jaret Gibbons, 10th district Ellwood City will be the invited guest. Contact Cindy in the Senate office if you are interested in attending.</p> <p>President Baker concluded his report and asked for questions or comments. Chancellor Nordenberg offered that Representative Gibbons is a Pitt Law School graduate and a friend of the University.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council</u> <u>Student Government Board.</u></p> <p>Shady Henien, President, stated that this was his final meeting at Senate Council as President of the Student Government Board. He stated that discussions at Senate Council and connections made by SGB members have been an asset to the Board's success.</p> <p><i>Pitt Sports:</i> Many students are excited to hear that the University has extended Coach Wannstedt's contract until 2010; they also are excited about the return of Athletic Director Steve Pederson. He encouraged Mr. Pederson to seek student input as Mr. Long did when he served as Athletic Director. The students were ecstatic after Pitt beat WVU for our 100th year anniversary game. SGB President Henien contacted the WVU Student Government Board President after our win, but he was not very happy to hear from him.</p> <p><i>SGB's Major Accomplishments:</i> SGB President Henien reviewed the SGB's accomplishments for the past year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Created an ad-hoc committee for off-campus housing, which worked closely with Dr. John Wilds; 2) Partnered with Police Chief Tim Delany to offer pepper spray for students; 	<p>The SGB report was accepted.</p>

3) Hosted a leadership forum to help student leaders network with one another;

4) Investigated the implementation of the *USA Today Readership Program*; SGB President Henien requested the Council's advice on adopting the *USA Today Readership Program* at the University. This request is based on data where 56% of 3,269 students who voted were in favor of this program. CGS President O'Connor commented that the *USA Today* is available online, and since students can access this information online, money might be better spent in a different direction. SGB President Henien responded that the ballot was worded to reflect this availability, and only the front page is available online. Senate Council Member Harbert congratulated the SGB on increasing the vote and said that the decision to adopt this program rests with the Board. Immediate Past President Frieze asked how many papers are picked up by students; SGB President Henien replied that he did not have an exact number, but a lot are picked up each day. Senate Council Member Munro asked if the SGB considered the amount of paper used for publication and distribution, and its environmental impact. SGB President Henien described the program at Penn State where their newspapers are recycled weekly, and a portion of the money made by the recycling firm is returned to Penn State, who gives it for student use. The SGB Environmental Committee chairperson is working with *USA Today* and a local recycling firm to initiate a similar program at Pitt. Provost Maher offered that it is a matter of national concern that not enough people stay up on current events and do not read newspapers. He conceded that he did not know the details of all of the discussions that have gone on between SGB and Dr. Humphrey, but also stated it is difficult for him to endorse this project at this time.

5) Worked with the Food Committee, chaired by Janeace Slifka, to improve dining services on campus;

6) Increased campus pride and tradition through a) the creation of the new Pitt football shirt "Code Blue", worked on by James Priestas; b) the Blue and Gold Society "Paint the Town Blue and Gold"; c) the Pitt Compass student handbook; and d) the Pitt/WVU student government presidential visits to each campus;

7) Participated in the creation of the Giant Eagle Shuttle for students to travel to the Market District Giant Eagle via Pitt busses;

8) Advocated for student concerns to local, state and federal government via lobbying and speaking with elected officials;

9) Worked with Provost Maher to extend the hours of Hillman Library to 24 hours a day an extra week before finals;

10) Initiated two major mentoring programs: The Graduate-Undergraduate mentorship program and the Incoming Freshmen Mentorship program;

11) Participated, with Dr. Humphrey, in the planning stages for the new recreation room in the ground level of the William Pitt union;

12) Hosted student representatives from the Netherlands who wanted to learn about our Student Government Board and services at Pitt; and, 13) Advocated to the Port Authority of Allegheny County to maintain the 28X Airport Flyer.

SGB President Henien emphasized that these accomplishments were made with the support of their advisor Joyce Giangarlo and Dean of Students, Dr. Humphrey.

Pitt Dance Marathon: The Pitt Dance Marathon was held last weekend. Sixty-three dancers participated, and a total of \$60,132.78 was raised for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

Panther Statues: The 10, 6-foot fiberglass panther statues arrived. The Selections Committee met to choose the groups to paint and decorate a panther for the first annual "Paint the Panther" Pitt tradition. The 10 groups selected are: Tau Beta Sigma; Panthers for Israel/Hillel/MSA/Saudi Student House; Pre-Medical Organization for Minority Students; *The Pitt News*; Student Government Board; American Chemical Society; Panther Psychology Club; IFC/NPHC/Pan-Hel; Pathfinders; BAS. The painted and decorated panthers will be on display Thursday, January 10 at 4 pm, an hour before the SGB's inauguration of the new Board. Invitations will be sent to attend this ceremony.

I Love Pitt Day is December 4. I Love Pitt Day is a new tradition created by the SGB Traditions Committee. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to wear blue and gold tomorrow.

SGB President Henien concluded his report by thanking the Council and offering good luck to the 2008 SGB. James Priestas thanked administrators and students who helped him over the course of his time at Pitt. Immediate Past President Frieze acknowledged the SGB for a great year and very good work.

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

College of General Studies.

CGS President Kathleen O'Connor reported that a successful Meet and Learn, with a study abroad focus, was held November 29 at noon in WPU. Food was served. Later that day, the CGS council meeting was held on the 4th floor of the Cathedral of Learning, and Dr. Otter shared the indicators of non-traditional students. CGS President O'Connor then met with Dr. Humphrey about CGS student progress. On November 30, CGS President O'Connor attended the Senate Athletic Committee meeting, where Mr. Steve Pederson introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Joe Bridge, CGS Division Director, attended the University of Pittsburgh Titusville luncheon with the Commonwealth Relations Committee. CGS is participating in the December 4 I Love

The CGS report was accepted.

Pitt day. On December 6, a stress relief zone will be held in the William Pitt Union new commuter lounge. Test taking tips, goodie bags and other activities will be offered. The December 7 meeting will be an upside down meeting, with administration presenting first. CGS is finalizing their t-shirt contest, and a \$75 book certificate will be offered as a prize. CGS will use their left-over hats and necklaces for the end of term Qdoba event to be held December 14 from 5pm-7pm. Next semester activities include planning spring meetings on Tuesdays at lunch and a Friday evening event. CGS President O'Connor concluded her report and thanked SGB President Henien for being gracious to their group.

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

Graduate and Professional Student Association.

Pinar Yildirim, President, GPSA, gave her report.

GPSA Sponsored Activities: There were free activities for graduate students this month. There was an event with graduate student governments last Saturday, attended by 150-200 students from the three local universities. Graduate student leaders, students and government members participated. This event was a thank you event for members of the assembly board. It was successful; the Association wants to hold similar events next semester. There will be two other free events for graduate students: 1) the Pride and Prejudice show; and 2) the Nutcracker ballet at the Benedum Theatre. The GPSA will give free tickets to 200 students.

Financial support from the GPSA was awarded to two organizations. A debate event was organized by the Pitt chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. The debate issue was the definition of terror and the treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo. The event was open to the public and was well attended by high school students and others. *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette* reported on the debate. The second event will be a February lecture by a Harvard-educated former public defender from Washington, DC. The event will be organized by the Muslim Law Students Organization. The topic is due process and torture in Islam. The organization hopes to provide some insight into due process and torture in Islam.

Distribution of Travel Funds: The GPSA distributed its entire funding for travel grants (\$30,000) to graduate students, as of the second week of November.

GPSA President Yildirim concluded her report and thanked SGB President Henien for his collaboration with the GPSA.

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

The GPSA report was accepted.

<p><u>Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization.</u> Margarite Matthews, Vice President of A&SGSO, gave the report. <i>Grad Expo Update:</i> The A&SGSO kicked off the planning for the arts and sciences graduate expo. Officers met with Carol Mullen, Director of Communications, and May Grace in University Marketing and Communications, to plan the publications for the expo, which includes advertising for the event and the submission of abstracts. The officers met with Associate Dean Nicole Constable and Assistant Dean Steve Carr to discuss logistics for the expo. The Committee held its first meeting on November 27, with outstanding participation. The A&SGSO is trying to reach out to the humanities disciplines. Expo programming is being re-done to accommodate their work. The A&SGSO is thankful for support from Dr. George Klinzing's office and Dr. John Cooper's office. <i>Nominations for the Elizabeth Barringer Excellence in Teaching Award</i> are open. Professors Anthony Bledsoe and H. David Brumble are serving on the selection Committee. The next A&S GSO meeting will be December 11.</p> <p>President Baker asked for questions or comments; none were raised.</p>	<p>The A&SGSO report was accepted.</p>
<p><u>Report of the President of the Staff Association Council, Richard Colwell, President.</u></p> <p>Angela Peskie, Vice President for Marketing and Communications, gave the report. <i>Elections Committee:</i> The Elections Committee announced approval of 12 new members to the SAC. <i>Program and Planning Committee:</i> The Program and Planning Committee is working on a project to provide fleece blankets for the Lemmington Community Service. After the holiday break, this Committee will work on the April spring assembly. <i>Marketing and Communication Committee:</i> The Marketing and Communications Committee is finalizing articles for the winter newsletter. The submission deadline was November 30, and the newsletter is expected to be out the end of January. <i>Endowed Book Scholarship:</i> The SAC endowed book scholarship recipients will be announced at the Staff Recognition Ceremony on December 6. 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 offered.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Unfinished Business and/or New Business.</u> <i>Special Report on Campus Catering:</i> Immediate Past President Irene Frieze stated that the written report on campus catering was on the back table. The full report is attached to these minutes. Last year, issues were raised in the Senate Office about University food services.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>

<p>The Senate Officers met with food service administrators. As a result of these meetings, food services volunteered to have an open meeting with faculty and staff to present new services and to answer questions. The meeting was held November 14. Formal presentations were made from Sodexo, the vendor that manages Food Services for the university. Food samples were served. An article on this event was published in the November 21 issue of the <i>University Times</i> on page 6. The primary complaint is the high cost of catering. Food Services did explain the reasons for these costs. They attempt to pay workers a living wage, so their workers are probably making a little more than those employed in other commercial establishments. Issues with ordering minimum quantities of food were raised, and ways to rectify problems were discussed. Doug Hochhauser, Director of Catering offered to meet with any group to help them develop an affordable, meaningful menu and reduce costs if costs are an issue. Market Central, while for students, can also be used by faculty and staff. Small groups are welcome at Market Central; they can select their own food at reasonable cost. Catering through Einstein's Bagels and the coffee carts around campus will also be available soon. This will lead to more catering options and possibly lower costs. Due to the high level of interest in the presentation, this may be an annual event.</p> <p>Immediate Past President Frieze asked for questions; none were raised.</p>	
<p><u>Announcements.</u> President Baker thanked Shady Henien, James Priestas and Janeace Slifka for representing the students. President Baker announced that the next Senate Council meeting will be Wednesday, February 6, 2008.</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>
<p><u>Adjournment.</u> With there being no further business, President Baker adjourned the meeting at 3:42pm.</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>

Members attending:

Baker, Belle, Bernardo, Carr, Cochran, Coldren, Constantine, Costantino, Flynn, Frieze, Greeno, Harbert, Hawthorne-Burdine, Henien, Hughes, Juhl, Maher, Munro, Nordenberg, Novosel, O'Connor, Olson, Priestas, Ramicone, Slifka, Wion, Yildirim

Members not attending:

Aaron, Alexander, Anzoise, Carlin, Cham, Chattopadhyay, Coat, Colwell, Deasy, Gresco, Hall, Hampton, Hansen, Hodgkiss, Kory, Levine, Lotze, McKinney, Nicoletti, Pike, Rechter, Rubin, Sciote, Slimick, Smolinski, Soska, Stuckart, Tatro, Twiss

*Excused attendance:

Coley, Dunbar-Jacob, Husted, Kirkwood, Molinaro, Muenzer, Nelson, Singh Stoy

Others attending:

Blair, Brendel, Clark, Fedele, Frisch, Hart, Hoogendoorn, Humphrey, Kear, Matthew, Supowitz

*Notified Senate office

