

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Senate Council Minutes**  
**2700 Posvar Hall**  
**April 9, 2007**

1. Call to Order: President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2007 Senate Council Meeting: approved as written.
3. Introduction of New and/or Unfinished Business: None
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg
  - a. Plenary Session

Chancellor Nordenberg lauded last month's Senate Plenary Session, "Protecting Science from Bias by Private Interests" as outstanding. He expressed his thanks to the speakers.
  - b. University Rankings
    - i. The Center for Measuring Institutional Performance, now headquartered at Arizona State University, recently released the 2006 edition of the report "The Top American Universities." Chancellor Nordenberg believes this independent assessment of institutional strength is the most meaningful of the currently available assessment systems. A clustering system is grounded in the belief that it is not very productive to attempt to draw distinctions that are too fine between strong research universities. The authors instead, place universities within clusters of relative strength. These clusters are determined by nine metrics: total research expenditures; federal research expenditures; endowment assets; annual giving; national academy memberships; faculty awards; doctorates granted; post-docs appointed; and median SAT scores. The ranking system reflects the belief that universities of the highest caliber tend to do well on most of these measures, and therefore clusters universities as per the number of the factors in which they rank in the top 25 in their peer group. Pitt's category is "public research universities."
    - ii. Pitt ranked in the top 25 in 9 of the 9 categories, placing Pitt in the very top cluster of American public universities, along with Berkley, UCLA, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. In the inaugural 2000 study, Pitt had ranked in the top 25 in 6 of these 9 categories. Last year, Pitt ranked in the top 25 of 7 of 9 categories.
  - c. Student Awards
    - i. Benjamin Gordon, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering, and Stanley Steers, a sophomore majoring in physics and music in the School of Arts and Sciences, were awarded 2007 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships for their exceptional independent research in the science and engineering disciplines.
    - ii. Since 1995, Pitt students have won 2 Rhodes Scholarships, 6 Marshall Scholarships, 4 Truman Scholarships, 4 Udall Scholarships, 1 Churchill Scholarship (last year was the first year Pitt was eligible to compete), 3 Mellon Humanities Scholarships, and 29 Goldwater Scholarships.
  - d. Faculty Awards
    - i. University of Pittsburgh Visiting Lecturer Barbara Weissberger won a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship.
    - ii. University of Pittsburgh School of Arts and Sciences' associate professor of English Fiona Cheong was selected to receive the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) 2007 Fellowship.
    - iii. Bryan K. Hanks, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, and Carl D. Bodenschatz, a senior lecturer in the Department of Statistics, were named winners of the 2007 Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award.

- iv. Four Pitt professors received the 2007 Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, for their mentoring of doctoral students. The awardees are: Kathleen Blee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology in the School of Arts and Sciences; Nancy Day, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine; Robert Drennan, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the Arts and Sciences; and Noreen Garman, professor of administrative and policy studies in the School of Education.
- v. Eleven teaching proposals have been selected for funding under the eighth annual Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence innovation in education awards program. The awards encourage instructional innovation and teaching excellence.
- vi. Appointments were made to two senior leadership positions. Sharon Smith was named President of University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and Jem Spectra was named President of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.
- vii. The formal dedication of the new Dick Thornburgh Room at the University of Pittsburgh Hillman Library occurred. The event also marked the establishment of The Dick Thornburgh Forum in Law and Public Policy.
- viii. Governor Tom Ridge will deliver the 2007 University of Pittsburgh Commencement address.
- ix. The dedication of the new University of Pittsburgh Public Safety Building was well attended, and included local government and public safety officials, business owners, community leaders, and members of the University community. City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Chief of Police Nathan Harper and Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato were among those in attendance. Mayor Ravenstahl publicly recognized Pitt's role in making Pittsburgh a safer city.
- x. Agreements were reached on the future uses of properties near Oak Hill Village and Trees Hall. Chancellor Nordenberg reported with appreciation, that Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl played a "very constructive role" in facilitating the agreements.
- xi. Pitt alumnus Paul Lauterbur recently passed away. Dr. Lauterbur was a recipient of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

5. Report of the President of the Senate, John J. Baker:

- a. The my.pitt.edu for Senate elections was activated April 1, 2007. Voting instructions were mailed to all Senate members. The Executive Committee urges all to vote, and will include a reminder in the electronic newsletter that will be transmitted to all faculty. The Elections Committee requests faculty feedback on the electronic ballot, particularly with regard to ease of use, and possible improvements to the web site for future elections. Comments may be sent to Irene Frieze, the chair the Elections Committee, or to Lori Molinaro, our Senate Director.
- b. Plenary Session: The March 28, 2007 Senate Plenary Session, "Protecting Science from Bias by Private Interests" was well received. Both keynote speakers, Sheldon Krimsky and Catherine DeAngelis, gave excellent presentations. President Baker noted: "attendance was not as good as we would have liked, but the program was superb."
- c. Notary Public Services: Cindy Brendel, a Senate Office staff member, is a licensed Notary Public. Faculty who require notary services may contact Ms. Brendel.
- d. Senate Matters Column, University Times: The Senate Matters column was well utilized this year. Nathan Hershey, Michael Pinsky, Tom Smitherman and John Baker contributed columns. Buck Favorini wrote a column which will be published in April 2007, and Tom Buchele is planning a column for May 2007. The Senate Matters column is available to any Senate member who has an issue of importance to the University community that they would like to discuss in a print format.
- e. Follow-up on Senate Community Relations Committee Report

- i. As a follow-up to the report by the Senate Community Relations Committee on Community Service and Service-Learning, Senate President Baker asked Vice Provost Andrew Blair if the Provost's office would consider making a small modification in the Faculty Handbook with regard to community service. President Baker was pleased to report that the Provost responded positively to that request and suggested a small change in the Faculty Handbook to acknowledge the inclusion of community service in the evaluation process for promotion and tenure.
- ii. At its April 4, 2007 meeting, Faculty Assembly unanimously passed a motion to accept the proposed change in the Faculty Handbook. President Baker thanked Vice Provost Blair and Provost James Maher for considering the Senate's request, and for proposing an appropriate and significant change in the Faculty Handbook

f. Attendance at Senate Meetings

- i. At the April 4, 2007 Faculty Assembly meeting, there was a lengthy discussion on improving attendance at Senate meetings. Faculty Assembly members unanimously passed a motion calling for the Senate officers to:
  - a. List three categories of attendance in the minutes for Faculty Assembly and Senate Council: Present; Absent; and Excused.
  - b. Publish in the minutes a grid record of the overall attendance for each Senate member.
- ii. Faculty Assembly also agreed to enforce the Senate Bylaws rule that a Senate member who misses 3 straight Senate meetings without notifying the Senate President or the Senate Office will forfeit their seat and can be replaced with someone else. Senate members in danger of losing their seat will be sent a warning letter notifying them and asking for an explanation.
- iii. Senate Vice President Pinsky commented that class or travel conflicts are excused. However, if a conflict is likely to occur over the course of an entire semester, a representative can be appointed as a substitute (e.g., the person who lost the election for the Senate seat).

6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council: Student Government Board (SGB),

Shady Henien, President

- a. SGB President Henien recently attended a national meeting for student government board leaders, and met several members of the US Congress.
- b. The SGB's incoming freshman mentorship program will be repeated.
- c. The trial period for the USA Today readership program is ending. The student body will vote to determine if the program should be continued.
- d. SGB town hall meetings have been successful. A town hall meeting related to Pitt's Greek fraternity/sorority community will be held April 17, 2007.
- e. SGB is planning a Pitt Homecoming Parade.
- f. SGB's ad hoc Food Committee has been active to expand food options on upper campus.
- g. SGB will meet with CSSD to determine if SGB might post information on the cover sheets for documents printed in the Pitt computer labs.
- h. SGB is attempting to facilitate a Giant Eagle shuttle for students to local grocery stores.
- i. SGB is studying the possibility that students with more than two finals scheduled on one day, might reschedule one of the exams. SGB will bring a proposal to Senate Council.
- j. SGB is considering a web-based book swap for all classes and books.
- k. *Greek Sing*, held March 30, 2007, raised \$8,000+ for the UPMC Pittsburgh Cancer

Institute.

1. SGB will allocate 1.3 million dollars to student organizations on April 17, 2007.

7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Richard Colwell, President.

a. Elections: Nominations are still being accepted for position of SAC President, Vice President of Steering, Vice President for Marketing and Communications, and Treasurer. Election results will be announced at the June SAC meeting.

b. The Marketing and Communications Committee is in the process of compiling articles for the spring edition of the SAC newsletter, with plans for distribution in late June 2007.

c. The Program and Planning Committee announced Pitt-Kennywood Day, Sunday, July 29, 2007. Tickets will be sold at the William Pitt Student Union ticket office April 30, 2007 through July 27, 2007. Pitt-Kennywood Day prices include: Fun Day Pass and catered meal- \$18 (\$45 value); Seniors (age 55+; proof of age required at the gate) Fun Day Pass and catered meal (\$10); These offers are valid for the first 2,000 sign-ups. Alternative Fun Day Passes and Idlewild and Sand Castle tickets will be available for purchase April 28, 2007 through August 30, 2007.

d. The Spring SAC Assembly is cancelled.

e. Openings are still available for the SAC Safety and Security Committee sponsored Health Care Provider CPR (including AED) course on Saturday, May 5, 2007 and Saturday, May 12, 2007. The cost of the class is \$25.00. For further information contact the SAC office.

f. SAC President Colwell congratulated Pitt administration for the impressive new Public Safety building, and commended the Pitt police force.

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

Benefits and Welfare Committee Report on the 2007-2008 Benefits Plan, John J. Baker, Senate President, substituting for Committee Chair Pat Weiss.

a. Senate President Baker presented the attached report (see Appendix).

b. Comments were generally favorable. One member noted that the cost of co-payments is not trivial for those on maintenance medication regimens. Another member noted that the proposed new name for the Employee Assistance Program was suggestive of a burial society.

9. New and/or Unfinished Business: Special Report on Campus Catering

a. Professor Irene Frieze presented the attached report.

b. Members commented favorably about the quality of the food and about the helpfulness of the serving staff.

10. Unfinished and/or New Business: None

11. Announcements: None

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Baker at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Cohn,*

Secretary

Members attending:

Baker, Brush, Close, Cochran, Cohn, Colwell, Costantino, Dunbar-Jacob, Frieze, Henien, Hughes, Humphrey, Juhl, Levine, Maher, Munro, Nordenberg, Olson, Peskie, Pinsky, Platt, Puri, Ramicone, Saunders, Singh, Stoy, Watkins

Members not attending:

Anzoise, Balaban, Bergen, Carr, Cassaro, Chattopadhyay, Coat, Coley, Constatine, Deitrick, Durham, Glorioso, Greeno, Gresco, Hall, Hayden, Kaufmann, Kirkwood, Kory, Manfredi, McKinney, Nicoletti, Pike, Priestas, Rechter, Ross, Savoia, Sciote, Skledar, Slifka, Slimick, Smolinski, Muenzer, Sussman, Tatro, Weber

\*Excused attendance:

Alexander, Boston, Gallant, McDonald, Molinaro

Others attending:

Albrecht, Blair, Brendel, Fedele, Frisch, Hart, Shorak

\*Notified Senate office

**Appendix:**

**1. Highlights of the 2007-2008 Benefits Plan for Faculty and Staff**

Open Enrollment

1. Will be April 17 to May 9.
2. Enrollment forms will be mailed to faculty and staff starting tomorrow (Tuesday, April 10).

Health Benefits Plan

1. Human Resources develops its annual Health Benefits Plan in consultation with UPMC Health Plan, Mercer Consulting and the Medical Advisory Committee.
  - A. Mercer Consulting is a well-known and respected international benefits consulting firm.
  - B. The Medical Advisory Committee includes at least 4 faculty members and 4 staff members.
2. Discussion takes place over several meetings. It includes reviewing the prior year's overall claims experience, national survey data, and underwriting projections by Mercer Consulting.

Cost of Health Benefits for 2007-2008:

1. Are projected to increase by 3.9%.
2. The renewal experience of most large employers, both locally and nationally, is 6% to 8% after plan design changes. The University's trend falls below the national average. That has been the case for several years.
3. The University will continue to absorb 80% of the total health care costs.
4. Total expenditures for health care coverage is expected to be about \$82 million; Pitt will pick up over \$65 million of those costs.

Panther Gold for 2007-2008

1. Approximately 90% of faculty and staff elect the Panther Gold HMO program.
2. Monthly premiums for Panther Gold will increase by the following amounts:

A. Single individual:	\$2.00 per month
B. Parent and Child(ren):	\$5.00 per month
C. Two Adult:	\$8.00 per month

D. Family: \$8.00 per month

Other Changes in the Panther Gold Program:

1. Emergency room co-payments.
  - A. Will increase from \$30.00 to \$50.00 for adults.
  - B. Children under the age of 18 will continue to have a \$30.00 co-payment.
2. A \$50 co-payment will be added for outpatient facility surgical procedures and 23-hour observations.
3. The Health Plan covers most services offered through Eckerd Take Care Centers.
  - A. Take Care Centers can be used for emergency medical care on evenings and weekends, as opposed to going to a hospital emergency room.
  - B. There are several Take Care centers in Western PA.

The Prescription Drug Program:

1. Generic medication co-payments will remain the same at \$10.00 for retail and \$20.00 for maintenance medications.
2. Preferred brand medication co-payments will change from \$24 to \$28 for retail and from \$48 to \$56 for maintenance medications.
3. Non-preferred brand medication co-payments will change from \$48 to \$56 and from \$96 to \$112 for maintenance medications.
4. Maintenance medication: Faculty and staff can obtain a 90-day supply of medication for two-co-payments via mail order, Falk Pharmacy or the Student Health Services Pharmacy.
5. The national trend is to increase the cost for a 90-day medication supply to two and one-half co-payments, so Pitt is keeping the cost below the national average.

Fitness for Life Program:

1. The University will provide an incentive program for completion of certain wellness and preventive activities.
2. The program, if completed, is expected in the long run to recoup any short term cost increases associated with implementation of the plan.
3. The incentive will be a \$50 gift certificate that may be earned by a faculty or staff member and their spouse or partner (\$100.00 maximum).
4. The Fitness for Life Human Resources Advisory Committee is working on a Weight Loss Contest that it will introduce this spring.
  - A. A number of academic departments across the University are working with Human Resources to introduce the contest.
  - B. Details will be forthcoming in the near future.
5. Support programs will be introduced to assist with weight-loss and smoking cessation efforts.

Other Highlights:

1. The Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) will change its name to FSAP/Life Solutions.
  - A. It will offer enhanced work/life balance counseling services, including referral services for childcare and elder care, and counseling on adoption services.
2. Aetna will offer an open enrollment for optional life insurance.
  - A. During this one-time offering, faculty and staff that previously did not elect optional life insurance may obtain it without providing evidence of insurability.

**2. Report on University Food Services and Catering**

Irene Frieze and John Baker, April 4, 2007

The Senate officers were approached by a faculty member about what she felt was the high cost of catering a student event through university catering. After some investigation, we found that many faculty share the view the food costs are high.

John and I brought this concern to Eli Shorak [Associate Vice Chancellor], who convened a meeting with me and John Baker and Jim Earle [Director of Housing and Food Services] and Jodi Ludovici [Sodexo Campus Services]. As a result of this meeting, we report the following:

1. Sodexo is very interested in working with faculty and student groups to meet their needs and to develop a menu that fits the group's budget. Price ranges are:
  - a. *Receptions* can range from \$2 per person for punch and cookies with paper products to having hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beverages, linen, china and wait staff for \$18 per person
  - b. *Lunches* range from \$6 per person for complete box lunches to \$19 per person for a hot buffet lunch with 3 entrees, 1 starch, 1 vegetable, 2 salads, rolls, butter, assorted desserts, beverages, linen, china and wait staff.
  - c. *Full dinners* can range from \$14 per person to \$20 per person
2. Sodexo works to keep its prices competitive with other local commercial catering organizations. [Perceptions that prices are very high may be based on misinformation]. Prices are reviewed each year. The Department of Food Services must cover its costs; any surplus is used to reinvest in its operations. Food services are a service provided to the University community, not a profit center.
3. In some situations, it is acceptable to use outside food providers other than Sodexo, if an exemption is obtained and the services requested are not ones normally provided by Sodexo. Other occasions for using outside vendors are very small meetings or informal gatherings where pizza or sandwiches are delivered, but not served by staff. In such cases, it is essential that food safety be maintained. When outside vendors bring food, there may be no clean up provided. They generally do not serve the food. [It is essential that hot food requiring a fire to keep warm be served by trained staff for safety reasons].
4. Sodexo would be happy to meet with interested faculty and staff early in the fall to discuss concerns about food services and to discuss new options available for events with food service.

If you have concerns about food services, please contact Irene Frieze [frieze@pitt.edu] or the Senate Office.