

University of Pittsburgh
Senate Council Meeting
Minutes of May 10, 2004

1. President Bircher called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM in the Assembly Room, WPU
2. The minutes of the Senate Council meeting on April 12 were approved as written.
3. President Bircher asked for items of new business. There were none.
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg
 - The Chancellor stated that this has been an extraordinary year in terms of academic achievement.

Students: Two Honors College juniors, Jocelyn Horner and Clare Sierawski, were named 2004 Truman Scholars. Daniel Armanios was named a Goldwater Scholar and Gwen Morton and Clare Sierawski were named Udall Scholars. This is the first time that Pitt undergraduates have won each of the major national commemorative scholarships in a single year. Just recently, Sevak Mkrtychyan ranked 12th out of more than 3,600 students from nearly 500 colleges and universities in the 2003 Putnam Mathematics Competition. Dorian Croitoru won Honorable Mention recognition in the same competition.

Alumni: Last fall we learned that Paul Lauterbur who earned his PhD in chemistry would receive the 2003 Nobel Prize in Medicine. More recently, Herb Boyer, who also earned his PhD at Pitt, had been named co-winner of the \$500,000 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. Dr. John Swanson was named the winner of the John Fritz Medal by the American Association of Engineering Societies. These individuals have also been loyal to Pitt and have made seven-figure contributions to our current capital campaign.

Faculty: Last fall Bob Brandom, Philosophy Department, was one of four academics nationally to receive a Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award from the Andrew Mellon Foundation. Susan Amara, the Thomas Detre Professor of Neuroscience, and Dirk Drennan, a distinguished member of the Anthropology Department, were elected to the National Academy of Sciences. A Pitt alumnus, Lap-Chee Tsui, who earned his Ph.D. in biological sciences at Pitt was also elected to the Academy. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. More recently, Peter Strick, a professor of neurobiology and Co-director of the Center for Neural Basis of Cognition, had been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Jeannette South-Paul, the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, had been one of three faculty members nationally named a 2004 McCann Scholar.
 - The Chancellor said it has also been a difficult year. We did not receive the State appropriation until mid-December and didn't have a budget until then. The General Assembly will reconvene this week and will begin devoting attention to the budget for the next fiscal year. We are hoping for some restoration towards the levels of funding we enjoyed prior to the constant freezes of the last couple of years.
 - The Chancellor thanked and congratulated David Herring as he moves into his final year

as Dean of the Pitt School of Law. He also welcomed Pat Kroboth as the Dean of the School of Pharmacy and extended congratulations to the current Senate Officers on their re-election.

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

- Prof. Bircher said he had the privilege of attending Commencement on April 25. Nobel Laureate Paul Lauterbur gave an excellent talk as reported in the *University Times* and which has been reprinted in its entirety in a special edition of the *Pitt Chronicle*.
- **Senate *Athletics Committee (SAC)*:** Prof. Bircher stated that Prof. Zamboni, Co-chair, reported on the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) at the May 4 Faculty Assembly Meeting. The specific recommendations of the SAC were not to join the Coalition at this time and not to endorse the Framework Document regarding reform in athletics that had been produced by the COIA Steering Committee. After extensive discussion of the report, the motion to accept the recommendations of the Athletics Committee was tabled. While there was broad support for faculty input into the intercollegiate activities, opinions differed sharply as to whether the level of input here was adequate and whether joining the Coalition with or without endorsing the framework would be a prudent move. Prof. Zamboni will arrange to email Faculty Assembly members the documents SAC considered. He will also send Bob Eno, Co-chair of the COIA, a copy of SAC's recommendations and request a written response. There will be further discussion at the June 1 Faculty Assembly Meeting.
- ***Computer Usage Committee*:** Prof. Close reported at the May 4 Faculty Assembly Meeting on three informational items: 1) CSSD has found a solution to the Virtual Private Network (VPN) due to the loss of Stargate. The new VPN system should be implemented by the end of July. 2) The email virus protection system has been improved and modified to include notification to the recipient and sender that a message has been trapped. 3) CSSD has settled on a Spam filtering solution which has flexibility for the user, who still has to be somewhat involved. CSSD will provide assistance in operating the system which should be implemented by the end of May.
- ***Ad hoc Committee for the Support and Advancement of Women at Pitt*:** Bircher reported the Committee, chaired by Irene Frieze, met on April 15. Committee members are in the process of establishing a set of priorities.
- ***Ad hoc Committee to Study the Expedited Review Process*:** Profs. Hershey and Bircher met with the Provost on April 20 and had a discussion that was cordial and concrete. However, the proposed changes to the process were still not in acceptable form. Prof. Hershey will report on where to go from here at the June meeting of Faculty Assembly.
- ***Staff Association Council (SAC)*:** Prof. Bircher attended the SAC Council of Campuses Meeting on May 5, which included officers from this and the regional campuses.
- ***Conflict of Interest Committee*:** Profs. Harvey Borovetz (Engineering) and Miroslav Klain (Medicine) have agreed to serve on the COI Committee.
- ***University Review Board (URB)*:** Bircher asked for nominees to serve. The URB is the Appellate Body of the University Student Judicial System to which either faculty or students may appeal any adverse decisions. Anyone with suggested nominees should contact Bircher or one of the officers.
- ***Chancellor's Affirmative Action Award Committee*:** Profs. Richard Tobias (English) and Carol Stabile (Communications) have agreed to serve. The Chancellor will announce the recipient of the award at the June 7 Senate Council Meeting.

- *Announcements:*

The Provost's series lecture for May will be tomorrow (May 11). The speaker will be Dr. Bob Arnold. His topic will be "Teaching Physicians to Have Difficult Conversations: Skills, Emotions, and Professional Identity".

The next Faculty Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1. The next Senate Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7. Both meetings will be held in the Assembly Room, WPU.

In the absence of agenda items, July and August meetings will be cancelled.

6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council:

- *Student Government Board (SGB)*

Brian Kelly, President of the SGB, congratulated and welcomed Rebecca Labancz as the new President of the CGS Cabinet. He stated that while SGB is not completely functional during the summer months, they are working with Athletics and a unique off-campus student group called Panther Pitt. They are working on student initiatives to get people more involved at the football games. Kelly also said there will be a retreat for student leaders this fall. They are waiting to see whether the Board of Trustees will approve the request for an increase in the student activities fee, which SGB is relying on

- *College of General Students (CGS)*

Rebecca Labancz, President of CGS Cabinet, reported that CGS had a successful year. One activity they hope to continue is holding a monthly meeting with students, faculty and staff of CGS. As Cabinet members were just elected, they are planning now for the upcoming school year.

- *Graduate and Professional Students Association*

- Esteban Anzoise, Schools of the Professions, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to communicate to Senate Council in behalf of the graduate students in the Professions. He reported on a very successful research conference in the School of Education. He will be reporting on a regional conference next year. Elections will be held for new officers.

- Tim James, President of GPSA, reported that they are working on setting up a new web site that will be more dynamic than the old one. It will list events and news and be more relevant to what people are looking for. It should be on-line shortly. The Katz Graduate School of Business will hold Katz Volunteer Day on May 22. They are hoping for 100 student volunteers to help with organizations/charities in the community. GPSA is working on the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students' Conference and is also looking for different ways to find need and interest in their research grant program proposed for next year.

- Robert Fagley, School of Arts and Sciences, reported that they had a very successful graduate expo at the end of last semester. It provided graduate students the opportunity to organize a conference for students in the A&S to present their work and receive valuable feedback. The expo will be repeated next year.

- Nick Soulakis, Schools of the Health Sciences, stated that the focus of his report was on the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS). He met with the SHRS Student Advisory Board President and learned of accomplishments. Students traveled to DC to participate in a rally for the Center for Independent Living. Students interacted with members of Congress and disabilities rights activists to encourage funding for programs designed to increase the ability of people with disabilities to live in the community rather than in nursing homes. They also participated in Backpack Awareness Day, educating school-age children about the potential injuries caused by bags that are

too heavy. They participated in Wear Red Day for the American Heart Association Fundraiser, educating the community about heart disease prevention. SHRS now supplements the GPSA Travel Grant Program, making better use of the program. Just this spring 12 students were awarded travel grants. The Student Activities Board worked with the SHRS Alumni Society to provide refreshments for 300 students during finals week. Mr. Soulakis said he plans to meet with at least one Student Government Board leader each month to get a better overview of the student activities in the Health Sciences.

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

Mr. Colwell said that representatives from the regional campuses (UPJ, UPB, UPG) attended the Council of Campuses Meeting on May 5 and 6. Topics discussed included health and benefits issues, parking, and retirement. Representatives also discussed University initiatives and the many community projects they have developed. Chancellor Nordenberg gave welcoming remarks at the breakfast and President Bircher participated in the afternoon discussion on shared government. Mr. Colwell congratulated the Senate officers on their re-election. SAC announcements included: SAC Spring Festival, May 14; Pitt Kennywood Day, August 1; and reduced ticket prices for Idlewild Park and Sandcastle. These reduced tickets are available to all faculty, staff and students with a Pitt ID and are available at the William Pitt Student Union.

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

None

9. New Business. None

10. Announcements. None

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by
Fran Czak, Director of the Senate Office
for Josephine E. Olson, Secretary

Members attending:

Anzoise, Balaban, Beatrous, Bircher, Cain, Cassing, Close, Colwell, Cothran, Czak, Dunbar-Jacob, Fagley, Friedman, Frieze, James, Juhl, Kelly, Kuller, Labancz, Levine, Maher, Manfredi, Marts, Munro, Neuner, Nordenberg, Pinsky, Ramicone, Ross, Saavedra, Savoia, Singh, Soulakis, Steinmetz, Stoy, Worman

Others attending:

Beeson, Blair, Frisch, Mengel, Soska, Steele, Supowitz, Zlatos