

Senate Council Meeting Minutes
2700 Posvar Hall
June 15, 2011

Topic/Discussion	Action
<u>Call to Order.</u> Vice-President Patricia Weiss called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.	The meeting began at 3:00pm.
<u>Approval of the Minutes of the May 11th Senate Council Meeting.</u> Vice President Weiss asked for approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2011 Senate Council meeting.	The minutes were approved as written.
<u>Introduction of Items of New Business.</u> New business from Secretary, Laura Fonzi.	
<p><u>Report of the Chancellor of the University, Mark A. Nordenberg</u></p> <p>Alaine M. Allen was presented with the 2011 Chancellor’s Affirmative Action Award. For more information on this award, please read the article in the Pitt Chronicle (http://www.chronicle.pitt.edu/?p=8814)</p> <p>With 15 days left in the month, we obviously are getting closer to knowing the levels of the cuts to be inflicted on our state appropriation for the next fiscal year. The good news is that things continue to move in the right direction. The bad news is that even with that movement, there almost certainly will be some significant reduction. I never want to minimize that because any loss of support limits our ability to advance a mission that we all believe is central to the development of individual lives; the quest for knowledge, and to the strength and progress of our society. We are living in a time of shared sacrifice and if other challenges from the recent past have taught us anything, we will find ways to keep moving forward together. We are in a far better position to do so because of the committed work that has been done by so many people over the course of recent years to build strength and quality here at the University Pittsburgh.</p> <p>I can’t begin to describe what a difference people like Art Ramicone and Jerry Cochran and so many others have made in operation of the institution and through their leadership and the hard work of many others, we have found ways to more effectively deploy resources in support of our academic mission. Our efforts over the course of many years have emphasized increased productivity as opposed to the workforce reductions that have been so common throughout the period of the recession in particular. Mainly because we do need good, high performing people to deliver on our responsibilities, particularly when the demand for the services that we provide, both on the education and research side continue to rise with each passing year. The fact that we have been able to maintain a strong employment base, even as the country and the state and our neighboring communities have been</p>	

moving through what is called the “jobless recovery” it also has been a contribution to the strength and vitality of the region.

Let me give you two examples that I think are instructive. All of you know that we have literally transformed all five campuses of the university over the course of the last 15 years. Those processes, involving both new construction and very significant restoration and remodeling projects have taken a lot of work. In the years leading up to 1995, our facilities management division undertook on average, 40 significant projects annually. In the last 15 years to provide a stark contrast, they have undertaken 140 such project in a typical year. At the end of all of that work, the product is a physical plant to maintain and manage that is 2.4 million square feet larger than what we had 15 years ago. Over the course of that 15 year period, the facilities management division has grown by 7 people, from 432 to 439. So if you hear people questioning the cost effectiveness and efficiency of institutional operations at the University of Pittsburgh, there is one example of the kinds of things that we have been able to achieve. Similarly, we all know that research has just exploded at the university over the course of the last 12-15 years. In 1995, our annual research expenditures were about 240 million dollars. When we closed the books on the fiscal year that will end June 30, 2011, we expect that our research expenditures will surpass 800 million dollars. That is a tremendous jump and yet, looking at the Office of Research Accounting, the staff that is involved in processing those grants actually has gone down from 22 to 20. What that means is that each person in that office, instead of processing less than 12 million dollars worth of grants is processing more than 40 million dollars’ worth of grants. It really is a sign of the ways in which Pitt people in so many different parts of the institution have stepped forward to not only work harder, but to work smarter and have greater impact through the time that they are investing in advancing the university day in and day out.

And of course, the academic strength of the institution does give us the mission that is so deserving of that kind of support. That growth and strength also can be measured through a kind of numerical assessments. Even though we won’t know for sure what the final numbers will be until the Fall term semester begins, we already know that we will enter the next academic year with yet another record set with applications to the undergraduate programs of this campus. We already know, even if we can’t gauge it precisely, that this will be the strongest academic class that we ever have enrolled in terms of high school class rank and SAT scores. To return to the 800 million dollar example that I gave just a moment ago, what that means is this year we really will have smashed our all-time record of research expenditures. We know that those dollars that we are attracting and spending are an acknowledged sign of institutional strength. Those are dollars that are

supporting work of real significance and are also supporting large numbers of local jobs.

We also know that the continuing progress of the institution on the academic front is reflected in important individual examples of recognition. If I can add just one more to the long list of national honors earned by our students that I already have presented in earlier meetings, Sarah Geisler, an Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences junior who is majoring in English and Urban Studies while also pursuing a Global Studies Certificate has been named a 2011 Thomas Pickering Undergraduate Foreign Affairs Fellow by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. This is a program that is funded by the state department but administered through the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. Sarah, as a result of her selection is eligible for \$40,000 in annual support for her senior year at Pitt and her first year of graduate studies as she pursues a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Sarah was one of only 20 new undergraduate Pickering Fellows to be named nation-wide and was the only Pickering fellow to come from Pennsylvania.

Five Pitt faculty members were recently named to Distinguished Professorships by the university: The honorees and their new titles are: Donald Burke, Distinguished University Professor of Health Science and Policy; Timothy R. Billiar, Distinguished Professor of Surgery; Angela Gronenborn, Distinguished Professor of Structural Biology; William E. Klunk, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry; and Peter Strick, Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology. While these are not just important forms, but among the highest forms of recognition within the university as you would expect, each of the individuals also has been the recipient of prestigious external honors.

Another colleague, Rush Miller, Director of the University Library System has been awarded the 2011 Chinese American Librarian's Association Distinguished Service Award, that organization's highest honor. Rush has been a pioneering advocate for wide-ranging programs of outreach to and collaboration with Chinese universities.

We also made a very important addition to our academic leadership team with the appointment of Edward Stricker as the Dean of the University Honors College. Ed is one of our most distinguished faculty members. He is a Distinguished University Professor of Neuroscience, and accomplished administrator as the founding chair of the Department of Neuroscience which is now a center of institutional strength as well as a leader of both cross-disciplinary and inter-institutional initiatives. He also is one of our most decorated teachers, having received both the Bellet teaching Excellence Award from within the School of Arts and Sciences and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, recognizing teaching excellence,

<p>university-wide. The Honors College has been a key engine of the academic progress that has been enjoyed by the University of Pittsburgh over the course of last many years. Alec Stewart, as the founding Dean of the Honors college, deserves a great deal of credit, not only for what he built there but for what his efforts did to elevate the entire university. I know that Ed Stricker as his successor is going to build very effectively upon that legacy and further strengthen the Honors College within the academic programs of the University of Pittsburgh.</p> <p>I started out the year of congratulating Provost Beeson on the impressive appointments that she made to her Senior Staff and since she led the effort to identify and recruit the new Dean for the Honors College, it seems appropriate to thank and congratulate her for her success in that effort. I do know speaking far more broadly that the advancement of Pitt really has been a team effort, literally involving thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. For obvious reasons, I can't thank all of them personally, so let me instead thank all of them by thanking all of you. We really have taken an institution with a proud history of excellence and impact and have made it even better. Even in the face of some significant challenges we have been able to keep pushing Pitt forward. While we have more challenges to come, I am confident that those efforts will continue and so will Pitt's progress.</p> <p>I do want to thank Laura Fonzi on her last day as Secretary of the Senate. I also want to thank Gwen Watkins for her efforts as leader of the Staff Association Council and to welcome the new leaders. It has been a real pleasure working with you both.</p>	
<p><u>Report of the Vice-President, Patricia Weiss.</u> There was no report.</p>	
<p><u>Report of Student Members of Senate Council.</u></p> <p><u>Student Government Board, Molly Steiber</u> Any loss is a significant one, but as Chancellor Nordenberg said, this should be a time of shared sacrifice. Therefore, whatever happens, I truly believe that we showed Harrisburg and the rest of higher education in PA what a united front truly looks like. I hope that whatever comes in the future that we all remember how much stronger the students and the administration of the University of Pittsburgh are when we stand together. It was an honor to have worked with so many of you through this journey these past few months. I could not have asked for better company. Thank you.</p> <p>The New York Times/USA Today Panther Readership program will continue in the Fall. The goal of this project, which has been</p>	

introduced but not renewed by previous student government boards, was to introduce the program with its electronic replica counterpart. This replica of both newspapers, whose online editions now charge an individual before it can be viewed or mandate that they subscribe to the newspaper, are available via a link on all undergraduate, non-CGS students' my.pitt.edu portal. If the 2012 Student Government Board decides to renew the Panther Readership Program, I hope it is with co-sponsorship in funding throughout the University.

An OCC advisory committee has been formed with Board Member James Landreneau as an enthusiastic member. It is the hope of the Board to work with the Division of Student Affairs to help revamp the OCC program for our newest class of distinguished freshmen for the fall semester.

The hydration station in the WPU located on the Main Floor was just installed a month ago. Though many may believe the hydration station to be simply a glorified water fountain, the numbers of water bottles that have been filled prove it may be more than that. As of Wednesday, June 15, 1,464 water bottles have been filled using the hydration station. That is 1,464 water bottles that have been reused and 1,464 plastic water bottles that have not been purchased. I look forward to seeing that number rise, as well as the new green projects the Environmental Committee of the Student Government Board will hope to implement in the fall.

Remarks:

The Chancellor would like to thank all of the leaders of the student body for everything that they did as advocates for the university in these very difficult times. He remarked: Not only were they there in numbers, but as we have come to expect, they were the highest quality representatives. I also want to say that I clearly share the hope that we never face a budget like this one again. But, I think if we believe that our challenges are over on June 30th, then we are setting ourselves up for disappointment. It's not at all clear that the economic recovery is going to move forward as quickly as most of us would like. It is also not clear what other undercurrents may be at work these days either in Pennsylvania, or nationally that can work to the disadvantage to the things that we hold so dear. We are pressing like crazy to get the best possible result that we can through the appropriations for the current fiscal year. We know that in one way or another we will be back at it advocating for the university and for the broader cause of higher education without much of a chance for rest.

College of General Studies, Patricia Szczepanski

The new CGS Student Government had its first meeting. We have decided to weigh this year's planning against three main objectives:

To integrate the CGS student into the main student body by making them aware of all the opportunities that the University offers them
To address specific CGS student needs including economic concerns, networking, and skill development
and To enhance the quality of the student's life both professionally and personally.

We will have an all-day planning session on June 25 to lay out the plans for next year including co-projects with the CGS alumni association.

We are also recruiting more members to the government.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, Nyasha Hungwe

The past month saw the end of the academic year, the departure of many graduate students for summer break and the transition of many in our ranks from students to alumni. At GPSA we spent the month celebrating the successes of our peers, studying the paths our predecessors took and the choices they made in search of affirmation that the example they set and the model they left us with was working.

Today I received a call from a member of the deciding committee of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Pittsburgh Area, and I am pleased to announce that GPSA is one of four winners selected to win the League of Women Voters Good Governance Award. The other three winners are: Tom & Bonny Van Kirk, A-plus schools; and Dan Onorato. GPSA is being honored for the ever increasing role it has played advocacy and mobilizing the students through civic engagement over the course of the past few years. There will be an awards presentation ceremony dinner held on October, 27th at the Sheraton in Station Square. I urge all members of Senate Council to join on this day to celebrate.

Biomedical Graduate Student Association, Brian Rosborough

The BGSA recently sent a letter to PA House members and the Governor on behalf of the BGSA students and representative members opposing the proposed higher education funding cuts. I personally received a response from one of the PA representatives agreeing to oppose the cuts to higher education.

Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Deborah Walker

On Wednesday June 8, the Staff Association Counsel announced the results of its election. The newly elected SAC officers are: President, Deborah L. Walker, Vice-President of Steering, Jon-Paul Matychak, Vice-President for Marketing and Communication, Monika Losagio, and Treasurer-Monica Costlow

<p>The installation ceremony for the Staff Association Council officers will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at 4:30 in the William Pitt Union lower lounge.</p> <p>The new Staff Association Council Senate Council representatives are: Amy Elliott and Natalie Blais-Arnold</p> <p>On Thursday, June 9, I and two SAC board members attended the Staff Association Council annual council of campus meeting at Johnstown. SAC representatives from Johnstown, Bradford and Titusville attended the meeting.</p> <p>Upcoming Staff Association Council events are: Saturday, June 11, SAC will sponsor CPR classes in room G-34 Benedum Hall. The 21st Annual Pitt Kennywood Day will be held on Saturday, July 30th, at Pavilion #5. Tickets may be purchased at the William Pitt Union ticket office.</p>	
<p><u>New Business</u></p> <p>Senate Secretary Laura Fonzi, thanked the members of Senate Council for their year of service and commented that she has enjoyed service as Secretary during the year. She wished the incoming Senate Secretary Linda Frank much success.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Announcements.</u></p> <p>The Fall Plenary will be held on November 10th and will be done through the Senate Community Relations Committee and the topic will be Community/Campus Partnerships for Health and Wellness.</p> <p>The Chancellor is hosting a reception immediately following today's meeting in 2501 Posvar.</p> <p><u>Adjournment.</u> Meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.</p>	

Members attending:

Arnold-Blais, Baker, Beeson, Chaiklin, Close, Cochran, Costantino, Elliott, Fonzi, Frank, Hasley, Henker, Humphrey, Hungwe, Iwema, Jentleson, Levine, Molinaro, Nordenberg, Ramicone, Riehle, Rosborough, V. Singh, Smith (Sharon), Smitherman, Sparto, Spring, Stieber, Szczepanski, Walker, Weiss, Wilson

Members not attending:

Boone, Deitrick, Ecker, Gaddy, Hall, Ho, Karapinka, Kendrick, Kory, Majumdar, Pan, Ray, Slimick, Smolinski, Towers, Zutter

*Excused attendance:

Becker, Burkoff, Caldwell, Galloway, Greenberg, Harbert, Johnson, Juhl, Lunsford, Moriarty, Muenzer, Pinsky, Rickman, Seybert, C. Singh, Smith (Sallie), Sukits, Trovato

Others attending:

Allen, Barlow, Blair, Bonner, Brendel, Clark, Frisch, Golden, Hart, Herring, Hill, Hoogendoorn, Kelly, McLaughlin, Mohamed, Moore, Saunders, Shuman, Supowitz, Watkins, Wilds, Wosu

*Notified Senate office