

University of Pittsburgh
Senate Council Minutes
March 12, 2007

1. Call to Order: President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes of the February 5, 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. Provost Maher. Chancellor Nordenberg welcomed Provost Jim Maher back to Senate Council after a brief absence. Provost Maher is an active Senate participant and continues to make important contributions to the University's progress. Senate members welcomed back Provost Maher with applause.
 - b. Commonwealth of PA Budget Process. Governor Rendall released his proposed budget on February 6, 2007, for the next fiscal year. The proposal provides for only a 2% increase to Pitt's current appropriation. While legislators continue to express positive messages about Pitt's progress and impact, the Commonwealth faces significant fiscal challenges. Additionally, there has been much turnover within the legislative bodies. It thus appears that this will be a difficult budget year for higher education. Pitt's appropriation level will constitute a high priority for the University.
 - c. Pitt Day in Harrisburg was postponed due to bad weather, and has been rescheduled. This event brings a large contingent of loyal Pitt alumni to the Capitol to talk with their own elected representatives. It also brings the Pitt symphonic band into the rotunda for a concert. Chancellor Nordenberg expressed his gratitude to all who participate in supporting Pitt at this event.
 - d. Pitt's 220th Year Anniversary was celebrated at the February 23, 2007, Founder's Day Honors Convocation. Chancellor Nordenberg expressed gratitude to Senate President Baker for presiding at the event, and to 2007 Rhodes Scholar Daniel E. Armanios who addressed the audience. Both Armanios and 2007 Marshall Scholar Anna Quider made well received presentations at the Winter Meeting of Pitt's Board of Trustees.
 - e. Cathedral of Learning Preservation Project. A project to restore and preserve the exterior of the Cathedral of Learning was announced on the occasion of the 220th birthday of the University. This represents the most important preservation project in the long history of the institution. During the initial planning for the Cathedral's construction, Chancellor John Bowman remarked: "*The new building is to express that spirit of achievement with such force and sublimity that the whole world will understand. The building is high. It is not high, though, just for the sake of being high. It is only with height that stones can talk the language of courage and sublimity. Such a building belongs in Pittsburgh.*" Now, (some eighty years later), Chancellor Nordenberg observed: "*the Cathedral has become an internationally recognized symbol of Pitt strength, and in undertaking to preserve it, we are not only acting as stewards of future generations of Pitt people and Pittsburgh people, but are also underscoring Chancellor Bowman's architectural statement about our institutional aspirations and our current momentum.*"
 - f. Chancellor's Awards. The 2007 Chancellor's faculty awards for distinguished teaching, research, and public service, as well as Chancellor's award for staff excellence in service (to the University and the community) were announced. The names and accomplishments of the award recipients are reported in both the *University Times* and

the *Pitt Chronicle*. Chancellor Nordenberg expressed his congratulations to each of the recipients; their work reflects favorably upon the University.

g. External Faculty Recognition

- i. Jeffrey Schwartz, professor of anthropology and the history and philosophy of science, has been elected president of the World Academy of Art and Science.
- ii. Three Pitt faculty members recently received prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The recipients are: Shigeru Amemiya, assistant professor of bioanalytical chemistry and electrochemistry in Pitt's School of Arts and Sciences; Kevin P. Chen, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and the Paul E. Lego faculty fellow in Pitt's School of Engineering; and Daniel Zuckerman, assistant professor of computational biology in Pitt's School of Medicine.

h. Pitt Athlete Achievements

- i. 311 student athletes who achieved grade point averages of 3.0 and above were honored at the University's annual scholar-athlete award breakfast in mid-February. The large number of student honorees is a Pitt record.
- ii. Aaron Gray was named to this year's All American Team in Men's Basketball. Gray is also the Big East "Scholar-Athlete of the Year" in his sport.
- iii. Pitt Men's Basketball team received a third seed position in the Western Region of the NCAA Tournament.
- iv. Pitt Women's Basketball team will learn tonight if they will play in the NCAA Women's Tournament. The team's selection is expected for the first time in Pitt's history.

i. Senate President John Baker responded that there is widespread concern about the budget situation in Harrisburg; he offered the assistance of the University Senate. Chancellor Nordenberg appreciates the efforts of the Senate's Commonwealth Relations Committee, and looks forward to continued collaboration with Senate Council on these matters.

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

- a. Plenary Session. The March 28, 2007 Senate Plenary Session is titled: "Protecting Science from Bias by Private Interests." Sheldon Krimsky from Tufts University, and Catherine DeAngelis, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* will serve as keynote speakers. Chancellor Nordenberg, Senior Vice Chancellor Arthur Levine, Provost James Maher, and session organizer Herb Needleman will also speak at the session. A question and answer panel discussion will include Drs. Krimsky, DeAngelis, Levine, Maher and Needleman.
- b. Three Commonwealth Committee lunches with state legislative representatives are scheduled for March and April 2007. Commonwealth Committee lunches are open to all Senate members. To attend, call Cindy Brendel in the Senate Office and ask if she is still accepting guests for the luncheon you wish to attend. Chancellor Nordenberg advised that it is particularly desirable for a legislator's constituents to attend.
 - i. Friday, March 16, 2007 the committee will meet in Oakland with Representative Nick Kotick from District 45, located in Robinson Township in Allegheny County.
 - ii. Friday, March 30, 2007 the Commonwealth Committee and the Community Relations Committee will hold a joint meeting in Oakland with Representative Joseph Markosek from District 25. Among other topics, they will discuss the proposed PAT service reductions.

- iii. Friday, April 13, 2007, the committee will meet in Greensburg with Representative, Thomas Tangretti from District 57.
- c. Two Senate committees gave reports at the February 27, 2007 meeting of Faculty Assembly.
 - i. Professors Rose Hoffmann and Adam Shear, Co-Chairs of the Senate Library Committee, reported that the merger of John Wiley and Sons with Blackwell Publishing was approved by the US Justice Department.
 - ii. Professor Irene Frieze, Chair of the Senate Ad hoc Committee on Recycling presented the committee's final report. The report was discussed in the March 8, 2007 issue of the *University Times*, and will be available on the Senate's website.

6. Reports of the Student Members of Senate Council.

a. Student Government Board (SGB), Bianca Gresco

- i. SGB President Shady Henien and Business Manager Priestas are representing SGB at a meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). AIPAC invited 153 presidents of student government across the United States to attend.
- ii. A three-week free trial period is underway for the *USA Today Readership Program*. The program provides free issues of *USA Today* and the *New York Times* to students. SGB will conduct a student poll at the end of the trial period. The program's annual cost is \$5.00 per student. SGB President Henien will discuss funding options with Pitt's administration.
- iii. SGB members Gresco and Ecker held a leadership forum on February 28, 2007. Student leaders discussed common issues and identified opportunities for collaboration.
- iv. Board member Chidi met with Chief Delaney concerning off-campus safety.
- v. Board member Chidi formed an off-campus housing committee to generate new ideas to improve the safety of students who live off-campus.
- vi. SGB approved a Student Affairs drafted resolution to cap the amount of money allocated to club level teams, and reimbursable conference costs.
- vii. SGB held a town hall meeting on diversity. Students discussed the retention of minority students, and gender equality within the classroom. SGB looks forward to working with Irene Frieze and the Senate's ad hoc Committee on Gender Equity.
- viii. SGB sent representatives to the national Conference of Student Government Associations, and the United States Students Association.
- ix. The SGB allocations and budgeting process is proceeding.
- x. Chancellor Nordenberg congratulated SGB for successfully increasing Pitt's student voter registration; the recent effort achieved levels of progress not seen previously. With respect to the issues that SGB is undertaking relative to housing issues in central Oakland, Pitt administration views this as an institutional priority, and hopes to coordinate efforts with SGB. Chancellor Nordenberg invited SGB to contact Reynolds Clark, Vice Chancellor for Community Initiatives. Concerning policing, the University is grateful for the city's police presence in Oakland. The Pittsburgh police force provides important services, and the University enjoys very good relationships with city police. The Pittsburgh police station moved physically out of Oakland (the third busiest commercial center in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) some time ago. Therefore, beyond tending to campus matters, University police officers shoulder a significant portion of the policing responsibilities in Oakland. The University recently established a new and visible University police station

on Forbes Avenue. There continues to be discussion concerning the role of non-profit organizations in Pittsburgh. The University's fiscal contributions to the enforcement of housing codes in Oakland, and the extended role of Pitt's police force, exemplify ways in which the University is shouldering a large share of the load that city government traditionally managed. A worthy next challenge is for SGB to encourage Pittsburgh based students to vote in May municipal elections by absentee ballot, since these elections fall into a cycle outside of the fall and spring academic semesters.

xi. Senate President Baker commended SGB on their efforts.

b. College of General Studies Student Government, Joyce McDonald

i. CGS will host "Food for Thought," a "meet and learn" workshop on resume writing and basic PowerPoint presentations.

ii. The "sweet and greet" informational session that was to discuss leadership opportunities in student government was postponed due to inclement weather, but will be rescheduled.

iii. CGS Board member recruitment continues.

iv. CGS is proceeding to change its bylaws to allow for longer retention of board members.

v. The first CGS Study Abroad Scholarship will be announced shortly. The scholarship may be accessed by part-time students, and could support short-term study abroad opportunities.

vi. CGS produced its first electronic newsletter, with a limited number of paperless copies. Irene Frieze congratulated CGS for the environmental implications of moving to a paperless newsletter.

vii. CGS is creating content on the My Communities portion of the *my.pitt.edu* portal.

viii. CGS sends a brief weekly e-mail to students who wish to be informed of CGS activities.

ix. CGS President McDonald noted that Pitt's Honors Convocation was inspiring.

c. Graduate and Professional Student Association

i. School of Arts and Sciences, Lofty Durham

On March 1, 2007, A&S GSO held the 7th annual Grad Expo, an annual exhibition of graduate student research. Dr. Klinzing gave a well received presentation. The event was attended by 166 individuals, one-third more than in 2006. Attendees included: 65% grad students, 25% undergrads, 7% faculty, 2% staff and 1% alumni. Durham reported that the offices of Vice Provost Klinzing, Vice Provost Beeson, and Associate Dean Nicole Constable, Arts & Sciences provided support for the event. Carol Mullen connected A&S GSO to professional design services in University Marketing Communications. The event featured professionally designed posters, postcards, and program booklets. These sponsors, along with the GSO, made available \$3,200 in prize money for the winners of paper and poster sessions. The prize money will support research expenses and travel to professional conferences. Durham reported that Dr. Constable is enthusiastic about the Expo's potential both as a recruiting tool and a professional development opportunity, and is working with A&S GSO on ways to augment the event. The organization is also working on a revision of the current graduate student guide, and will survey graduate students in the future.

7. Report of the Staff Association Council, Richard Cowell, President

a. Elections. SAC will hold officer elections at the June 2007 meeting.

- b. SAC Newsletter. SAC distributed copies of the SAC Fall/Winter newsletter to the University Senate. The Marketing and Communications Committee is compiling articles for the spring edition.
- c. Spring Assembly. Plans are underway for the April 18, 2007 Spring Assembly, William Pitt Union ballroom, from Noon-2:00 pm. The proposed topic is: “Building your Future at Pitt.”
- d. AED CPR course. The Safety and Security Committee will sponsor a health care provider course (including AED CPR) course on Saturday, May 5, 2007 and Saturday, May 12, 2007. The class will cost \$25.00. The deadline to register is April 25, 2007.
- e. Staff Excellence. SAC President Colwell thanked Chancellor Nordenberg for recognizing staff excellence in service to the community and the University. He congratulated Joyce McDonald for receiving one of the Chancellor’s awards.
- f. Senate President Baker congratulated SAC on the quality of the recent newsletter.
8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate. Elections Committee Update, Professor Irene Frieze, Chair
- i. Slate of Officers:
 President: John J Baker, Dental Medicine-Oral Biology
 Michael R. Pinsky, Critical Care Medicine
 Vice President: Thomas C. Budhele, Law- Instruction
 Catherine G. Greeno, Social Work Academic Programs
 Secretary: Lisa Marie Bernardo, Nursing-Health & Community Systems
 Janine E. Janosky, Family Medicine
- ii. Faculty Assembly candidates are needed from the Schools of Health and Rehabilitation, and Dental Medicine, and for some Senate committees: Bylaws, Community Relations; Tenure and Academic Freedom.
9. New and/or Unfinished Business: None
10. Announcements: The Spring Plenary Session is March 28, 2007. The subject is “Protecting Science from Bias by Private Interests.”
11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Baker at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cohn

Ellen Cohn, PhD
 Secretary

Members Attending

Baker, Balaban, Brush, Close, Cochran, Cohn, Coley, Colwell, Costantino, Durham, Frieze, Gresco, Hall, Hughes, Juhl, Kory, Levine, Maher, McDonald, Molinaro, Munro, Nordenberg, Peskie, Pike, Pinsky, Ramicone, Ross, Sciote, Singh, Slifka, Smolinski, Stoy, Watkins.

Others Attending

Blair, Blake, Clark, Hart