

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Senate Council Minutes**  
**October 9, 2006**

1. Call to Order: President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2006 Senate Council Meeting: approved as written. <sup>1</sup>
3. Introduction of New and/or Unfinished Business:
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg:
  - a. Chancellor Nordenberg conveyed his good wishes for a happy Columbus Day, and (by virtue of a 1964 joint resolution of the US Congress and an accompanying presidential proclamation) a happy Leif Erikson Day! He noted that while the University community is characterized by talented, hard-working people who are habitually engaged in valuable and important activities, the past ten days have been ones of exceptional accomplishment at the University of Pittsburgh.
  - b. Nanoscience Symposium: The University hosted a major scientific symposium exploring the frontiers of nanoscience.
  - c. Peterson Gift: The University dedicated a new, \$6.1M dollar nanoscale fabrication and characterization facility, and simultaneously celebrated a \$5M dollar gift from John and Gertrude Peterson that endowed the Peterson Institute of NanoScience and Engineering. That institute already supports a highly regarded research program (ranked # 2 of its type in the country). The Petersons' primary connections to the University of Pittsburgh had previously been in athletics, principally through their gift to support the construction of the Peterson Event Center. Chancellor Nordenberg recently received a letter from John Peterson, in which he thanked the University for the opportunity to be part of an important scientific venture that promises to benefit health and quality of life worldwide for future generations. Chancellor Nordenberg observed that it speaks highly to the quality of the Petersons, that they not only made such a generous gift, but then took the time to thank the University for allowing them to do so.
  - d. Major Grants: Even in a challenging environment for federal research funding, Pitt faculty received notice of three major grants within the past week:
    - i. \$12.8M NIH grant to establish a specialized center for clinically oriented work in pediatric pulmonology;
    - ii. \$8.4M National Institute of General Medical Sciences grant to study sepsis;
    - iii. \$83.5M NIH grant to establish a Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) to speed the path of research development and translation into the medical community.
  - e. Mascaro Sustainability Initiative Dedication: The green headquarters of the Mascaro Sustainability Initiative was dedicated in the School of Engineering's Benedum Hall. The sustainability initiative is a high institutional priority that is garnering national attention. This initiative is named after a very loyal and generous graduate of the University.
  - f. Science2006: The University's annual celebration of science featured lectures and poster sessions. The Chancellor noted that the ever-increasing success of this event is due to the efforts of co-conveners Art Levine and Jim Maher, and the hardworking members of their staffs, including Maggie McDonald and George Klinzing. This year's Dickson Prize in Medicine Lecture was the best attended in memory. The lecture was delivered by Professor Roger Kornberg from Stanford University, who just the day before, had been notified that he would receive the 2006 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Chancellor Nordenberg characterized Professor Kornberg as a "warm, caring, genuinely humble human being," in addition to being a Nobel Laureate.
  - g. Nobel Laureate Visits: Other Nobel Laureates recently gave presentations in Pittsburgh. In early September 2006, the University helped to sponsor a visit by Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian

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<sup>1</sup> Given the short lead time for members to review the minutes, e-mailed corrections will be accepted by the Secretary.

poet, playwright and civil rights leader who won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature. Later last month, Louis Ignarro, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Medicine, came to campus as part of the Senior Vice Chancellor's Laureate Lecture series. Mid-October, Jean-Marie Lehn, winner of 1987 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will deliver two lectures as part of the Bayer Distinguished Lecture Series. On October 26, 2006, Pitt alumna Wangari Maathai, the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, will visit our campus.

h. Celebration of Innovation: On October 10, 2006 the University will honor, at our second annual celebration of innovation, a large group of Pitt innovators -- 280 individuals who have participated in the process of developing and commercializing intellectual property.

i. "America On the Move" Kick-off Event: October 11, 2006, the University will co-sponsor the second annual "America On the Move" walking event, designed to promote healthier lifestyles by getting people up and moving (2000 steps a day).

j. United Way Campaign Launch: October 12, 2006, the University will formally launch this year's United Way campaign, an opportunity for our community to once again generously support our neighbors in need.

k. Greek Community's Donation: Chancellor Nordenberg expressed that it was a privilege to recognize Pitt's Greek community for its contribution of \$500K to support research at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

l. Recognition of Student Leaders: Chancellor Nordenberg noted that he and Nikki (Nordenberg) had the pleasure of hosting their annual dinner to recognize Pitt's student leaders, an event that always helps to confirm his strong sense that "you cannot find better students than the students at the University of Pittsburgh." Chancellor Nordenberg notes that is also true that "you cannot find a better Dean of Students than we have here in the University of Pittsburgh." He is pleased that Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey will join the Senate Council for the remainder of the year, taking the place of long-term Senate Council member Vijai Singh, who has a teaching conflict on Monday afternoons.

m. Comments: President Baker recognized the excellence of the Science 2006 event, and noted that it is especially valuable for graduate students. He encouraged participation in the "America on the Move" kick-off event.

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

a. Memorial Service: The English Department is sponsoring a memorial service on October 10, 2006, to celebrate the life and work of Richard C. Tobias. There will be a service in Heinz Chapel at 2 PM with a reception to follow in 501 Cathedral of Learning.

b. Senate Committees: All of our Senate Committees have either met or will soon be meeting. Portions of the minutes of the Sept. 15, 2006 Senate Budget Policies Committee were published in the Sept. 28, 2006 *University Times*.

c. Three new committee chairs have been elected since the Sept. 2006. Senate Council meeting:

i. Robert Ries, School of Engineering, will chair the Plant Utilization and Planning Committee.

ii. Tom Smitherman, School of Medicine, will chair the Bylaws and Procedures Committee.

iii. Patricia Weiss, Health Sciences Library System, will chair the Benefits and Welfare Committee.

d. Senate's University Research Council Appointments: The Senate was asked to recommend two faculty members for appointment to the University Research Council. President Baker recommended: Juan Manfredi, Mathematics Department, SAS, and Carol Redmond, Graduate School of Public Health.

e. Senate Newsletter: The first Senate newsletter of the 2006-2007 academic year was sent out this week. President Baker welcomes comments. He received an e-mail from David Wilkins,

Professor Emeritus, who said he appreciated the newsletter because it helps him to keep up with what is happening at Pitt.

f. University's Medical Advisory Committee: This committee met on September 27, 2006. The primary items of interest were:

- i. The Falk Pharmacy has been remodeled and will improve its services. It will have more windows for faster pick-up service, and will offer free delivery of prescription medications to some campus buildings.
- ii. Effective December 1, 2006, the UPMC Health Plan will no longer use Argus as its prescription drug insurer. The new prescription drug insurer will be Express Scripts Inc (ESI), a large nationwide company. More pharmacies will participate in the new drug network. CVS and Walgreens Pharmacy are not going to participate.

g. Senate ByLaws: Faculty Assembly met on October 3, 2006, and discussed two possible changes in the Senate Bylaws that are being considered by the Bylaws and Procedures Committee.

- i. One of the possible bylaws changes has to do with whether the current representation in Faculty Assembly adequately reflects the current distribution of faculty across academic units, and, if not, whether and what changes should be made.
- ii. The second possible Bylaws change has to do with whether the Senate should conduct electronic elections, instead of using paper, mailed ballots. Student Government Board has already converted to electronic elections. President Baker observed: "it seems that students are always ahead of faculty when it comes to things electronic." Jinx Walton, Director of Computing Services and Systems Development (CSSD), attended the Faculty Assembly meeting and explained how Senate electronic elections might be carried out by CSSD.
- iii. Senate Council will not debate the possible Bylaws changes until they are first accepted by Faculty Assembly.

h. University Review Board: Faculty Assembly also elected five faculty members to serve on the University Review Board for two year terms of service. The elected members are: Jim Craft, School of Business; Irene Frieze, Psychology Department, SAS; Marah Gubar, English Department, SAS; Ann M. Mitchell, School of Nursing, and John Slimick, Computer Science Department, Bradford Campus. The URB hears appeals in academic integrity hearings.

#### 6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council:

a. Student Government Board (SGB), Joseph Pasqualichio, President:

- i. President Pasqualichio thanked Chancellor Nordenberg for hosting the dinner event to recognize student leaders.
- ii. President Pasqualichio appointed student representative to all Senate committees that had unfilled (student) slots.
- iii. Student Government Board will hold elections November 14, 2006. The electronic balloting attracted many more (100% more) student voters than paper ballots. However, President Pasqualichio sees value in a process that requires students to travel to a polling place, as that may more readily translate to later participation in civic government elections.
- iv. SGB, in partnership with several other student organizations, registered over 1200 previously unregistered students to vote. The Pitt Program Council also supported these efforts. SGB will next work to get these students to the polls on Election Day.
- v. SGB held a retreat to develop leadership in student government. Eleven of the major student leadership groups attended. The retreat was successful in initiating a dialogue

between the organizations, and will be followed by smaller meetings. SGB thanks Student Affairs for sponsoring this worthwhile event.

vi. SGB notes there is a Senate plenary session on mentoring. SGB employs two forms of mentoring. One mentoring program places younger students in an internship program with one of the larger organizations. The second mentoring program pairs a freshman student with an experienced and successful student leader.

vii. October 18, 2006 is the date of the "Cans Across America" program. This program involves students, faculty, and staff. The event will attempt to break a Guinness World Record for the most food collected. Student ambassadors working for Sodexo Corporation will help to present the new food program to students.

viii. Dean of Students Kathy Humphrey encouraged SGB to administer student surveys. SGB hopes to place these on the *my.pitt.edu* portal. Student responses will be delivered to the appropriate University administrators.

ix. President Pasqualichio reports that Oakland students regard the SGB web site more favorably than the Pitt main web site. The Pitt main site is perceived as slightly outdated and difficult to navigate. SGB is willing to provide input concerning the Pitt main site.

x. SGB will hold a town hall meeting titled "What's wrong with Pitt?" before the SGB elections. SGB hopes to attract a large audience of students, who will have an opportunity to listen to SGB candidates discuss expressed concerns in their platform speeches.

xi. SGB appointed a new Diversity Chair. SGB will sponsor a visit by Martin Luther King III.

xii. Following the September 2006 Senate discussion concerning the state of off-campus housing, the SGB Environmental Committee agreed to become involved with this issue. Initially, they plan to conduct surveys.

xiii. SGB updated the SGB Bylaws, and plans to update the SGB constitution.

xiv. SGB held a town-hall meeting last semester on the topic of safety, and presented a list of the concerns generated to the Campus Police force. President Pasqualichio reports that Timothy Delaney has been very responsive; action has already been taken on many of the concerns, and a future meeting is planned.

xv. SGB is negotiating with *USA Today*. Newspaper boxes containing *USA Today*, and possibly the *New York Times* would be placed on campus. Students could obtain a newspaper using their student ID cards. This would hopefully promote a greater awareness of current issues among students, and positively impact class discussions. SGB is exploring funding sources for the program. President Pasqualichio expressed concern about the high cost of ads in the *Pitt News*, and some inaccurate reporting. He hopes the USA Program might offer students an alternative source of information.

xvi. Sheila Isong offered thanks to Dean of Students, Dr. Kathy Humphrey for hosting the recent student leadership retreat. Isong also appreciates the participation of Kenyon Bonner and Michele Scott Taylor. SGB will work to implement many of the valuable ideas generated in the retreat.

xvii. Will Powers observed that numerous international students do not own their own computers. He is thus working with Dean Humphrey to identify sources of computers for these students. He also noted that students often experience long wait times to retrieve printed documents in the Pitt computer labs. He wondered if students (via the *my.pitt.edu* portal) might activate printing from a distance, and direct the product to a computer lab of their choice, to be retrieved at a convenient, later time. Provost Maher suggested that Powers consult with Jinx Walton. John Close, Chair of the Senate Usage Committee, offered to meet with students concerning this issue. Paul Munro suggested recycling faculty and student computers to benefit Pitt students in need of a computer. Powers

stated that he is beginning to plan such a program, and will consult with Dean Humphrey. Jerome Cochran stated that many discarded Pitt computers are already being sent to Goodwill Industries; some are used for training purposes, and some are resold.

- b. College of General Studies Student Government (CGS), Kathleen Gallant, CGS Representative
    - i. CGS Student Government will host a reception at the PAA for CGS alumni and students. The reception will be held before the Homecoming celebration fireworks.
    - ii. CGS Student Government will continue to host coffee and bagels for Saturday CGS students and faculty. (The Cathedral Coffee shop is closed on Saturdays.)
    - iii. CGS Student Government will help sponsor Sherry Miller Brown's award winning Non-traditional Students Week, in early November, 2006. The program will feature career planning seminars. Gallant is working with the Alumni Social Network to produce a seminar and a manual to help students learn how to better prepare scholarship applications. CGS Student Government is also working with Carol Larson to inform students about Study Abroad opportunities (e.g., student research, and summer programs).
  - c. Graduate and Professional Student Association (GSPA), Christin Glorioso, President:
    - i. President Glorioso thanked Chancellor Nordenberg for hosting the dinner event that recognized student leaders.
    - ii. GSPA is working hard to fill vacant committee positions.
    - iii. GSPA hosted a well attended Gateway Clipper Cruise for graduate students on October 8, 2006.
    - iv. GSPA is working toward amending the GSPA bylaws. There is a need to change the ticket distribution policy for events.
    - v. GSPA will seek supplemental funds to enable medical students to host a November 2006 fundraising event for the Birmingham Free Clinic. Many medical and pharmacy students rotate through this clinic.
    - vi. Three GSPA vice presidents will attend a national graduate student conference in November, 2006.
  - d. School of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Student Association, Lofty Durham:
    - i. A committee was constituted to give teaching awards to graduate students. The Committee will shortly identify Arts and Sciences faculty members to assist in the process. The nomination deadline will be near Thanksgiving, in November 2006.
    - ii. The recent SAS Graduate Student Association meeting was attended by student representatives from 80+% of the SAS departments. This is a favorable indicator of student interest and engagement. A future goal is to achieve graduate representation from all SAS departments.
    - iii. The date for the Spring 2007, Graduate Expo is being finalized.
  - e. Health Sciences Graduate Student Association, Erik Tatro:
    - i. The organization is implementing a forum to address students' professional development. A successful first meeting was held; these efforts will continue.
    - ii. The organization is participating in student recruiting efforts at national conferences.
    - iii. A biomedical graduate student symposium will be held next week.
7. Report of the President of the Staff Association Council (SAC), President Richard Colwell:
  - i. A proposal for the delivery of Falk Clinic Pharmacy generated prescriptions to University offices was prepared by the SAC Benefits Committee, and approved by the full SAC membership. The plan was presented by the Director of the Falk Clinic Pharmacy to the HR Medical Advisory Committee on September 27, 2006. Plans for a phased implantation of this proposal began with several University buildings on October 6, 2006.

- ii. At the most recent full SAC meeting, two new proposals were presented, and approved unanimously by the membership. One proposal addressed additions (e.g., directed weight control exercises, etc.) to the UPMC Health Plan's Fitness for Life program. In a second proposal, the SAC Benefits Committee proposed, (for placement on the agenda of the Medical Advisory Committee), a plan to remove appointment limits on client contact with the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP). SAC additionally suggested that FSAP services could be marketed more effectively.
- iii. The SAC Benefits Committee is working on a proposal that would extend, to retired staff, the same base services and privileges that are provided to retired faculty. Examples include: borrowing privileges with the University libraries and continued access to a University e-mail account.
- iv. The Benefits Committee will begin to review the procedures to be followed when an active staff member passes away. There is a need to standardize procedures for administrators across the University to follow, and to inform families as to what they can expect.
- v. SAC is working to redesign the SAC newsletter.
- vi. The Program and Planning Committee met and elected a new chair. There will be a SAC Marketplace on October 18, 2006, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM, William Pitt Union. Thirty organizations will participate.
- vii. As part of its Dine and Donate program, Eat'nPark has agreed to donate funds to benefit the SAC Endowed Book Fund. The program will run Oct 18, 2006 through Nov. 8, 2006.
- viii. SAC will sponsor a Holiday Bazaar on November 3, 2006, 11:00 am- 3:00 pm in the William Pitt Union. Each table will cost \$25. Proceeds will benefit the SAC Endowed Book Fund. All members of the University community may participate.
- ix. On November 4, 2006, SAC will sponsor an all-day river cruise from Pittsburgh to Wheeling and will feature the holiday light displays in Oglebay Park. The cost is \$85/person and will include lunch and dinner. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required. Parking (\$6.00/car) is available in the Gateway Clipper lot in Station Square. All members of the University community are invited to participate

8. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate: None reported.

9. New and Unfinished Business: Update on the Bellefield Recreational Facility, Marilyn Ross, Co-Director of Intramurals and Recreation. The facility was recently expanded from 900 square feet to 2000 square feet, with much new equipment added. The air conditioned facility is for use by faculty, staff, and students. A variety of programs are offered, including personal fitness planning. There is also a pool and a small gym. Further details are available in the *University Times*.

10. Reports by and Announcements of Standing and Special Committees of the Senate:

11. Announcements: President Baker announced the Fall Plenary Session will be held Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Assembly Room, William Pitt Union. The topic is Fostering Mentoring for Sustaining Organizational Vitality. President Baker encourages all members of the Senate to attend and to invite their colleagues.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Baker at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Cohn,*

Secretary

Members Attending

Baker, Balaban, Bergen, Carr, Close, Cochran, Cohn, Coley, Colwell, Durham, Frieze, Gallant,

Glorioso, Hall, Humphrey, Hughes, Isong, Juhl, Levine, Maher, Molinaro, Muenzer, Munro, Nordenberg, Pasqualichio, Peskie, Pike, Pinsky, Powers, Ramicone, Ross, Savoia, Sciote, Slimick, Stoy, Sussman, Tatro, Watkins,

Others Attending

K. Baker , Blair, Brendel, Carlin, Cedeno, Clark, Fedele, Frisch, Flynn, Hart, Wilds