

University of Pittsburgh
Senate Council Minutes
November 6, 2006

1. Call to Order: President John Baker called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes of October 9 Senate Council Meeting: approved as written.
3. Introduction of New and/or Unfinished Business: None.
4. Report of the Chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg:
 - a. SGB Student Vote Coalition: Chancellor Nordenberg met with coalition leaders earlier in the term. He noted that SGB has worked hard over recent years to increase the number of registered student voters.
 - b. University Capital Campaign:
 - (i.) The University passed the billion dollar mark in its Capital Campaign. The 100,000th donor to the campaign was Valerie Hopkins, then, a graduate student who was grateful to one of her professors, Don Goldstein. Eighteen months later, Professor Goldstein made a gift that propelled the fund past the billion dollar mark. He contributed the Goldstein Collection, considered to be one of the finest archival collections of World War II memorabilia in the world. The collection was independently appraised at \$890, 000. Professor Goldstein made an additional cash donation of \$110,000, taking the gift to \$1 million. Chancellor Nordenberg observed that great universities are distinguished, among other things, by great archival collections. Donations of this type, as well as scholarships and endowed chairs, make significant impacts beyond the monetary value of the gifts.
 - (ii.) Our University functions now in an environment in which the revenue streams for higher education are under stress. Additionally, because of our continuing progress, we compete with more comprehensively funded institutions. Thus, to pursue our ambitions effectively, it is imperative that we maintain our momentum and continue success in private fundraising initiatives.
 - (iii.) The Chancellor stated that he was personally gratified by the support shown by members of Senate Council, including the Senate Officers at Pitt's Billion Dollar celebration, which was well attended by 3,000+ attendees from all five campuses, and included many students.
 - c. Legacy Gallery Dedication: The Legacy Gallery was formally dedicated at the beginning of Homecoming Weekend. The gallery is strategically placed on the first floor of Alumni Hall where it is visible to prospective freshman students as they await their Pathfinder led tours of the University. The technologically sophisticated displays feature inspiring stories of the successes enjoyed by our graduates, and highlight many notable aspects of the University. Four legacy laureate honorees were present on the evening of the formal dedication: Bernard Fisher, M.D.; Scott Harrison, M.D; John Swanson; and John Woodruff.
 - d. African American Alumni Council: The Council bestowed The Sankofa Award to members of the University community who have exhibited outstanding educational support and service to students of African descent. Honorees were Vernell A. Lillie, associate professor emerita of Africana studies; Nathan Davis, professor of music and director of Pitt's Jazz Studies Program; Karl Lewis, associate professor emeritus of engineering; and Chenits Pettigrew, director of admissions and student affairs for the School of Social Work.
 - e. Nobel Laureate Visit: Pitt alumna Wangari Maathai, the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, visited our campus on October 26, 2006. She delivered an inspiring address, in which she thanked the University for contributing so greatly to her career, graciously signed autographs, and later revisited parts of the campus that she had frequented as an undergraduate student.

f. Faculty Recognition:

(i.) The Institute of Medicine (IOM) elected Timothy R. Billiar, M.D., the George V. Foster Professor of Surgery and chair of the department of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, to its 2006 class. Election is considered one of medicine's highest honors.

(ii.) Dr. Susan Amara, (Detre Professor and Chair, Department of Neurobiology, School of Medicine); and Dr. David A. Brent, (who holds the Endowed Chair of Suicide Studies, Department of Psychiatry), received top awards at NARSAD: The Mental Health Research Association's annual gala in New York City, for their research achievements.

g. Institutional Recognitions:

(i.) Pitt was identified as one of the top universities for producing students who win Fulbright awards.

(ii.) Pitt was ranked 9th among American public universities by the Times of London's Higher Education Supplement.

(iii.) The Graduate School of Public Health held a scientific symposium celebrating the distinguished 50 year career of their faculty member Monto Ho, MD.

(iv.) The University is about to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the first radio transmission of voice, a pioneering achievement of Reginald Fessenden, the "Father of Radio." Fessenden, a prolific inventor, was the first chair of the University's Department of Electrical Engineering.

(v.) The University celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Office of Child Development, which was started twenty years ago with a \$150,000 grant. Today, the Office of Child Development is an \$8 million a year operation, and has a "real impact" on children and families not only in Pittsburgh, but around the world.

h. Words of Thanksgiving: In the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, Chancellor Nordenberg expressed his thankfulness for the efforts of each of the members of the Senate, and for all of the positive University events that have already occurred in the current academic year.

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

a. Capital Campaign Celebration: Senate President Baker thanked the Chancellor and University Board of Trustee members for inviting the University community to celebrate the capital campaign's success. He commented upon the event's spirit and success.

b. Fall Plenary Session: President Baker reported that the October 19, 2006 plenary session on mentoring was both interesting and educational. Coverage for the event in the October 26, 2006 *University Times* was excellent.

c. Senate's University Press Committee: This committee has elected a new chair, Professor Kathleen DeWalt, from the Department of Anthropology.

d. Kudos: Pitt Compass: The Student Government Board (SGB) produced the *Pitt Compass*, a manual for new students that was distributed to all freshmen students this year. Senate President Baker was so impressed by this manual that he brought it to Senate Council so all could see what a well organized and truly professional piece of work our students have produced. He offered his compliments to: Joseph Pasqualichio, the President of the SGB; Joe Leinbach, the Project Manager for the *Pitt Compass* and a SGB member; and Greg Heller-LaBelle, the Editor of the *Pitt Compass*. President Baker hopes the SGB will continue to produce the *Pitt Compass* for future students.

e. Speakers' Notes for Senate Minutes: Senate Council participants who give reports are invited to supply a copy of their speaking notes to the Senate's Secretary. (This is not a requirement, but simply a request to increase the efficiency of the preparation of the minutes.)

6. Report of Student Members of Senate Council:

a. Student Government Board (SGB), Sheila Isong, Board Member.

- i. The SGB Student Vote Coalition registered 1750 students to vote, and are working hard to encourage students to go to the polls to vote.
- ii. A SGB Town Hall meeting was held October 26, 2006, titled: "What's wrong with Pitt? What Can SGB Board do to help you?"
- iii. Light-up Night will be held December 5, 2006.
- iv. The Pitt Program Council sponsored a November 2, 2006 appearance by Martin Luther King III to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at the University. SGB assisted with that function.

b. College of General Studies Student Government (CGS), Joyce McDonald, President.

- i. CGS Student Government hosted a pre-fireworks party for alumni during Homecoming Weekend, and will continue to network with alumni during Non-traditional Students' Week.
- ii. CGS Student Government Council was present in the McCarl Center during registration to assist students with the PeopleSoft program, and learn of their concerns.
- iii. Winter projects will include CGS students working in a local soup kitchen.
- iv. The current CGS Council is very active, and meets weekly to plan events.
- v. A faculty member who teaches on some Saturday afternoons in the Cathedral of Learning, noted that the noise level of the Homecoming festivities was excessive, and interfered with his class. CGS President McDonald will follow-up on that concern.

c. School of Arts and Sciences, Graduate and Professional Student Association, Lofty Durham.

- i. A Grad Expo will feature SAS graduate student research. It will be held March 1, 2007. Vice Provost Patricia Beeson has offered to help publicize the event.
- ii. The SAS student association has been asked to convene a committee to help revise the SAS *Grad-Guide*. This will occur in conjunction with the redesign of the website in the graduate studies area of SAS. The association will conduct several surveys in conjunction with those efforts, including a rental survey.

e. Health Sciences Graduate Student Association, Erik Tatro.

- i. The Biomedical Graduate Students Symposium was held October 18, 2006. Tatro reported that students were disappointed that the largely successful event, while well attended by students, was not attended by faculty.
- ii. The medical students are planning to conduct a large fundraiser to benefit underserved populations and the womens' clinic. The fundraiser will sponsor a mixer at a nightclub, and will be open to all graduate students in the city of Pittsburgh. The goal is to raise \$2000-\$3,000. GPSA has offered to help fund the event.

7. Report of the Staff Association Council (SAC), Gwen Watkins, Vice President:

- i. The SAC Benefits committee has been addressing the delivery of Falk Clinic prescriptions to various parts of the University.
- ii. SAC has many applicants for its upcoming elections, with 75 spots available.
- iii. SAC affirmation of committee chairs will take place at the November 15, 2006 SAC meeting.
- iv. The Marketing and Communications Committee is working on the upcoming newsletter, including a new design. The newsletter is expected mid-December.
- v. SAC's fall assembly was a successful marketplace that featured 25 vendors.
- vi. The SAC Dine and Donate program will benefit the SAC Endowed Book fund.
- vii. The SAC Holiday Bazaar was held on November 3, 2006. It was open to the entire University community, with proceeds to benefit the SAC Endowed Book fund.

viii. The trip to Oglebay Festival of Lights was cancelled due to scheduling and logistical issues.

ix. The SAC endowed book fund has raised over \$9,000, with a goal of \$10,000.

x. The SAC Research and Education Committee is conducting a perception survey, to determine how many people know about SAC, and its efforts maintain active communication with the Pitt administration. The results of that survey will be available December 2006.

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

Update: Ad hoc Committee on Fitness for Life.

Dr. Michael Pinsky, School of Medicine and Vice President of the University Senate noted that the Fitness for Life ad hoc committee is nearing the end of its mission. Recommendations from the Risk Management Subcommittee were submitted to both the Senate's Benefits and Welfare Committee and the University's Benefits Department. The plan, if accepted, will progress to the Faculty Assembly, and then to the UPMC Health Plan. Plans for a Wellness Program are also progressing. The Fall 2007 Senate Plenary session will focus on the Fitness for Life program.

9. New and/or Unfinished Business:

Freshmen Profile, Betsy Porter, Director, Admissions and Financial Aid.

- i. Dr. Porter has served with the University since 1978. Her presentation reported on a twelve year body of data (1995-present) concerning the profile of University of Pittsburgh freshman students at the Pittsburgh campus (not the regional campuses).
- ii. The applicant pool is a key element in the admissions process. Since 1995, applications to the University have increased 133%. Over this twelve year period, enrollment has increased 41%. Dr. Porter and her office have worked hard to raise the quality of the profile for admitted freshman. The University Pittsburgh is now considered to be "a selective institution."
- iii. The "deposit yield factor," (the percentage of accepted students who choose the University) was 39.1 % in 1995, and, 33.7% in 2006. The yield is lower than in 1995, because the University now successfully competes for students with better credentials who file applications to multiple universities.
- iv. In 1995, 19% of the Pitt freshman class had graduated in the top 10% of their high school class. This has increased to 43% in 2006. Dr. Porter reported that an increasing number of high schools will no longer supply students' class ranks.
- v. The average GPA is calculated using the weighted GPA that is either supplied by the high school, or calculated by the Office of Admissions & Financial Aid, based on the high school profile. A student can have a GPA over 4.0. In 2006, there were 782 Pitt freshman with GPA's over 4.0 (i.e., 23% of the entering freshman class).
- vi. In 2006, 50% of the enrolling students scored SATs between 1150 and 1310. The admissions committee does not apply a SAT score minimum, but instead, looks at "the whole student," their accomplishments, and the factors that predict success at the University of Pittsburgh.
- vii. The University of Pittsburgh Honor's College has been a high enabler of Pitt's admissions success. The eligibility criteria for UHC has risen over time. For the Fall 2006, the framework (not requirements) for University Honors College eligibility were 5% and 1350 SAT. The SAT average for Honor College eligible students was 1407 in 2006.
- viii. The University is broadening the geographic distribution of the attending student body, although the vast majority of enrolled students still come from Pennsylvania. Applications are now received from almost every state in the nation, so Pitt now attracts students from a national audience. *E.g.*, in 2006, 22 freshmen were from Texas.

- ix. The Pitt Pathfinder organization plays a key role in Pitt's admissions' successes. We had 148 well trained Pathfinders in Fall 2006. The Pathfinders host thousands of prospective students and their families. They participate in 26 on-campus programs, conduct campus tours, host overnight visits, and visit at least three high schools each year in or near their hometowns. Pitt Pathfinders call every admitted student, and host online Pitt chat rooms.
- x. The Pitt Alumni Recruitment Team (PART) consists of 1757 members. PART is represented in 54 states and the District of Columbia. PART members participated in 717 programs. A new parent volunteer program was implemented in 2005; 168 parents participated in 102 programs.
- xi. The Faculty Admissions Support Team (FAST) participates in the "Sample-A-Class" program and on-campus programs. FAST faculty variously serve on faculty panels, deliver sample lectures, and serve as an individual contact for prospective students.
- xii. The current admissions process to select next year's class is progressing well. The number of freshman applications is running nearly 20% ahead of last year's numbers.
- xiii. Responding to a question from Irene Frieze, Dr. Porter noted that the category of highest achieving students has the lowest deposit yields; these students typically have the most acceptance options.
- xiv. Jean Carr asked for information concerning admission to the regional campuses. Dr. Porter explained that the regional campuses have traditionally maintained autonomy concerning their own admissions. The University recognizes that it has an important role in the education of Pennsylvania students, and so established the Options Program, a collaborative effort of admissions offices of the main campus and the regional campuses. A program result is that college-ready high school seniors in Pennsylvania have a high likelihood of being admitted to one of the University's campuses.
- xv. Responding to a question from Ellen Cohn, Dr. Porter reported that in 2006, over 10% of entering freshmen were African American. Slightly more than 17% of freshmen would be considered part of a minority group.

10. Announcements: None.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Baker at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Cohn

Secretary

Members Attending:

Baker, Carr, Cassaro, Chattopadhyay, Close, Cochran, Cohn, Constatine, Costantino, Dunbar-Jacob, Durham, Frieze, Greeno, Hall, Humphrey, Hughes, Isong, Juhl, Kaufmann, Kory, Levine, Maher, Manfredi, McDonald, McKinney, Molinaro, Muenzer, Nordenberg, Olson, Peskie, Pike, Pinsky, Ramicone, Savoia, Skledar, Smolinski, Tatro, Watkins.

Others Attending:

Blair, Brendel, Cedeno, Clark, Fedele, Frisch, Hart, Porter.