

Minutes of February 7th 2012 Meeting

The meeting convened at 2:17 PM in room 817, Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: John Baker, Patricia Beeson, Thomas Braun, Stephen Carr, Jerome Cochran, N. John Cooper, Mary Crossley, Irene Frieze, William Harbert, Estela Llinas, Jon-Paul Matychak, Michael Pinsky, Arthur Ramicone, Jerry Samples, Jesse Steinberg, and Deborah Walker.

Also present were: Cassie Brenner, Amanda Brodish, David DeJong, Rich Henderson, Paul Supowitz, Kathy Tosh, and Thurman Wingrove.

Not present were: Shirley Cassing, Monica Costlow, Anthony Cray, Kathleen Kelly, James Landreneau, Arthur Levine, Michael Lotze, William Shields.

Minutes of April 28th 2011 Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28th 2011 meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Provost Beeson reported on the Governor's proposed state budget for FY13, which includes a 30% cut in the Commonwealth appropriation to Pitt, totaling \$40m. Provost Beeson recapped the cuts in Commonwealth funding absorbed in FY2012: \$40 million from the Commonwealth appropriation, \$20 million from capital appropriations, and a \$7 million mid-year rescission. She noted that these cuts were absorbed through increased tuition, reduced budget reserves, restricted salary increases, and efficiency enhancements. Given that budget reserves have been exhausted and inefficiencies largely eliminated, she noted that Pitt faces a more difficult budget challenge this year. Specifically, she noted that budget cuts must be made selectively in order to maintain the quality of institutional programs and research capabilities, and described efforts underway at the unit level to identify strategic opportunities for doing so.

Update on FY2013 Commonwealth Appropriation

Paul Supowitz noted that Pitt's Commonwealth appropriation has been cut in 8 of the past 12 years. In addition to the proposed cuts to the appropriation, cuts were also proposed to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (which provides grants to PA students), and to research dollars from the tobacco settlement – programs that will impact Pitt's budget. He then described advocacy efforts to restore funding, including the grassroots organization of students, their parents, and alumni in the lobbying of legislators.

Concern was expressed about legislative efforts designed to advance the idea that "money should follow the students." Provost Beeson noted that the Association of Independent

Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania is aggressively getting its message out that state funding for higher education should follow the students, but Supowitz noted that legislation on this issue is not pending currently.

Responding to a question regarding whether Pitt's reputation has suffered in the legislature due to the recent troubles at Penn State, Supowitz noted that while many legislators differentiate between Pitt and Penn State, it is difficult to advocate for differential financial treatment. It was noted that Lincoln was treated differently this year relative to Pitt, Penn State, and Temple, because it does not have the same ability to withstand budget cuts.

Interest was expressed in considering a broad range of options for dealing with the financial difficulties the Commonwealth's appropriation entails.

Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.