

Minutes of February 7th 2013 Meeting

The meeting convened at 10:02AM in room 817, Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: John Baker, Thomas Braun, Stephen Carr, Shirley Cassing, N. John Cooper, Thomas Cunningham, William Harbert, Susanna Leers, Alan Lesgold, Arthur Ramicone, Jem Spectar, Deborah Walker, Frank Wilson, Ray Wrabley, and Chad Zutter.

Also present were: Amanda Brodish, David DeJong, Rich Henderson, and Paul Supowitz.

Not present were: Patricia Beeson, Jerome Cochran, Monica Costlow, Kathleen Kelly, Arthur Levine, Gordon Louderback, Jon-Paul Matychak, Susan Patton, Thomas Smitherman, and Donald Ulin.

In Provost Beeson's absence, David DeJong chaired the meeting.

Minutes of April 26th 2012 Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26th 2012 meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair

On behalf of the Provost, David DeJong thanked the committee members for their service on the committee, and reminded them of the confidential nature of all UPBC and subcommittee meetings. DeJong also thanked Alan Lesgold for Chairing the Parameters Subcommittee.

Update on FY2014 Commonwealth Appropriation

Paul Supowitz reported that the Governor's proposal for the FY14 budget features flat funding of Pitt's Commonwealth Appropriation, in return for a pledge to keep tuition increases to a minimum. In addition, flat funding is proposed for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (which provides grants to PA students), and for research dollars stemming from the tobacco settlement. Supowitz noted that the report prepared by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education recommends that the size of the current appropriation should be considered a floor, and that increases in appropriations should be tied to institutions' ability to meet performance-based indicators. Finally, it does not appear that the Governor's funding proposal for higher education is conditional on the adoption of proposed pension reforms, as had been reported initially.

Budget Update

Art Ramicone reported that although Moody's recently issued a negative outlook for the entire higher education sector, Pitt's AA1 rating has a stable outlook. For FY14, budget challenges

include a new \$2 million tax to support healthcare reforms, increased energy costs, and constraints on tuition increases. Ramicone noted that in NACUBO's recently released study of FY12 endowments, Pitt moved up one place to 25th among more than 800 institutions. In addition, although most institutions' endowments generated flat returns, Pitt's 2.7% endowment return exceeded the national average.

Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.