

Minutes of January 16, 2018

The meeting convened at 3:32 p.m. in 817 Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: Patricia Beeson, Livingston Alexander, Keith Caldwell, Douglas Landsittel, John Lyon, Dean Nelson, Arthur Ramicone, Wesley Rohrer, Andrew Stephany, Alex Toner, Jean Truman, and Chad Zutter.

Also present were: David DeJong, Cassandra Brenner, Thomas Crawford, Leslie Gumbita-Meile, Richard Henderson, Charles McLaughlin, Nancy Tannery and Thurman Wingrove.

UPBC members not present were: Tammeka Banks, Lawrence Carr, Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, Gerald Holder, Kathleen Kelly, Maximillan Kneis, William Kory, Catherine Lamberton, Arthur Levine, Gregory Scott, Kornelia Tancheva, Shreyas Vamburka, and Franklin Wilson

Minutes of November 28, 2017 Meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2017 meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Seed Project Funding

Leslie Gumbita-Meile discussed the UPBC's new role in advising on the allocation of seed funding for projects aimed at advancing the Plan for Pitt. The call for proposals is set to launch Monday January 22, 2018. Proposed projects can include a range of activities including: research ideas, academic programs, process improvement, diversity, community and industry partnership development, outreach, methods of teaching and learning, workshops, lectures, or enhancing the student experience. Applicants may request up to \$50,000, and projects should support one or more of the six goals in the Plan for Pitt, or multiple strategies within a goal. All campuses can apply. UPBC members will be asked to recommend or be reviewers, providing feedback to Chancellor.

Enrollment Planning

Provost Beeson began the discussion by noting that in light of the struggles over Commonwealth funding this past year, the University had been developing alternative business models that would allow it to remain competitive in its market segment, even if the Commonwealth were to withdraw its support. She clearly stated that the University did not intend to give up Commonwealth funding and 'go private', but that reviewing the budget model was a fiscally responsible thing to do. Furthermore, the University needs to make certain that steps it takes to deal with budget crises in the short-term are consistent with a long-term position of little or no funding from the Commonwealth.

She then reviewed historical trends in revenue sources, including net tuition and the Commonwealth Appropriation. She described how various strategies for adjusting tuition and enrollment levels translate into revenue changes, and their implications for costs. She noted the importance under any strategy of maintaining the quality of the educational experience. Based on

this discussion, she noted that there are no good alternatives should the University see a continued erosion of Commonwealth support. She concluded that further cost cutting or expansion of undergraduate enrollments do not appear to be consistent with maintaining quality and competitiveness, and that higher tuition rates would likely be needed to maintain quality. She also discussed approaches to discounting that would allow the University to provide increased access to low-income students, in the event that the University raises tuition.

There was a discussion by members of the committee regarding implications of prospective enrollment changes. Implications explored included impacts on the composition of the student body; changes to the quality of the student experience; performance on key metrics such as retention and graduation rates; and changes to the student-staff-faculty balance.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.