Faculty input sought on NTS recommendations

The University Senate is seeking faculty input on intricate policy recommendations by the new committee on non-tenure-stream (NTS) faculty and on the Senate educational policies committee’s recommendations for providing students with expanded course descriptions prior to registration.

Committee forms and copies of the committee’s reports from Faculty Assembly’s Jan. 15 meeting have been posted at university.pitt.edu/faculty-income.

Non-tenure-stream faculty report

Sue Firestone, Senate vice president and chair of the ad hoc committee on NTS faculty issues, in the committee’s Jan. 15 interim report (posted under the documents tab at university.pitt.edu/faculty-income), said the Senate is working closely with the University administration on NTS faculty issues. “They’ve done a lot already to implement a lot of the things we’re talking about,” she added.

Firestone placed the five interim recommendations by noting that faculty hired outside the tenure stream are facing a growing gap at Pitt, comprising nearly 64 percent of Pitt’s full-time faculty, and making up the majority of full-time faculty in eight of Pitt’s 16 schools.

Many have built lengthy careers at the University, she said, adding that NTS faculty at Pitt fill a variety of roles. Some primarily teach; others do research or have dual duties. Many have significant responsibilities.

“These are not people who come in and don’t participate. Many of them are involved in major service activities — internationally and nationally, as well as at the University,” she said.

A show of hands indicated that every single senate policy committee had an interest in identifying NTS faculty.

Firestone said the committee found a lack of rules governing NTS faculty issues — such as job titles, contract lengths, duties, salary policies, annual review processes, promotions criteria and criteria for emeritus designations — are determined primarily at the school level.

“Isn’t something we want to think about — whether this makes sense or not, but it is the reality now,” she said.

In addition to recommending a review to determine whether school- and unit-level decisions regarding NTS faculty should be made at a higher level to succeed consistency, the committee recommended:

- Clearly explain and accessible policies within each unit.
- Clearly defined tracks for promotion and career development.
- Animal reviews.
- Clear incentives for promotion.
- Committee member Carrey Balaban, vice provost for faculty affairs, said, “All of these initiatives have been ongoing for a number of years in all schools. We have not seen a significant amount of work on them, as we do all the time.”

Balaban said the administration has been proactive over the years in “making certain that we give our non-tenure-stream faculty the respect as colleagues that they deserve.”

“You’re valued colleagues, you’re valued members of our administration,” he said, adding, “I hope of you who gathered here hands feel that.”

Balaban added, “We can be proud, I think, in the many ways that we have been working together between the administration, faculty and the units in order to create this atmosphere.”

Senate President Michael Spring told the University this provost, this chancellor, has been acting on non-tenure-stream faculty adding, “I think it’s helpful.”

He instead suggested that departments regularly list all faculty on its website, adding that instructors directly specify courses taught online on such as at the University.

In addition, “I feel like we may be giving students a tool to avoid taking the kind of interesting, rigorous demanding courses that I think as teachers we ought to trust them to take.”

Humphrey is named senior VC

The search for a successor to athletic director Mike Leopardson is taking shape. "We hope that we’ll be done with the process before the end of the semester," said Randy P Julius, interim director of athletics, adding that the search committee would have been completed prior to December.

He University is on the verge of naming a search firm to assist with the search, said Julius, adding that a search committee of about 15 will be announced in the coming weeks. It will be made up of faculty representatives, coaches, athletes, staff, trustees and student-athletes, said Julius, who will chair the group.

The search process does not fall under the jurisdiction of the University’s office of the Chancellor, the office of the President or the University’s board of trustees.

The search committee will be comprised of representatives from each of the University’s athletic programs.

Julius said the search firm will manage the search process and conduct a preliminary check on candidates, passing along any to the executive committee the names of those who are qualified. "Even though the committee will not see the names, they will have a smaller number, the applications of all candidates or nominations of all candidates will be available to the committee to go back and look at as they choose," said Julius.
Humphrey named senior VC & chief of staff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Humphrey named senior VC & chief of staff at University

U N I V E R S I T Y  T I M E S
JANUARY 22, 2013

University Times

Humphrey named senior VC & chief of staff

Humphrey named senior VC & chief of staff at Saint Louis University. She has a faculty appointment as adjunct professor of student affairs at Saint Louis University.

Humphrey earned a B.S. in education from North Carolina State University, an M.A. in higher education administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Ph.D. in educational administration from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Police in St. Louis are asking the Pitt-St. Louis Police Department for assistance in locating information that may help them identify a suspect in a sexual assault that occurred last week.

The incident occurred around 11 p.m. last Thursday when a woman was walking in the 700 block of North Park Avenue. She said she was attacked by a man who followed her.

According to the St. Louis Police Department, the man approached the woman from behind and pressed a knife to her neck, demanding money.

The woman managed to escape and contacted authorities.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the St. Louis Police Department at 314-935-2000.

Pitts drops in best-value ranking

Pitt ranked No. 151 in an annual report by the College Values Online, which ranks schools based on their value. The rankings are based on factors such as tuition, fees, and student-to-faculty ratio.

Pitt was ranked No. 145 in the previous year’s report.

“Pitt’s value has improved significantly over the past few years,” said William McVicker, executive director of the College Values Online.

The rankings are based on a formula that includes tuition, fees, room and board costs, financial aid, class size, student-to-faculty ratio, and alumni giving.

According to the rankings, Pitt ranked higher than the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, which was ranked No. 205.

“Pitt’s value is impressive compared to other institutions,” McVicker said.

Humphrey is named senior VP & chief of staff

U N I V E R S I T Y  T I M E S
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What’s your syllabus?

Yesterday’s class concluded with a discussion about the importance of critical thinking. Students were asked to develop their own syllabus for the course.

One student proposed a syllabus that included weekly readings, guest speakers, and a final project. Another student suggested a syllabus that focused on group projects and collaborative learning.

The instructor praised both proposals and encouraged the students to develop their own syllabus.

The instructor noted that the syllabus is a tool for the students to use to guide their learning. It is important for students to take ownership of their education and to develop a syllabus that meets their needs.

The instructor also emphasized the importance of critical thinking and the role it plays in creating a meaningful and engaging learning experience.

The instructor concluded by encouraging the students to continue to engage in meaningful and critical conversations throughout the course.

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tere is no question that Univer-
sity police have set out to make
Trenton safer. A new initiative
announced last semester, called
“Live Safe,” encourages students
to report any unwanted attention.

University Police Chief Kevin
Harvey says the initiative was
born out of a need for students to
report more information about
incidents.

“Before, if someone was touched or
felt disposed of in some way, they
were thinking about it for days,”
Harvey said. “Now they’re re-
porting it as it happens.”

The initiative was announced in
January and has already seen a
increase in reports.

“It’s a great move forward
because there’s no talk to it,
just action,” said Harvey.

A new initiative called
“Operation Guardian” is also
being piloted on campus.

“This is just a small step toward
making Trenton a safer place,”
Harvey said.

University Police
Chief Kevin Harvey

Students who report an incident
will be given information on
how to contact a counselor and
how to report the incident to
the university.

“The goal of the Live Safe
initiative is to encourage
students to feel safe and to
encourage them to report any
incidents they may witness or
experience,” Harvey said.

“A lot of times, people think
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Several racial disparities remain in Pittsburgh, according to a new study by the Center on Race and Social Inequality (CRSPI) at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Our study is the first to examine civic engagement and civic identity in the context of the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County in 2012," said lead author on the project, Karen Leventhal.

The study surveyed more than 1,000 adults in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and found that African Americans are more likely to engage in civic activities and identify as members of the community than whites.

Among the key findings:

- African Americans are more likely to volunteer (34.4% vs. 23.8%)
- African Americans are more likely to feel they have a stake in the community (41.3% vs. 31.4%)
- African Americans are more likely to participate in civic activities (44.6% vs. 31.4%)

The study was conducted by the University of Pittsburgh’s Center on Race and Social Inequality (CPSRI) and the Mellon Institute for Social Science.

The study was supported by a grant from the Heinz Endowments.

For more information, please visit www.cpsri.pitt.edu.

Racial disparities remain

In 2014, did you?

Tell us about it!

A few important guidelines:

- Furnish information on peer-reviewed books, journals, CD, electronic media, plays or musical compositions written, edited or produced during 2014.
- Books must be from 2014.
- Do not submit information about journal articles, short stories, poems, book chapters or self-published works.
- Submission deadline is Jan. 31.
- All fields of the submission form must be completed.
- Complete a separate electronic form for each submission.
- Questions? Contact 412/624-4644 or delraso@pitt.edu.
The view from the Cathedral of Learning lawn gives little clue as to what’s going on behind the stately red doors of Heinz Memorial Chapel this winter. The chapel has been closed since late December and will remain closed through May while a climate control system is installed.

Earlier this month, Valencia-based Allegheny Pipe Organ Co. oversaw the temporary removal of most of the organ pipes as a precursor to the climate control work, which will bring air conditioning to the 76-year-old Gothic-style chapel.

The University’s 2015 capital budget included $1.69 million for environmental controls at Heinz Chapel and $1.81 million to extend chilled water lines for the chapel and Bellefield Hall. (See July 24, 2014, University Times.)

HEINZ CHAPEL
Closed, but busier than ever

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In the University of Pitts-
burgh’s post-2015 en-
rollment surge, one of
the major factors
is the increasing
number of students
for whom English is
not their first
language.

“Against that backdrop of
dubious demand growth,
the numbers for the coming
years are projected to be
even lower," said University
President Mark Nordenberg.

“The University is trying to
increase the number of stu-
dents in its graduate pro-
grams, particularly the
engineering and sciences
programs, which have seen
sharp declines in recent
years,” Nordenberg said. “We
are looking for ways to
increase enrollment, partic-
ularly in the health sciences
and engineering fields.”

The university is currently
developing strategies to
attract more international
students and has also been
working to improve its
overall student retention rates.

The university has also
launched several initiatives
to support diversity and
inclusiveness on campus,
including a new Office of
Inclusion and Community
Relations.

State-of-the-art medical
facilities and research
programs are among the
reasons why the University
of Pittsburgh is attracting
an increasing number of
international students.

The university has signed
memoranda of understanding
with several institutions
around the world to
promote collaboration on
research and education.

The university also offers
a wide range of programs
in medicine, engineering,
science, and other fields,
which are popular among
international students.

In addition, the University
of Pittsburgh has a strong
reputation for its work in
healthcare and medicine,
which attracts students
from around the world.

The university is committed
to providing a supportive
and inclusive environment
for all its students,
regardless of their cultural
background or national
origin.

For more information,
please visit the university’s
website: www.pitt.edu.

The university’s mission
is to provide access to high-
quality education and
research opportunities for
all students, regardless of
their background or
affordability.

The University of Pitt-
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The University Times Research Notes column contains a faulty word in a title and on findings arising from University research.

For submission guidelines, visit www.unimes.pitt.edu.

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Evolution lecture series set

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Hosted by the Office of the Provost, this conference brings together faculty and staff to directly involve the ongoing assessment of student learning outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate level.

The keynote Speaker will be Dr. Marco Marcella, Assistant Vice Provost for undergraduate Education Innovation, Research and Analytics and Hub Director for the Interdisciplinary Agriculture Medicine Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Hub at the University of California, Davis.

Faculty members from all campuses will present their own assessment experiences as well as best practices. The conference will close with lunch and a discussion including campus resources.

Registration is open at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015AssessmentConference

Student Opinion of Teaching Surveys encourage students to take a survey between March 25 through April 19.

TAKING THE FIRST STEPS.

1. Request your survey. Check cidd.pitt.edu/omet for "how to" tips.
2. Talk with your students about the survey. Make it clear that you value their feedback.
3. Schedule class time for students to complete the survey.

Questions? Call 412-624-6440 or contact us at ciddle.pitt.edu/omet.

OMET Office of Measurement and Evaluation of Teaching

Check it out

Your List

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