**Pitt’s appropriation awaits state action**

Will the University see an increase in its state appropriation for the coming fiscal year? And will Pitt’s fiscal year’s funding — whatever the amount, begin flowing on time.

With just a week to go before the state budget deadline, funding bills for the University await action in the state appropriations committees. Senate Bill 1294, introduced by Senate Democrats, appropriates $143.19 million to Pitt. The House and Senate (HB2138 and SB2180) bills included holding the University’s state appropriation flat at $143.19 million.

While these bills are introduced largely to get the procedural ball rolling toward an appropriation, it’s difficult to infer too much from the dollar amounts, which may be amended, said Paul Supowitz, vice chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations. This year, “there’s no sense or expectation that there may be amendments,” Supowitz said.

As an institution that’s not entirely under the state’s control, Pitt’s state funding comes via a nonpreferred appropriation, allocated in a separate bill following the enactment of the state’s general fund budget. Pitt’s appropriation covers about 17 percent of its $2.07 billion budget.

Although a state budget is due by the July 1 start of the fiscal year, Pitt waited until April to see in FY16 state funding begin flowing in the aftermath of a budget impasse between the Republican-majority General Assembly and Democrat Gov. Tom Wolf. After vetoing a pair of GOP budget proposals, Wolf allowed the state budget to take effect without his signature on March 28, ending a nine-month-long standoff.

Both the House and Senate bills are scheduled to be in session daily through June 30. The upcoming national conventions and elections to fill half of 50 state Senate seats and all 203 state House seats may help avert a repeat of last year’s impasse, Supowitz said.

While there’s been talk of a possible one-week state shutdown, Pitt is trying to strengthen the shared governance model and practice, “as there is no sense or expectation that there may be any kind of cut,” he said. “But you never know.”

In response to a University Senate recommendation, Provost Patricia E. Beeson has agreed to a moratorium on salary reductions for all tenured faculty.

The Senate had asked that tenured faculty salary reductions be put on hold until University-wide guidelines could be established. The Senate’s concerns were prompted by reports of 20 percent salary reductions for some tenured medical school faculty who failed to meet performance standards that were based on securing a major portion of their salary through externally funded research. (See April 14 University Times.)

“On consideration, I have decided to put in place a moratorium on salary reductions effective immediately until the policy is in place,” Beeson wrote in a June 2 memo to Senate President Frank Wilson and Senate tenure and academic freedom committee (TAPF) co-chairs Barry Gold and Maria Kovaev.

A 2014 Senate ad hoc committee found no policy exists for tenured faculty salary reductions and reported last fall that “the proportion of tenured faculty whose salaries have been cut is highly uneven across the schools, that formal criteria for such cuts are either ambiguous or nonexistent and that the process is highly variable across schools. Additionally, faculty often have limited options for appealing the alleged performance deficits and genuine appeal procedures are nonexistent.” (See Nov. 17, 2015, University Times.)

Laurie Kirsch, vice provost for faculty affairs, development and diversity, headed a provost’s ad hoc committee charged with developing a set of guidelines as well as recommendations for performance evaluations of tenured faculty and associated salary decisions.

Kirsch presented an interim report to Faculty Senate in March (see March 17 University Times) and a final report was submitted to the provost in April. Beeson subsequently asked TAPF and the Council of Deans for their comments and review. Kirsch told the University Times.

“The provost continues to hope that the Senate and faculty and administrators to gather input for updating the guidelines as appropriate,” she added. “Depending on the input received, the appropriate University process will be followed.”

People are responding happily to it,” Wilson said of the $1.8 billion state deficit. “I don’t anticipate seeing a new policy in early fall.

Beeson’s response to the Senate recommendation is being hailed as an example of improved cooperation between the faculty and the administration.

“Those certainly is a legitimate concern,” Beeson said. “We are trying to strengthen the shared governance model and practice,” he said. “We’re demonstrating a more collegial and stronger version of shared governance all the time.”

**UHC dean to step down**

**Moratorium is in place on tenured faculty pay cuts**

The University is studying the revised federal overtime rules...——>

Pitt is a major force in the Latin American Studies Association...——>

The Governor, who wants $290 million for basic education and $34 million to address opioid abuse, said in a KDKA radio interview earlier this week: “I’m not asking for a sales tax increase or personal income tax increase. I think we can do all this — the balanced budget, the increase in education and heroin initiatives — without a broad-based tax increase.”

He expressed optimism about budget talks, “I think that we’re making some good progress. I think we’re going to work it out.”

Smaller revenue sources could combine to help fill the projected $250 million gap. A liquor reform measure, introduced by then-chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. Stricker followed by then-chancellor Mark A.

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Staff win chancellor’s awards

The award recognizes a staff member who “extends their commitment to the University by engaging in professional experiences, giving back to the community, and looking for special projects or volunteering opportunities that allow them to participate in programs outside of the normal work environment.”

In his letter to Misuraca, the chancellor wrote, “There is no doubt that you have had a profound and positive impact on the students who have been part of the Pitt Program Council, helping them to gain professional experience that is essential to their success once they leave campus,” noting as well Misuraca’s role as an active force behind many events.

“You touch the lives of our students from the minute they arrive on campus for the new student orientation until the day they par-ticipate in the final exam week,” Gal-lagher wrote. “In between those two very significant events, you help to develop the Pitt and University and community university can enjoy lectures, films and concerts,” the chancellor wrote, citing particular Misuraca’s close work with Athletics, other departments and the University’s annual homecoming celebrations.

Mentoring

The award was created “to recognize excellent employees, said Kathy Humphrey, senior vice president for human resources, chief of staff and secretary of the Board of Trustees.”

Humphrey said she asked awards committee members to consider how to enhance the annual chancellor’s awards. “Being able to reward staff for outstanding work was the ultimate goal of this award,” Humphrey said, adding that up to 10 awards could be given each year, but typically fewer were awarded. “How could we say thank you to more people for being amazing employees at the University?”

Kim Hotna, executive secre-tary of the Board of Trustees, who chaired the awards committee, said that in addition to aligning some of the awards with the University’s strategic plan, the committee viewed the career achievement and early career awards as a way to recognize staff who come to Pitt and want to stay at Pitt.

The early career category is a way to recognize staff with three to five years of experience who previously had not been eligible for the chancellor’s awards. Nominations for the award are received by the University’s human resources department, who evaluated criteria and compiled a list of employees. The chancellor’s office standardized nomination packets, limiting submissions to one per employee, which helped simplify the committee’s work. Previously, she said, some candidates were nominated by more than one manager, while others had only one nomination, making it more difficult to assess.

Nominations for the awards may come from any individual within the University community or the larger community, but are limited to those who have been nominated for at least five years (three years for the early career category). They must be enrolled at the University with no adverse employment actions within the last 12 months and the annual review and continued performance must exceed perfor-mance expectations. The awards are administered by the University’s human resources department. Nominations for the awards are not eligible for the chancellor’s awards.

In addition to the chair, awards committee members are the: Staff Council chair, the University’s financial planner; associate provi-sionary, the University’s chief of staff and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The award was created to recognize staff members “who have exceeded expecta-tions toward the University and community, including implementing innova-tive approaches to improving processes or developing cost sav-ing plans.”

In his letter, Chancellor Leo Constantino, financial officer of the University, wrote that the awards were “a great idea and made con-tri-butions to the success of their department and the University, who has earned the respect of their peers, and whose efforts have defined what it means to be part of the Pitt community.”

As we come to the conclusion of the celebration of the Year of the Staff, it seems only fitting that we recognize you for the contributions you have made to make this nation what it is today,” Chancellor Gallagher wrote. “You have contributed to the University’s English-language journals in the humanities,” Gallagher wrote, adding that sup-porters of Havran’s nomination described her as the “public face of the journal” and praised her work ethic, her poised demeanor and her editing skills.

The committee was deeply impressed by the number of issues of Staff 2 that have been published during the year. They recognized her hard work and her dedication to the publication of the University staff. The associate vice chancellor for Human Resources serves as a nonvoting member.

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JUNE 23, 2016

Selling the city to medical residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

“One of the pillars of the University’s strategic plan is to increase the economic impact of our work through technology transfer and commercialization efforts. We’ve expanded those efforts to help University researchers streamline their research projects, leading to the development of their findings to clinical practice.”

He cited Vekten’s knowledge of research regulatory issues and the importance to share that knowledge by developing a research facilitator program and problem-based learning discussion.

“Yale has earned a reputation as a national leader in the field of research regulation, including serving on a central role in the development of the regulatory governance of the Accrual to Clinical Research Network from the National Institutes of Health,” Gallagher wrote.

Staff win chancellor’s awards

“Somehow, some way, he was able to teach me that Pittsburgh is a place where you can work to sell Pittsburgh, in a place anywhere else. This is a place, UPMC and Pitt in general, where people believe in our mission. We are never afraid of the most difficult cases and that is what makes me happy to work here,” says Roman.

“For the academic envi-

For a unique career...”

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Diagnosing multiple conditions with droplet-based microfluidics

Researchers at the Graduate School of Public Health have developed a unique method for detecting antibodies in the blood of patients in a proof-of-principle study that opens the door to development of simple diagnostic tests for diseases for which no microbial cause is known, including autoimmune diseases, cancers and other conditions.

The technique, described in the Journal of Immunological Meth- ods, are the first evidence that it is possible to identify the presence of any infectious disease by screening random libraries of nontoxic molecular shapes.

"This 'needle-in-a-molecular haystack' approach is a new way to do disease detection", said senior author Donald S. Burke, dean and director of the UPC Medical School. "This method does not rely on starting with known viral components. This method can diagnose those condi-tions for which there's not an known antigen, such as newly emerged epidemics, autoimmune diseases or even responses to traumatic injury."

In Burke's immunologic system is faced with an antigen or foreign invader, such as an infective agent, and in the presence of even minimal injury with tissue damage, it responds by producing antibodies. Like a master key that opens the lock or an antibody that fits to the shape of the molecules or antigens that damaged the tissue.

The researchers used a tech-nique pioneered by co-author Thomas Kodakel of the Scripps Research Institute that synthesizes random molecular shapes by using a chemical reaction, known as a "click" reaction, to form tiny plastic beads. The technique can produce millions of microscopic plastic beads. The technique can produce millions of microscopic plastic beads. The bead's molecular shape can be used to test the presence of just one copy of an antibody in the blood of an infected patient, not just the healthy controls.

How to create the beads or structures used to construct or select the peptides, but the approach depends successfully led to a selection of the best molecular shapes to use in screening for HIV.

The team then reengineered the HIV-antibody-targeting peptide to screen. HIV-positive blood and HIV-negative blood with a high degree of accuracy. The test distinguished between the samples of HIV-positive blood and HIV-negative blood with a high degree of accuracy.

This technology means that we may be able to take a single drop of blood from a patient and test it against all manner of infectious, cancers or other condi-tions they may be carrying or have been exposed to," said Burke, who holds the UPC's Jansat Chair of Global Health. "We hope that this enables the development of an 'Epi-chip' that can be used to reconstruct a person's exposure history."

"Additional Pitt co-authors on this study were Tricia L. Orsini, Karla Rinaldo, chair of the Depart- ment of In Vivo Imaging and Pharmacology and University of Pittsburgh arm of the MACS, a con-fidential research study of the natural history of treated and untreated HIV-infected individuals who have sex with men (supported by the National Institutes of Health)."
Pitt still studying revised OT rules

The University is still studying the new and lengthy federal overtime rules set to take effect Dec. 1, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Iredell W. Frisch told the Staff Association Council (SAC) June 15. SAC member Gregory A. Scott, senior vice chancellor for Business and Operations, told the SAC that the Department and Scott's are still trying to figure out the FLSA changes.

“SAC has now has a membership waiting list of 25 people. That’s why I think it’s a tribute to you that you continue to recognize staff,” he said.

In other SAC news:

• SAC elected four new committee heads: Alex Toner, of the University Library System, to external relations; Clayton Steup, of the dean’s office of the School of Medicine, to operations; Ric Fera, of Computing Services and Systems Development, to health, safety, IT and transportation; and Kathy Hansell-Prigg, of the Systems Neuroscience Institute, to staff relations.

• Matthew Richardson was appointed head of the SAC strategic initiative committee to study staff impressions of the organization and chart new directions for SAC.

—Marty Levine

Congratulations and best wishes to the Members of the Class of 2016 who will be joining UPMC this fall:

Neethu Abraham
Brian Arthur
Malene Ahn
Daniel Bintrim
John Black
Loraine Bokaye
James Bohnhoff
Carol Cheng
Erin Cummings
Anusani Dewasaurenda
Malcolm Dombrowski
Amarachi Esonu
Katrina Han
Alexander Huh
Isaac James
Katie Jean
Ryan Jennings
Alexander Khalaf
Matthew Kilbridge
Juliana Kuhn
David Lehman
Rebecca Levine
Liu Yi Lin
Steven Markos
Sean McDermott
Aljandor Morales
Peter Mortensen
Ricardo Nieves
Olubusola Olouwol
Neeb Patel
Michelle Perry
Anannya Pompa
Adi Shafrir
Niyati Shah
Sunny Tao
Cindy Teng
Nicolas Vu
Yanting Wang
Maylene Xie
Xiaoran Zhang
Dongning Zhang
Richard Zou

From the physicians and administrative staff at UPMC Medical Education.

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
UPMC is ranked among the nation’s best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report.

Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

SAC is the University’s Staff Association Council.

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UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE
Pitt continues major role in Latin American Studies Assn.

The 50th anniversary of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), headquartered at Pitt for the last 30 years, is a momentous occasion marking “the transformation of the organization,” says Ariel Armony, senior director of international programs and director of the University Center for International Studies.

Armony, a member of LASA since 1967 when he was a graduate student, notes LASA’s annual conference, which drew more than 6,000 attendees — greater than half of LASA’s 12,000 members — for the presentation of research and other scholarly papers.

“The last 30 years, the association has grown dramatically,” he says, becoming the largest professional organization for its region in the world. “It has dramatically changed in demographics as well. Originally dominated by U.S.-based scholars, LASA’s membership now comes 60 percent from Europe, Asia and Latin America — 45 percent from the latter. In fact, in a few years, next congresses will be in Peru and Spain.”

The LASA congress brings together students and professors, publishe figures and politicians to discuss regional issues for Latin America and its relations with the world. This year’s speakers included political theorist Noam Chomsky and the past presidents of Costa Rica and Chile, as well as some of the major players involved in establishing relations between Cuba and the United States recently. Its 900 sessions included panel discussions on everything from the current politics in Brazil to those “disap- pearances” as some of the major players involved in establishing relations between Cuba and the United States recently. Its 900 sessions included panel discussions on everything from the current politics in Brazil to those “disappearances” as some of the major players involved in establishing relations between Cuba and the United States recently.

Armony says. Thanks to the increasing membership of Latin America-based scholars in LASA, the organization is a chance to help Latin American universi- ties increase and improve their courses and standards of scholarship. “LASA has a tremendous opportunity to play a leading role in that process,” he says.

LASA plans to aid in strengthening area studies in several ways, Armony says. “Thanks to the increasing membership of Latin America-based scholars in LASA, the organization is a chance to help Latin American universi- ties increase and improve their courses and standards of scholarship. “LASA has a tremendous opportunity to play a leading role in that process,” he says.

Armony says. Thanks to the increasing membership of Latin America-based scholars in LASA, the organization is a chance to help Latin American universities increase and improve their courses and standards of scholarship. “LASA has a tremendous opportunity to play a leading role in that process,” he says.

Continued from page 1
articulates a University-wide policy before that date, and not until such a policy is articulated, he says. Levine said 24 tenured medical school faculty members had appealed to a faculty committee, others will have a much stronger impact on pay cuts for faculty members, what our rationale would be and to what extent we’ve done it,” Levine said at the faculty meeting.

“The answer is very simple: People should earn their keep. People should be able to demon- strate that they merit their salary. It is a simple fact of life.

“In the medical school we do that, if we’re researchers, by demonstrating that we are doing something for the benefit of research, by participating in clinical activities, by participating in the education of students. If you are not doing those things, you are not earning your salary.”

Levine did not respond to additional comments.

He also intends for LASA to “seize in a much more fruitful dialogue with policy makers” in the region concerning how new laws are decided upon and implemented. “If that becomes an emphasis, I think this organization will have a much more important role in the region,” he says.

In general, he hopes that LASA will become “a beneficial bridge between the north and the south” of the Americas. “It’s a really big deal that Pitt is the home to the association and that we have such a big presence,” he adds.

The Center of Latin American Studies is working with dozens of Pitt faculty and students attending the conference and playing important roles in several areas.

According to Rodriguez Blanco, LASA also will aim to increase the number of Latin American scholars who publish our scholarly works; LASA even is looking to publish some Latin American-based publications at Pitt.

With its strategic plan for 2016-20, she says, the organiza- tion will provide better services to its membership, attract new members and use social media to connect people better about issues of common concern. Rodriguez Blanco: “It’s going to be transformative.”

—Marty Levine

Moratorium on pay cuts for tenured faculty

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University Times
José Alain Sahel was professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Eye Institute. He was elected to a three-year term on the Society of Biological Psychiatry's editorial board in 2016.

Anthony Grace, distinguished professor in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences' Department of Neuroscience, is the recipient of the 2016 Gold Medal Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry. This award recognizes an "internationally distinguished scientist in the field of psychiatric neuroscience." A faculty member in neurobiology, psychiatry and psychology, Grace's research interests lie at the interface of neurobiology, psychiatry and psychology.

A researcher known for breakthrough discoveries in genetics that have allowed scientists to efficiently and precisely modify DNA sequences and correct genetic defects in any cell will receive the University of Pittsburgh's 2016 Dickson Prize in Medicine.

Jennifer A. Doudna will accept the School of Medicine's most prestigious honor and deliver the Dickson Prize in Medicine Lecture during the University of Pittsburgh's 2016 Dickson Prize in Medicine.
**Thursday 23**
- **Summer 4-week-2 session deadline** for students to submit monitored withdrawal forms to dean’s office.
- **Heatology Rounds** PPMN Conf., Monforte,” 7 am, pathology conf. rm., 7 am
- **Clinical Oncology/Hematology Grand Rounds** 
  - “Management of Brain MetS From Melanoma,” Vamsi Najar & Ronny Kalolo; UPMC Cancer Pavilion Herberman Aud., 8 am (millerf@upmc.edu)

**Thursday 24**
- **Board of Trustees Mtg.**
  - WPJC Assembly Rm., 10 am
  - Sr. VC Research Seminar

**Saturday 25**
- **Summer 6-week-1 session ends; finals exams scheduled during last class meeting:**
- **Official date for awarding of degrees.**

**Monday 27**
- **Summer 6-week-2 session enrollment period ends & classes begin.**

**Tuesday 28**
- **Molecular Medicine Research Seminar**
  - “Describing the Systems Biology of MicroRNA in Pulmonary Hypertension,” Stephen Chan; Rangos Research Conf. Crn., noon (lindschem@hp.edu)
- **SAC/Year of the Humanities Workshops**
  - “Mindfulness & Meditation,” Anthony Silvetti, Crn. For Mindfulness & Consciousness Studies, WPJC balloon, noon (www.sac.pitt.edu)
- **Nursing Cancer Survivorship Scholars Lecture**
  - “Program of Research in Chronic Disease Self Management,” Kate Longo, immunology & rheumatology, 260 Victoria, ETL multipurpose rm., 11:30 pm

**Wednesday 29**
- **Summer 6-week-2 session add/drop period ends.**

**Thursday 30**
- **Crcr for Medicine & the Microbiome Retreat**
  - Keynote: “Causes & Consequences of Our Gut Microbial Differences,” Fedirko Roy, U. Of WI-Madison; UC-clin.balun. A, 8-10 pm (nas@mpmpc@upmc.edu)
- **Human Research Protection Office Seminar**
  - “Strategies for Achieving Regulatory Compliance & Economics” in DoD-Supported Research,” Laura Broach, US Army Medical Research & Material Command; Scaife lecture rm. 6, 11 am (www.dpcpiupmc.edu)
- **HSLS Workshop**
  - “Paperless PubMed,” Par Weize; Falk Library classes 1, 11 am (jgw@pitt.edu)

**July**
- **Independence Day, University closed.**

**Tuesday 5**
- **CIDDE Workshop**
  - “Encouraging Student Participation,” 815 Alumni, 10 am (register: www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)
- **CIDDE Workshop**
  - “Developing a Lesson Plan,” 815 Alumni, 10 am (register: www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

**Wednesday 6**
- **CIDDE Workshop**
  - “Developing a Teaching Portfolio,” 815 Alumni, noon (register: www.cidde.pitt.edu/workshops)

**Thursday 7**
- **Summer 4-week-2 session ends; finals exams scheduled during last class meeting:**

**Defenses**
- **A&S/Neuroscience**
  - “Transcriptionally Defined Sub-populations of Cutaneous Neurons: Effects of Nerve Injury & Regeneration,” Peter Adelman, June 24, 1459 RBT, 9 am
- **A&S/Biological Sciences**
  - “Regulation of a Kinase Module in KIF14/CricketSong-10 in Fiscal Adhesion Dynamics,” Lingqing Xu, June 27, 2105 Langley, 2 pm

**C A L E N D A R**

**June**
- **July 7-21**
  - **Drop period ends.**
  - **Summer 6-week-2 session add/drop period ends.**

**July 21-Sept. 1**
- **Submit by**
  - **June 30**
- **For publication**
  - **July 7**

**The University Times events calendar includes Pitt-sponsored events as well as non-Pitt events held on a Pitt campus. Information submitted for the calendar should identify the type of event, such as lecture or concert, and the program's specific title, sponsor, location and time. The name and phone number of a contact person should be included. Information should be sent by email to: utcal@pitt.edu.**

**Medicine/Computational Biology**
- **Graphical Models for De Novo & Pathway-based Network Prediction Over Multi-Modal High-Throughput Biological Data,” Andrew Bedwoski; June 29, 9375 BRT, 2 pm

**Medicine/Biomedical Informatics**
- **Robust Predictive Modeling of Related Gene Expression Data Via Multi-Source Transfer Rule Learning,” Henry Ogoe; July 5, 536 Baum, 1 pm

**Engineering/Industrial Engineering**
- **Integrating Proactive & Reactive Decision Making in Surgery Scheduling,” Gabriel Zanuttini, July 7, 1025E Renoval, 2 pm

**Event Deadline**
- **The next issue of the University Times will include University & on-campus events of July 7-21. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm on June 30. Send information to utcal@pitt.edu.**

**UCD C gets gardening/cooking grant**
- Pitt’s University Child Development Center (UCDC) is among 40 education centers in Allegheny County that have been named 2016 Champion Schools by Let’s Move Pittsburgh, a program of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The champion schools will share $40,000 in grants to support new and existing health and wellness projects. The awards are funded by the Heinz Endowments. Under the theme of “Teaching Kids to Grow and Cook Food,” UCDC plans to use the funds to implement additional gardening techniques on its playground and in the classrooms. Children at the center will participate in planting, tending, harvesting and cooking vegetables and herbs. More information on Let’s Move Pittsburgh is at https://phipps.conservatory.org/lets-move-pittsburgh.