

GOVERNANCE REVIEW & RESTRUCTURING

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Commissioned and overseen by President Thomas F. Schutte, June 2008

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

APR 20, 2010	Last Senate meeting - election of new Senate officers for 2010-2013 term.
APR 19, 2010	Proposed AGOC-Senate leadership meeting.
MAR 25, 2010	Senate officially engaged the AAUP to conduct an evaluation of Pratt's governance, in accordance with Senate resolutions dated December 8, 2009, January 26, February 9 and 23, March 2 and 9 and the Senate's affirmation on March 23, 2010.
MAR 9, 2010	<p>The Senate adopted two resolutions reaffirming the primacy of faculty in curriculum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate Resolution to withdraw faculty from the administrative committee, IWCC; response to the March 8 Memorandum from Chairman Mike Pratt and President Thomas F. Schutte.• Senate Resolution to restore the Senate Academic Programs and Policies Committee and conduct of Senate business, March 9, 2010 <p>Senate Resolution to direct the Senate President to officially engage the AAUP.</p>
MAR 5, 2010	Second board-administration-faculty meeting. In attendance: Chairman Pratt, President Schutte and Senate President Lee
MAR 2, 2010	Senate Resolution to adopt AAUP Principles of shared governance and invitation to the Board and Administration to join faculty.
MAR 1, 2010	President and Chairman approved pro-tem IWCC bylaws; Issued memo "IWCC Authorization to Begin Curriculum Work and By-Laws."
FEB 23, 2010	<p>Senate adopted a resolution to request from the President and Chairman that the Bylaws of the nascent IWCC be presented to the Senate for review, comment and approval. The Senate's request was ignored.</p> <p>Senate adopted resolution to officially consult the AAUP legal department for its advice.</p>
FEB 19, 2010	Board Chairman e-mailed Senate President about Senate Bylaws, indicating that he saw "only one area that needs to be amended;" and even that, he saw no urgency to change. The area specified does not relate directly to the Senate's jurisdiction in academic matters, including curriculum.
FEB 17, 2010	Status of AAUP Action; memo of reassurance to Chairman Mike Pratt.
FEB 16, 2010	IWCC approved pro-tem IWCC bylaws.

FEB 9, 2010	<p>Senate elected Professor Sameetah Agha (FT SLAS) to attend board-administration-faculty meetings with Senate President Lee.</p> <p>First board-administration-faculty meeting. In attendance: Chairman Pratt, President Schutte, Provost Peter Barna, Chair Jeff Bellantoni (Governance Facilitator), Professor Sameetah Agha and Senate President Lee</p>
JAN 26, 2010	Senate adopted a resolution on the process and timeline for AAUP action; amended on February 9, 2010.
DEC 23, 2009	President Schutte published the Approved Academic Governance Implementation of Recommendations at my.pratt.edu
DEC 15, 2009	Senate, in accommodating the AGOC request, adopted a resolution to appoint members of the APPC, as duly constituted, to the IWCC for the period of 6 months.
DEC 13, 2009	The AGOC amended the Report, which calls for election of Senate Representatives and, instead, asked the Senate to appoint its APPC members to the IWCC.
DEC 10, 2009	Board of Trustees approved the Academic Governance – Implementation of Recommendations Report.
DEC 8, 2009	<p>Special Senate meeting; Chairman Mike Pratt was invited guest.</p> <p>Senate Resolution to request officially an AAUP evaluation of governance at Pratt and invitation to the Board and Administration to join faculty.</p>
NOV 21, 2009	Provost drafted revisions to Senate bylaws; re-submitted to the Academic Senate on December 1, 2009,
NOV 17, 2009	Senate sent memo of summary response to members of the Board of Trustees.
NOV 16, 2009	President Schutte sent to the Senate, the final version of the Final AGOC Report. Not having been consulted during the process and under time constraints, the Senate provided a summary response and requested a postponement of Board action on the recommendations of the AGOC.
NOV 10, 2009	Senate held an emergency meeting, inviting the AGOC to meet to discuss concerns about the process and substance of the governance review and restructuring.
JUN 2009	President Schutte appointed an Academic Governance Oversight Committee (AGOC) comprised of four administrative Chairs/Assistant Chair and two faculty and appointed an administrative Chair to be Governance Facilitator.
MAY 5, 2009	Senate adopted a response to the Erickson Report in the form of a memo to the Board of Trustees. The Board did not respond.

MAR 2009	Erickson submitted "Consultant's Report to Pratt Institute: Academic Governance and Decision-Making." Note Erickson's findings, recommendations and suggested implementation on pages 10-15 of the report.
JUN 2008	President Schutte contracted John H. Erickson to review academic governance at Pratt
MAY 20, 2008	<p>President Schutte convened a meeting among Chairman Mike Pratt, Trustee Joshua Smith, Provost Barna and Senate President Lee to discuss the program proposal, Critical and Visual Studies (CVS). Senate wrote a memo to President Schutte, "Appeal to Restore Shared Governance."</p> <p>The memo below provides a chronology of the events following this meeting. Issues related to the review of the CVS program proposal were pivotal in the President's decision to hire an outside consultant to review governance at Pratt.</p>

October 23, 2008

RE: Report on the Senate's Fulfillment of the May 20 Meeting Agreements

Dear Tom,

On behalf of faculty, I want to thank you again for setting up the May 20th 2008 meeting to discuss governance, generally, and to develop a plan to expedite New York State Education Department (NYSED) registration of Pratt's Critical and Visual Studies (CVS) in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (SLAS).

This is to report on the Senate's fulfillment of meeting agreements; attached are Josie's May 20 meeting minutes for reference. Relevant portions are printed in italics below.

On the first point:

- *Professor Lee will identify the courses that the Academic Senate needs information on and that Provost Barna will compile this information with the department for submission to the Senate.*

On May 28, I sent a list of curricular material still missing from the CVS course and program applications to you, with copies to Provost Peter Barna, Mike Pratt and Joshua Smith. In March and April 2008, during the Senate's review of CVS courses and program changes, SLAS Dean Toni Oliviero acknowledged most of the shortfalls and committed to providing them to the Senate. As of this writing, we have not received any of the promised material.

On the second point, I had asked to present the request to the Senate for approval:

- *Provost Barna will submit the proposed program with the state with the Academic Senate's knowledge and understanding that the Senate will continue to review the document and that subsequent curriculum changes can be made.*

The Senate committed to an expedited review of the program, even while it was not in session, to permit its submission to NYSED. Through its Academic Programs and Policies Committee (APPC) and Executive Committee, we proposed a two-tiered submission process. Under the first tier, the CVS program would be forwarded to NYSED upon the submission of only the most basic information to the Senate (course number, title and bulletin description). Full review of the program and its courses, the second tier, was reserved until later.

On June 3, I sent the proposal to the Provost, with copies to you, Mike Pratt and Joshua Smith. Our suggestion was effectively a free pass. NYSED requires comprehensive and detailed documentation in its application; we asked only for basic course information, which would be required in the application to NYSED in any case. While we understood that the bare bones data--course numbers and the like--would not provide an adequate basis for a meaningful review, our intention was to strike a realistic compromise between institutional due process and exigencies affecting registration, which were not of the Senate's making.

On October 7, Provost Barna surprised the Senate with the news that the CVS application for NYSED registration had been withdrawn four month earlier, on June 10.

On October 15, I wrote to Provost Barna, with copies to you, Mike Pratt and Joshua Smith, reiterating the offer of the two-tiered process. I also repeated the assurance of Senate cooperation, including a tangible and achievable game plan: "Again, the Senate remains ready, willing and able to work with your office toward institutional approval of the CVS program. This includes steps necessary to secure NY state regulatory compliance. If you can forward the requested, abbreviated list of CVS courses to the APPC by Tuesday, October 28, the Senate can act on this matter by the afternoon of Tuesday, November 4, 2008."

On October 20, Provost Barna again declined the Senate's offer. His letter did not offer any solutions.

At the risk of redundancy, I will repeat that the Senate remains ready, willing and able to assist in this matter. We are holding the two-tiered process open, and we are open to reasonable alternatives. Please feel free to call on us when the program is ready to move forward on this or with your questions or comments Again, thank you.

Respectfully,

The Academic Senate

By:

Jenny Lee, President

Cc: Mike Pratt; Chairman, Board of Trustees
Joshua Smith; Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee, Board of Trustees
Peter Barna, Provost

Encl.