

### **Minutes of February 11, 2019 Meeting**

The meeting convened at 3:34 p.m. in 2700 Posvar Hall

UPBC members present were: Ann Cudd, Tammeka Banks, Chris Bonneau, Keith Caldwell, Robin Choo, Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, John Keeler, Douglas Landsittel, John Lyon, Wesley Rohrer, Hari Sastry, Jem Spectar, Andrew Stephany, Gregory Scott, Kornelia Tancheva, Alex Toner, Jean Truman, Franklin Wilson and Chad Zutter.

Also present were: Thomas Crawford, Richard Henderson, Charles McLaughlin, Deborah Miller, Nancy Tannery, and Thurman Wingrove

UPBC members not present were: Spencer Edelman, Kathleen Kelly, William Kory, Catherine Lamberton, Cory Stillman, and Arthur Levine

### **Minutes of April 27, 2018 Meeting**

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2018 meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Seed Project Funding**

Olivia Hartle presented an overview of the Pitt Seed Project, now in its' 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Pitt Seed Projects are well-defined actions that advance the goals of The Plan for Pitt. Proposed projects can include a range of activities including: research ideas, teaching initiatives, process improvements, industry partnership development and enhancements to the student experience. Last year 23 projects were funded. Hartle provided examples of funded projects matched to each of the goals of The Plan for Pitt. She described the review criteria and mentioned she would be seeking reviewers from the UPBC membership.

### **Update from the Chair**

Provost Cudd introduced the committee to a new initiative designed to enhance the affordability of a Pitt education for students with financial need: the Pitt Success Program. As background, Cudd noted that the basic role of a leading public research university is to educate, create research, and solve societal challenges. She added that the opportunity to attend Pitt requires a student to gain admittance, and also to finance the cost of attendance. Defining unmet need as the gap between the cost of attendance and a student's available resources, including family resources, grants, and federal loans, she noted that students with greater unmet need have higher debt loads and lower retention and graduation rates. She observed that while Pitt is currently losing out on talented and diverse students with high need, the Pitt Success Program will enhance competitiveness by enabling students with low and moderate income to attend and succeed at Pitt. She concluded by indicating that UPBC members will hear more about this program after the February Board of Trustees meeting.

After the presentation, a committee member asked if athletic scholarships were included in merit or need financial aid. The Provost responded they are not. Another member asked about the requirements for SAT scores as part of admissions decisions, and mentioned that some schools no longer consider these scores in the admissions process. The role of state support and philanthropy in supporting this new financial aid program was also discussed.

Following the discussion, Charles McLaughlin provided an update on the governor's budget and the current political situation in Harrisburg. He distributed a table of the line items of Pitt's Commonwealth Appropriation Request. He indicated that last week, the Governor released the 2019-2020 budget proposal. The Chancellor will testify in a few weeks at the Commonwealth's appropriation hearings. McLaughlin concluded by inviting UPBC members to participate in this year's Pitt Day in Harrisburg on March 26, 2019.

In response to a question about the University's budget, Hari Sastry, the University's Chief Financial Officer, told the committee that his office was building a budget across multiple years, and building in considerations of risks such as uncertain funding from the Commonwealth.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m