ANNOUNCEMENTS

Only announcements of “lasting importance” are reported in the minutes.

- The University is launching a new version of Blackboard and has training materials available online. Many staff members already have been trained to use the new version. We will hold a Blackboard-focused FYII for the faculty, staff, and graduate students this summer.

- The University has pledged $37.5 million for an initiative to promote sustainability on campus, which includes seed funding for multidisciplinary research initiatives.

- The Leadership Team is now hosting Strategic Review and Planning Sessions, meetings that bring together key players involved in particular aspects of our Long Range Plan and identify specific actions for support of these initiatives.

- Teaching: Who Is in Charge? Department Chairs will be working with course coordinators to improve the faculty selection process for teaching assignments. We should ensure that we are maximizing the variety of faculty members who are interested in and available for teaching.

- Friday, January 2, 2015 has been named a University holiday. Therefore, the first day back to work after winter break will also be the first day of classes. This has implications also for our annual retreat, which is generally held the last workday before classes start.

- Initial results from the PinCh competition are out—three teams from the School placed in the top 29 spots and Team MediVate, led by Phil Empey and Jim Coons, placed in the final round in competition for $100,000 awards. Projects entitled Circlebacks with Jan Pringle and MedGuardian with Funmi Odukoya each won $25,000.

- The University released results of the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) study. In the current week of the study (week 5), Pitt Pharmacy students rank #1 for involvement on campus.

- This April, Pitt Pharmacy will host our largest graduation ever with over 780 guests at dinner and the largest class of graduating masters and PhD students.

- Despite the highly competitive environment for NIH funding, our faculty continue to earn great scores and are being invited to apply for prestigious awards. Great job!

SLIDES USED BY PRESENTERS DURING THE MEETING

Faculty Meeting
Slides April 2014.pdf

EDUCATION

CERTIFYING STUDENTS FOR GRADUATION

The faculty unanimously approved the conferral of 85 bachelor of science degrees and 104 PharmD degrees for April 2014.
Faculty Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2014
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**DEPARTMENTS, PROGRAMS AND PROGRESS**

**PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**
Barry Gold

- Congratulations to:
  - Jan Beumer, who was promoted to the rank of associate professor.
  - Sam Poloyac, who received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.
  - Wen Xie, who is now the Joseph Koslow Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Xie gave a Provost’s Inaugural Lecture on April 15, 2014.
- Da Yang was recruited to fill a pharmacogenetics position. He begins on September 2014.
- Rege Volmer will retire at the end of April 2014. A party will be held in his honor on May 28, 2014.

**PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS**
Deanne Hall

- Congratulations to Neal Benedict, who was promoted to the rank of associate professor.
- Jennifer Pruskowski will join the faculty as assistant profession with special practice in pain and palliative care with UPMC/Pitt Pharmacy. She begins on July 25, 2014.

**GRADUATE PROGRAM**
Maggie Folan

- Dr. Folan gave a presentation on the School’s graduate admissions cycle for Fall 2014. She suggested that application numbers are lower than in previous years due to raising the minimum TOEFL score from 80 to 94. See slides: Graduate Program Admissions and Update.

**ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**
Randy Smith

- Dr. Smith shared the updated Fellowship and Awards Policy, which seeks to eliminate inconsistencies in the School’s interpretation of awards for student support. The policy states that all awards of support will be applied towards the cost of funding the student, but the student will receive a $1,000 bonus incentive for earning financial awards. ("Fellowship Policy” attachment)

- During summer 2014, the School will fund 12 graduate TAs to help advance the PharmD curriculum by developing educational projects related to personalizing education. Faculty members with appropriate projects who would like TA assistance should reach out to RBS. TAs will be working 15-20 hours a week during the summer.

**PHARM D**
Sharon Connor

- Dr. Connor gave a presentation on the School’s graduate PharmD cycle for Fall 2014. See slides: PharmD Admissions.

**RESIDENCY PROGRAM**
Heather Johnson

- Dr. Johnson gave a presentation on the School’s residency placement numbers for graduating PharmD students. The national average for unmatched students is 36%, whereas Pitt Pharmacy’s percentage of unmatched students is 14%. Dr. Johnson also shared information about the new class of residents who will begin in summer 2014. See slides: Residency Program.

**RESEARCH GRANTS**
Randy Smith

**STUDENT RESEARCHERS AND EVOLVING PROCEDURES**

- Dr. Smith congratulated the faculty for performing well in a competitive funding environment. Mark Redfern’s office has announced that labs must observe national labor laws which state that any volunteer workers in labs cannot displace potential paid employees. Our unpaid interns work in labs as part of a training component, which benefits the intern and does not displace a potential employee, since interns are not entitled to pay or a permanent position after their training period.
• The department is currently interviewing faculty candidates for:
  o community pharmacy.
  o internal medicine.
• The department has posted positions in:
  o Pharmacogenomics (search chaired by Phil Empey).
  o Pharmacy business administration (search chaired by Randy Smith).
• A position for The Poison Center Director will be posted soon.

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE
Kellie Mitchell
• An offer has been made for a new assistant in the Center for Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences. The new staff person will begin in early May.
• A position for a post-award research administrator will be posted soon.
• The new Blackboard interface goes live May 5; several staff members are already well versed in the new interface and others will continue to train over the summer.

RETREAT II. 2014
Susan Meyer
Susan shared information about the upcoming retreat that will be held on May 21, 2014.

PHARMACOGENOMICS AND PERSONALIZED MEDICINE
Phil Empey
• Dr. Empey gave a presentation on Pitt and UPMC’s efforts to develop research and patient care programs related to pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine. (See slides: Pharmacogenomics)

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
Lauren Jonkman
• Pitt Student Experiences
  o Dr. Jonkman gave a presentation on student involvement in international experiential learning programs. (See slides: Pharmacogenomics)
• Summer Research Program: Sun Yat-Sen
  o Dr. Xie gave a presentation on the School’s new collaboration with Sun Yat-Sen University to offer a summer research experience to undergraduate students from SYU who may be strong candidates for our graduate program. In July 2014, five SYU students will work in research labs at Pitt Pharmacy as part of our first year of exchange.

RESOURCES
Patricia Kroboth
• PDK shared photos of the progress on Salk Pavilion. No definite move-in date has been announced at this time. See Slides: Salk Pavilion.

ADJOURN—Meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.