March 19, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Our 2018 Senate Plenary, *Teaching Today, for Tomorrow*, aims to focus our attention on a primary calling to most of us working in higher education—teaching. We know, of course, that lecturing to hundreds of undergraduate students in auditorium sized classrooms, enabling a handful or two of graduate students make the most of a seminar discussion, supervising students at all levels as they do lab experiments, individual mentoring on and off campus, and interacting in a variety of ways online, are all different practices, but are all also clearly forms of teaching.

While there is never a shortage of talk and writing about teaching, we need to ask ourselves how much of each are exercises in the taken for granted—a pledge of allegiance to the way we’ve always done things, or alternately a blind embrace of the latest technologies and forms. Too much of either is dangerous, especially at this moment when what we do, and how we do it, in higher education is being called into question in fundamental ways, from a wide range of perspectives.

We invite you to join us at **noon on Tuesday, March 27th**, in the Assembly Room of the William Pitt Union, where we will try not to take teaching for granted. Our primary presenters are all our Pitt colleagues:

Dean Valerie Kinloch from the School of Education, “Remembering the Past, Taking Note of the Present, and Conceptualizing the Future of Teaching in Higher Education”;

Vice Provost Nathan Urban, who will address “The Personalized Education Initiative;"

Dr. Douglas Landsittel, the Co-Chair of the Senate Educational Policies Committee, who will focus our attention on changing models of education – Teaching data science as a case study; and

Dr. Lauren Collister, from Pitt’s University Library System, who will explain and advocate for the greater use of “Open Educational Resources (OER).”

We have been helped by the staff from the Center for Teaching and Learning, who will simulcast and record the day’s events, and showcase initiatives that are already parts of putting the *Plan For Pitt* into practice. Those unable to attend in person will be able to participate through a [livestream](#). Afterwards, the video recording will become available through the Senate [website](#).

The afternoon will begin with a complimentary buffet lunch, and there will be ample time for discussion.

I hope to see you there!

Signature

Frank Wilson
University Senate President
The Senate of the University of Pittsburgh
Spring 2018 Plenary Session

Teaching Today, for Tomorrow
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Assembly Room, William Pitt Union

12:00 Doors Open/Complimentary Lunch

12:20 Opening of the Plenary Session/Introduction of the Chancellor
Frank Wilson, Senate President

12:30 Welcoming Remarks
Patrick D. Gallagher, Chancellor

12:40 Valerie Kinloch, Renee and Richard Goldman Dean, School of Education
Remembering the Past, Taking Note of the Present and Conceptualizing the Future of Teaching in Higher Education

1:00 Nathan Urban, Vice Provost
The Personalized Education Initiative

Doug Landsittel, Professor of Biomedical Informatics
Changing Models of Education – Teaching Data Science as a Case Study

Lauren Collister, ULS Scholarly Communications Librarian
Open Educational Resources

1:45 Breakout Sessions

2:15 Panel / Q&A / Discussion Opens to the Audience

2:45 Closing Remarks
Patricia E. Beeson, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

ALL FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND