Tuition Increases Range From 0 to 4 Percent

Lowest increases in 10 years

By John Harvith

The Budget Committee of the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees today recommended and the Board’s Executive Committee approved the University’s tuition rate schedule for the 2009-10 fiscal year, with increases ranging from 0 to 4 percent. Although the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has not yet approved an appropriation for the University, the university administration believes it is essential to approve and publish tuition rates for the coming year so that our students and their families may plan their budgets.

As was first announced in April, the University has frozen tuition for all students at its four regional campuses, in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville. At its Pittsburgh campus, it is raising tuition for in-state students by 4 percent, for all of its programs, both undergraduate and graduate, except for first professional students in the School of Medicine, whose tuition will not increase. This will result, for instance, in a $512 increase for in-state undergraduate students in the School of Arts and Sciences (A&S), whose tuition will increase from $12,832 to $13,344.

In addition, the University is limiting the tuition increase for all of its out-of-state students on the Pittsburgh campus to 2.5 percent. This means that tuition for an out-of-state undergraduate student in A&S will increase by $562, from $22,480 to $23,042.

Cognizant of the burden this places on students attending Pitt’s campuses, the University also has increased financial aid by comparable percentages.

“During this challenging period of financial stress nationwide and particularly in the Commonwealth, we at Pitt are especially mindful of the difficulties faced by our students and their families in setting tuition levels this year,” commented Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg. “For years we have been cultivating a culture of efficiency throughout the University. In responding to the current recession, we have had to freeze salaries across all campuses, limit hiring, made campuswide cuts in operating budgets, and cut back on capital projects. Now, we face a proposed appropriation for fiscal year 2010 that is $31 million lower than what the University’s original, authorized FY 2009 appropriation was. That would take our appropriation to a point several million dollars beneath its 1995 level, when our enrollment was well over 20,000 students smaller, when our research enterprise was not much more than one-third its current size, and when costs generally were much lower. Maintaining the quality of our current programs without further tuition increases will be impossible unless the $31 million in funding is restored. Given the uncertainties that still exist, then, the executive committee’s action today is consistent with our continued commitment to leadership development. In conjunction with our distinguished alumni student leaders to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The academy is named for Pitt alumnus Frances Hesselbein, recipient of the 1998 Presidential Medal of Freedom and chair of the board of governors of the Leader to Leader Institute (formerly the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management).

A highlight of the summit was the July 13 Hesselbein Inaugural Ceremony, in Alumni Hall, that honored Hesselbein and recognized the student participants with an awards presentation. Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg delivered the welcome and opening remarks, and Pitt Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor James V. Maher gave closing comments. The evening’s guest speaker was Jim Collins, bestselling author of Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . And Others Don’t (Collins Business, 2001) and How the Mighty Fall: When Great Companies Come to Bad Ends (Harmony, 2004).

Many of the participating student leaders are Pitt alumni, and the University’s Alumni Association and the estate of Frances Hesselbein supported the academy.

Robert G. Lovett (A&S ’66) has been named director emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh Alumni Association for his distinguished service to the association and to the University. Lovett is a past president of the Alumni Association and has served on the association’s board. Lovett is a trustee of the University’s Board of Trustees and serves on its Executive Committee. He also serves on the UPMC Board of Directors and its Executive Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors of the UPMC Health Plan, Inc.

During his leadership of the Alumni Association from 1992 to 1993, Lovett instituted the charter class of the Blue and Gold Society and was instrumental in securing funds to initiate the endowment of the association’s alumni scholarship program.

Also under Lovett’s administration, the association’s membership dues program was begun and the Alumni Association’s board was increased to 60 persons to ensure representation of all alumni-related constituent groups. In addition, Lovett started an alumni advocacy task force to champion University interests with local and state governments and developed a communications plan that included publication of Alumni Connections, the first-ever newsletter to all Pitt alumni. Lovett also helped to create PittAlumNet, a career networking program.

Lovett attended the University on a basketball scholarship and was co-captain of the team his senior year. Pitt’s Varsity Letter Club named him a Letterman of Distinction in 1992. Lovett earned his JD degree at the Duquesne University School of Law in 1969 and began his career in the trust department of PNC Bank.

In 1973 he joined and later became a partner of Reed Smith LLP and served as its firmwide Trusts and Estates Group. He also served on the firms Executive, Legal Personnel, and New Associate Committees.

In 2003 Lovett was a founding partner of the law firm Lovett, Bookman, Harmon, Marks LLP.

Among his many honors are being named in The Best Lawyers in America; in Pennsylvania Super Lawyers; in Pittsburgh magazine in 2007; and an honorary member of the Companies Key National Honor Society in 1992.

Lovett is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and the Allegheny County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. He was also a past chairman of the Estates Planning Council of Pittsburgh.
Pitt’s Hesselbein Global Academy Holds Inaugural Summit With 44 Student Leaders

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Frances Hesselbein, Pitt created the Hesselbein Global Academy for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, which aims to inspire, develop, and recognize accomplished student leaders to meet the challenges of tomorrow. The academy also honors the life’s work of a national and international treasure, its namesake, Frances Hesselbein.

Hesselbein said “The most rewarding part of the [summit] weekend for me was being with the students and watching them learn and grow and share their experiences as they interacted with their mentors. The summit affirmed my belief that this generation has the desire and ability to do great things in our society. I cherish the University of Pittsburgh, and having the opportunity to spend this time with such bright students who are so motivated to make a difference was a dream come true.”

Student summit participants were selected from colleges and universities across the United States, from New York to Hawaii; Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada; Makawanpur, Nepal; and Queensland, Australia. Leading the students were Sudipta Devanath, a junior majoring in neuroscience, psychology, and sociology; Joseph Garbarino, a sophomore political science major; Molly Humphreys, a junior majoring in mathematics education and business; Alex Jennings, a junior business marketing and management major in Business Administration; Sarah, a doctoral student studying pharmacy; and Aster Teclay, a junior majoring in political science.

The summit’s professional mentors were Tina Doerffer, program manager of the Leadership Development Program at Bertelsmann Foundation in Bielefeld, Germany; Elizabeth Edersehr, director of New York Consulting Partners in Scarsdale, N.Y.; Randy D. Fullhart, a major general in the U.S. Air Force and director of the U.S. Air Force Global Cactus-Pine Council in Phoenix, Ariz.; and Sam Zacharias (A&S ’64), Pitt trustee and principal of Gateway Financial Group, Inc., in Pittsburgh, Pa.


Bernard Fisher received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a citation for his years of dedication to groundbreaking research on breast cancer. From left, Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg; Fisher, Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of Pitt’s School of Medicine, and Jeffrey Komoll, president and CEO of UPMC.

At the 2009 Bernard Fisher Lecture, the University celebrated the 90th birthday of the renowned physician-scientist for whom the lecture is named. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Fisher. During his remarks, Nordenberg said the lecture and reception provided the opportunity to pay tribute to Fisher, an esteemed colleague, by celebrating his life of high achievement and extraordinary impact.

“Pitt alumni and Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery Dr. Bernie Fisher is known throughout the world for his pioneering contributions to the understanding and treatment of breast cancer,” said Nordenberg. “He has devoted his professional life to research designed to better the lives of women with breast cancer, and his contributions to the field of cancer research and to the cause of human health are immeasurable.”

“With this 25 program included a School of Medicine-produced video in which Fisher spoke candidly about his career and voiced his hopes for the future of cancer research and treatment. Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Pitt, said, “It has been said that Dr. Fisher has done more to change our perception of the biology of breast cancer, and perhaps the biology of cancer more generally, than any other single individual in our time.”

Fisher, who received his bachelor’s degree from Pitt in 1940 and his medical degree from Pitt’s School of Medicine in 1943, has served as Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery at Pitt since 1966. He is a founding member and past scientific director of the Pittsburgh-based National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, the research consortium that he chaired from 1967 to 1994. In 1953, he established the Laboratory of Surgical Research at the University, and this lab continued under his direction until 1994.

Fisher is best known for overturning the prevailing paradigm that breast cancer metastasizes in an orderly and sequential way from the breast to neighboring lymph nodes before any further spread—a paradigm that had led to radical mastectomy as the standard treatment for the disease. Instead, after almost two decades of laboratory investigation related to the biology of tumor metastasis, he proposed that breast cancer is a systemic disease that metastasizes unpredictably. Using randomized clinical trials, Fisher found that radical mastectomy was no more effective than total mastectomy and, in turn, that total mastectomy was no more effective than lumpectomy in treating breast cancer.

Fisher went on to show the effectiveness of adjuvant chemotherapy and hormonal therapy (tamoxifen) in treating breast cancer as a systemic disease not cured by surgery alone. In subsequent studies related to breast cancer prevention, Fisher also found that tamoxifen can substantially reduce the incidence of breast cancer in high-risk women.

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that the state budget will ultimately restore Pitt’s appropriation to the full funding level reflected in the Commonwealth’s April 24 and May 19 applications to the U.S. Department of Education for Stimulus Act funding. The University views this week’s decision by the U.S. Department of Education that Pennsylvania’s four state-related universities must be included in the Commonwealth’s application for federal stimulus funding to be a positive step in the prolonged budget-resolution process.

“At today’s announced tuition increases, there is the potential of a $31 million budget gap that will have to be addressed with other actions if Commonwealth funding were to remain at the most recently proposed level,” said Arthur G. Ramicone, Pitt’s vice chancellor for budget and controller.

“We know the funding level we will receive from the state and whether we will receive Stimulus Act funding, we may be forced to limit student access to help cover the shortfall from our originally proposed FY 2010 appropriations,” Ramicone added.

In addition, we would need to make up the rest of the deficit through stringent budget reductions that would affect programs, staffing levels, and capital projects, along with seed funding for research development that has been one of the region’s primary drivers of employment gains and economic vitality,” Ramicone concluded.

Currently, Pitt contributes the following to Western Pennsylvania’s economy:

• University-related spending in the local economy exceeded $1.74 billion in 2006.
• Some $1.3 billion in personal income was generated from nearly 33,800 Pitt-supported jobs.
• More than $145 million went to local communities, including sales, wage, and real estate taxes; Pitt faculty members attracted more than $650 million in research expenditures, supporting more than 23,100 jobs;
• Pitt’s annual investment on construction from FY 2006 through FY 2008 generated more than 1,300 jobs in construction and related industries; and
• From 2003 to 2008, Pitt technologies have formed the basis of 42 start-up companies.

Pitt Honors Bernard Fisher With Honorary Degree, 90th Birthday Reception

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Happenings

Concerts

Jazz Live Series, Tony Camell, saxophonist, 5 p.m., July 21; Al Down and Etta Cox, 5 p.m., July 28; Tim Stevens and Friends, 5 p.m., Aug 4; Jevon Rushton Group, 5 p.m., Aug 11; Don Aliquo Sr. and Don Aliquo Jr., 5 p.m., Aug 18; Katz Plaza, 655 Penn Ave., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.

Exhibitions


Space 101 Gallery, Bare V., through Aug. 1, 2300 Mary St., South Side, The Brew House Association, 412-381-7767.


Bikefest August 14-23

707 Penn Gallery, Documenting Our Past: The Teenie Harris Archive Project, Part Three, Carnegie Museum of Art


David Archuleta, singer and songwriter, 8 p.m., July 28, Byham Theater, 101 Sixth St., Downtown, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, 412-456-6666, www.pgharts.org.


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BikeFest, cycling festival to showcase Pittsburgh and encourage cycling, Aug. 14-23, events and ride routes at various locations throughout the city, Bike Pittsburgh, 412-325-4334, www.bike-pgh.org.

Opera/Theater/Dance


Pitt PhD Dissertation Defenses
Keri S. Kulk, School of Education’s Department of Health and Physical Activity, “Implementation of a Quality Physical Education Program as Defined by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education of Public High Schools in Pennsylvania,” noon July 22, Petersen Events Center Conference Room.

Yo-Hsin Chung, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Biostatistics, “A Comparative Study of Inferential Procedures for Air Pollution Health Effects Research,” 1 p.m. July 28, 308 Parran Hall.

Yuan Kong, Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Biostatistics, “Prediction of Accrual Closure Date in Multi-central Clinical Trials with Poisson Process Models,” 1 p.m. July 31, 109 Parran Hall.

Xinao Kong, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Economics, “Politics and Economics: Theory and Evidence From Korea’s Regions,” 10:30 a.m. July 29, 4716 Posvar Hall.


Wei Wang, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Economics, “Three Essays on Healthcare Utilization, Delivery, and Provider Reimbursement in Urban China,” 2 p.m. July 29, 4716 Posvar Hall.

Robert W. Wolters, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Chemistry, “Repeat Sequence Fluorene-Co-Methylene Polymers and Phosphorescent Mercury Sensors,” 10 a.m. July 30, 307 Eberly Hall.

Mona El-Kady, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences’ Department of Communication Science and Disorders, “Interferon-alpha Signaling Pathway in the Sensory Auditory Neurepithelial Cells,” noon July 30, 4085 Forbes Tower.

Sunita Mondal, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Economics, “Three Essays on the Evaluation of Public Policy Programs,” noon July 31, 4716 Posvar Hall.

Melanie Ruffner, Swanson School of Engineering, “Genetically Engineered Dendritic Cells and Exosomes for the Treatment of Autoimmunity and Hypersensitivity,” 2 p.m. Aug. 5, 1259 Biomedical Science Tower.

Peter Gildenhuys, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of History and Philosophy of Science, “A Casual Interpretation of Selection Theory,” 2 p.m. Aug. 6, 1001-B Cathedral of Learning.

Serda Selin Ozturk, School of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Economics, “Applications of Efficient Importance Sampling to Stochastic Volatility Models,” 2 p.m. Aug. 7, 4716 Posvar Hall.


**PUBLICATION NOTICE:** The next edition of *Pitt Chronicle* will be published Aug. 26. Items for publication in the newspaper’s Happenings calendar should be received six working days prior to the desired publication date. Happenings items should include the following information: title of the event, name and title of speaker(s), date, time, location, sponsor(s), and a phone number and Web site for additional information. Items may be e-mailed to chron@pitt.edu, faxed to 412-624-4895, or sent by campus mail to 422 Craig Hall. For more information, call 412-624-1033 or e-mail robinet@pitt.edu.