The reading states that pterosaurs were capable of powered flight or whether they were only able to glide but there are several arguments against powered flight. In contrast, the lecturer said that they may in fact have been capable of powered flight and she explained about it.

First of all, the reading claims that ancient reptiles like the modern ones were cold-blooded and they had a slow metabolism. Conversely, the speaker underlines that from recent discoveries, the pterosaurs’ fossils showed that they had a dense hair, something like fur. These are typical of warm-blooded animals, because they need high body temperature when the weather is cold. So their metabolism was more like warm-blooded animals and so faster than reading states and they had enough energy for powered flight.

Secondly, the writer said that there is a limit to the weight of animals that can be kept airborne by powered flight, on the other hand the professor argues that the pterosaurs had anatomical features that made them unusually light for their size. For example, they had light-weight bones would have kept their weight low despite their large body. Perhaps their weight was low enough to allow them to keep airborne by flapping their wings.

Finally, the author mentioned that all of the animals that could fly, are able to take off from the ground but pterosaurs’ fossils, showed that their back leg muscles were too small and weak to allow them to lunch themselves in to the air. The lecturer then points that if they took off like birds, it could be a problem for them but there are some differences between birds and pterosaurs. Birds use their two legs for walking on the ground and push off from when they launch but the pterosaurs like bats walked on their four limbs not just the back ones to push off the ground. Recent studies indicated that even the largest of those animals, could use all four limbs to run fast enough and jump fast enough to launch themselves in to the air. This was the final way that the speaker, contradicts the reading.