Meeting of the PSS Executive Committee

April 6, 2017
567 Capen Hall, 2:30–4:30p.m.
## 2017-04-06 Professional Staff Senate
### Executive Committee Meeting
2:30–4:30 p.m., 567 Capen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Links</th>
<th>Action Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30–2:35PM</td>
<td><strong>Call to Order</strong></td>
<td>Dom</td>
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<td>Adoption of Agenda</td>
<td>Dom</td>
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<td>Approval</td>
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<td>Approval of Minutes from 03/02/17</td>
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### Reports
2:35–3:10PM
- Chair’s Report
- Vice Chair’s Report

### Unfinished Business

### New Business
3:10–3:40
- Amendment to Approved Minutes from 02/02/16
- Discussion of Student Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Set agenda for Mar 16 Senate and GM meeting

### Program
3:40–4:30 PM
- Tentative—Informal discussion with student governance leaders

4:30PM Adjournment

**Items in Red** are amendments added since the initial distribution of the agenda.

**Notice of Audio Recording:** All meetings of the PSS Senate and the Executive Committee are recorded and archived by the UB Office of University Shared Governance.
Chair’s Report to the Executive Committee
UB Foundation, First Audit by SUNY Since Its Founding in 1962

- Audit began May 2016
- Noted concerns from some faculty, state legislators and SUNY trustees
- UBF includes six affiliate entities and has assets of more than $1 billion, (largest in SUNY)
- Contributes more than $100 million per year to university causes, or about 10 percent of the university’s annual expenditures
- In 2013, Faculty Senate asked President Tripathi, to make information more available. Tripathi declined.
- In 2016, the UB chapter of the AAUP issued a report stating that the foundation spent nearly $40 million paying university and foundation employees in 2013-14 and circulated a petition.
- In 2016, the UBF denied a request by the Faculty Senate [and PSS] to add a faculty member, a student and a professional staff employee to the board.

http://buffalonews.com/2017/03/22/audit-ub-foundation-nears-completion/
UB Women in STEM Cooperative
3rd Annual Women in STEM Summit
Took place Wednesday, April 5, 2017

http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/womeninSTEM
Shared Governance Continuing Education

Social Media

Tuesday, April 11th, 2017
3:30-5:00pm
110 Capen in the Honors College, Silverman Library

• Roberta Sullivan, an Online Learning Specialist & Instructional Designer at UB

• Philip L. Glick, MD, MBA, Chair of the Faculty Senate

• Domenic Licata, Chair of the Professional Staff Senate

• Caroline Lojacono, Student Assistant in the Office of Shared Governance
UB Sustainability: Earth Month

http://www.buffalo.edu/sustainability/engagement/sustainability-month.html
State Budget Status

For the first time in six years, state budget was not approved on time. UB is operating on an “Extended Budget”
Governor suggested that campus foundations could cover the cost of free tuition program.
   Opportunities for advocacy against this are being explored.
Union immigration crack-down at Medical School

Do UB policies and claims of Safe Space” protections apply to Vendors and Contractors working on UB projects?

Phil Glick enquired with Jim Jarvis on the matter of who owns the building site. Jim checked with SUNY, who responded that SUNY legal was not available to consult with individual units, faculty, staff or students.

We have learned that SUNY owns the site.

Office of Shared Governance is still investigating. I have discussed the issue with UUP.
Provost's report to Faculty Senate, April 5

8,000 people to attend accepted students day
Focusing on "yield enhancement"
Numbers look strong in international student acceptance but continuing worries about who will attend.
Canadian enrollment numbers up 30%
Unlikely to see an increase in tuition. Growth, therefore, relies on enrollment increase. Incoming freshman class size projected to remain the same for 2017.
Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology

Charge:
Conduct regular reviews of policies and practices of the university computing services, and other information resources and services including such matters as operational aspects, facilities, and general policies for future development.

Maintain continuous liaisons with the Chief Information Officer, the director of the educational communications center, and other appropriate university officers concerned with the development, integration, and administration of information resources.

Carry out such specific studies or investigations regarding informational resources as may be assigned to it by the executive committee.

Roster:
Brice Bible (Ex Officio, UB CIO), Michael Cowen, Peter Elkin, Edward Fine, Philip Glick (Ex Officio, Chair, Faculty Senate), Richard Gronostajski, Damien Keane, Shiu-Ming Kuo, Xiuqian Mu, Valerie Nesset (Chair), Stephen Spaulding, Charles Syms
Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology

Major Objectives:
• Advisory role to Chief Information Officer.
• Review of IT policies concerning such areas as privacy and security.
• Collect and analyze data related to IT initiatives

Emerging Objectives:
• To act as a conduit between faculty, students, and technology (including the people who make technology happen)

Potential Work Products:
• Faculty IT Survey
Athletics: Removal of Four Teams

• UB Shared Governance not invited to participate in any discussions.
• Faculty Senator from Athletics, Jim Atwood, found out about the decision along with everyone else on Monday morning.
UBreathe Free Now

Met March 29
CSEA and UUP leadership present
Commencement announcer will read PSA:

“The University at Buffalo is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable and safe environment for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. As a result, smoking is prohibited throughout the university, both indoors and outdoors. We kindly ask that you please refrain from smoking while on campus.”

Ken Dahlgren, from Roswell Park, expert policy writer, familiar with campus efforts nationwide. Will assist in helping us to craft a policy appropriate for our size.

• Encourages communication and culture change over fines
Senator Attendance

We’ve pushed to increase our numbers, but we have immobilized ourselves by making it difficult to make quorum.

On several occasions we’ve needed to start late. In March we did not reach quorum.

We examined redistricting to address issues of involvement, and decided not to follow that path. Have always tried to err on the side of inclusivity.

My goal was to create value in holding a senate seat by reaching contested elections. That was not enough. We must build value by tackling interesting issues. I now suggest adhering to the bylaws on attendance issues.
Senator Attendance: Suggested Email Announcement to be Issued

In accordance with the PSS Bylaws, your attendance recd for the current year qualify you to be removed as a senator. We have not historically acted on this rule. Given that we are struggling to reach quorum, we are offering you the opportunity to contact us with your intention of remaining a senator. If you do remain, we will expect you to adhere to attendance requirements throughout the end of your term. If we do not hear from you within two weeks, you will be removed from the senate roster.

Bylaws Article 3, Section E Attendance

1 If senators cannot attend a meeting of the Senate or of the general membership, it shall be their responsibility to notify their alternates that they need to attend.

2 It is the senator’s (or their designated alternate’s) responsibility to report their attendance to the Secretary at every meeting.

3 If both a senator and that senator’s chosen alternate are absent from any two consecutive meetings, or three meetings all year (beginning July 1), that senator shall lose their seat in the Senate. The Executive Committee may move to reinstate the Senator.

Jana Blaha
Anne Bouvier
Barbara Buckley
Susan Buttaccio
Shatorah Donovan
Lynn Emminger
Eileen Fleischmann
Lisa Kulka
Jennifer Lawrence
Alaska McInnis
Gloria Paveljack
Kimberly Popieliski Kriz
Michelle Riggio
Maribeth Tamsen
Ryan Taughrin
Kevin Westling
2017 Awards Luncheon

May 24, 12-2pm, Center for Tomorrow

Executive Committee Members asked to attend and assist with guiding the awardees.

Complementary lunch provided to Executive Committee members.

“Save the date” to go out soon.
Upcoming

April 27, 2017, CFT Senate and General Membership Meeting with President Tripathi

Officers’ Chats with Core Campus TBD
Academic Units, University Support Services, and University Administration Senate Area Meetings TBD
Inclusion and Diversity Committee

- Next conference planning meeting is 4/13 at 9am in Student Union 250
- Date and Location of the conference is June 20th in Kapoor Hall
• In the process of developing a monthly newsletter.
Sustainable Living Committee

• Recycling Event will be help April 27th 2017 in the Center for Tomorrow Parking Lot.
• Many sustainability efforts ongoing, including a possible Apiary effort in conjunction with the UB Campus Garden Club.
Policy and Governance Committee

- Next meeting is scheduled for 4/18 @ 8:30 at Tom’s restaurant.
Budget Oversight Committee

• The Committee met 4/5 and discussed a range of issues and continue to work to create a robust transparent budget process.

• During a review of minutes at the officers Staff meeting 3/31 we realized that while the executive committee approved the membership of the committee there was no official vote on the mission and charge of the Budget Oversight Committee.
Unfinished Business
New Business
RESOLUTION 1617-01
TO: Members of the Senate
FROM: Fossil Free UB
DATE: 19 March 2017
SUBJECT: SUNY University at Buffalo Endowment Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry

Action Requested
The Professional Staff Senate of UB calls for the UB Foundation to immediately freeze any new investment in the fossil fuel industry, divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years, and reinvest in clean energy and socially responsible alternatives.

Resolution
Whereas the University at Buffalo (UB) Professional Staff Senate (PSS) may enact resolutions concerning issues of importance to the professional staff body in regards to governance of the university, and development of administrative policies and procedures.

Whereas for the purposes of this resolution, a “fossil fuel company” shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative’s “Unburnable Carbon” report,1

Whereas in its “Unburnable Carbon” report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO₂ if burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of global warming.2

2 Ibid.
Whereas global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by 50% since 1990 because of man
made fossil fuel pollution;  

Whereas a portion of UB endowment is invested amongst the top 200 fossil fuel companies, the
top 90 accounting for two thirds of global emissions;  

Whereas the investments managed by the UB Foundation have a market value of $825.6 million
as of June 30, 2013;  

Whereas the UB Foundation mission states that the foundation “plays a vital role in helping UB
establish, enhance and expand its global reputation. We are proud to support and promote UB’s
activities and programs by assisting in the acquisition of strategic assets, managing and providing
resources, and providing an array of services for the UB community.”  

Whereas the UB mission states that the University is “dedicated to bringing the benefits of its
research, scholarship and creative activity, and educational excellence to global and local
communities in ways that impact and positively change the world”;  

Whereas investments in companies
a) that are complicit in violence or violate human rights
b) that violate workers’ rights and
c) threaten environmental sustainability,
do not constitute socially responsible investments and fail to promote UB’s values;  

Whereas since 2010, U.S. solar capacity increased 418 percent and the industry is projected to
expONENTIALLY grow by 2040 to $3.7 trillion in global investments;  

Whereas as of March 2017, a total of over 58,000 individuals and 705 institutions representing
$3.46 trillion in assets worldwide have divested from fossil fuels;  

Whereas other universities in the north-east region of the U.S. such as Syracuse University,  
UMass Amherst,  
Yale University,  
Unity College,  
and Barnard College10 have divested as an
approach to addressing global climate change with systematic, comprehensive and scientifically
informed policies;
Fossil Free UB

Whereas SUNY universities such as Brockport,16 Plattsburgh,17 Environmental Science and Forestry,18 and Geneseo19 have divestment campaigns;

Whereas on April 15th, 2016, the SUNY Student Assembly passed a resolution (57-7-2) calling on SUNY to fully divest from companies and interests that manufacture fossil fuels;20

Whereas on April 15th, 2016 the SUNY Student Assembly passed a resolution that supports S.5873/A.8011A (“Fossil Fuel Divestment Act”) in relation to limitations on investments of public pension funds;21

Whereas on November 27th, 2016, the UB Undergraduate Student Association passed a resolution (20-1-3) calling on the UBF to fully divest from the fossil fuel industry;

Whereas the University at Buffalo is a public institution, and currently has a total enrollment of 29,806 students, of which 9,855 are graduate students;22

Whereas the PSS believes that investments should support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming climate;

Now be it further resolved that:

I. The Professional Staff Senate body calls for the UB Foundation to immediately freeze any new investments in the fossil fuel industry, divest from direct ownership and commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within five years, and reinvest in clean energy and socially responsible alternatives;

II. PSS urges UB to invest in socially responsible investments and divest from the fossil fuel industry to continue the precedent of being a national and global leader;

III. The UBF Board of Trustees will release quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment.

IV. In following its mission statement, UB should show leadership by investing in companies that will lead us to a clean energy future.

17 http://www.thunderclap.it/en/project/34144-divest-plattsburgh
19 https://wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cultural/divest+geneseo+action+project
20 http://sunysa.org/sunysa-resolution-archive
21 Ibid.
22 http://admissions.buffalo.edu/experience/about-ub.php
Agenda for Upcoming Senate and General Membership Meeting

Article V: Executive Committee of the Senate
Section C — Powers and Duties
4. Set the agenda for meetings of the Senate and general membership.

April 27, 2017
Program: President Satish Tripathi
Program:
Discussion with Student Governance Leaders
Adjournment