

# Meeting of the PSS Executive Committee

**May 4, 2017**

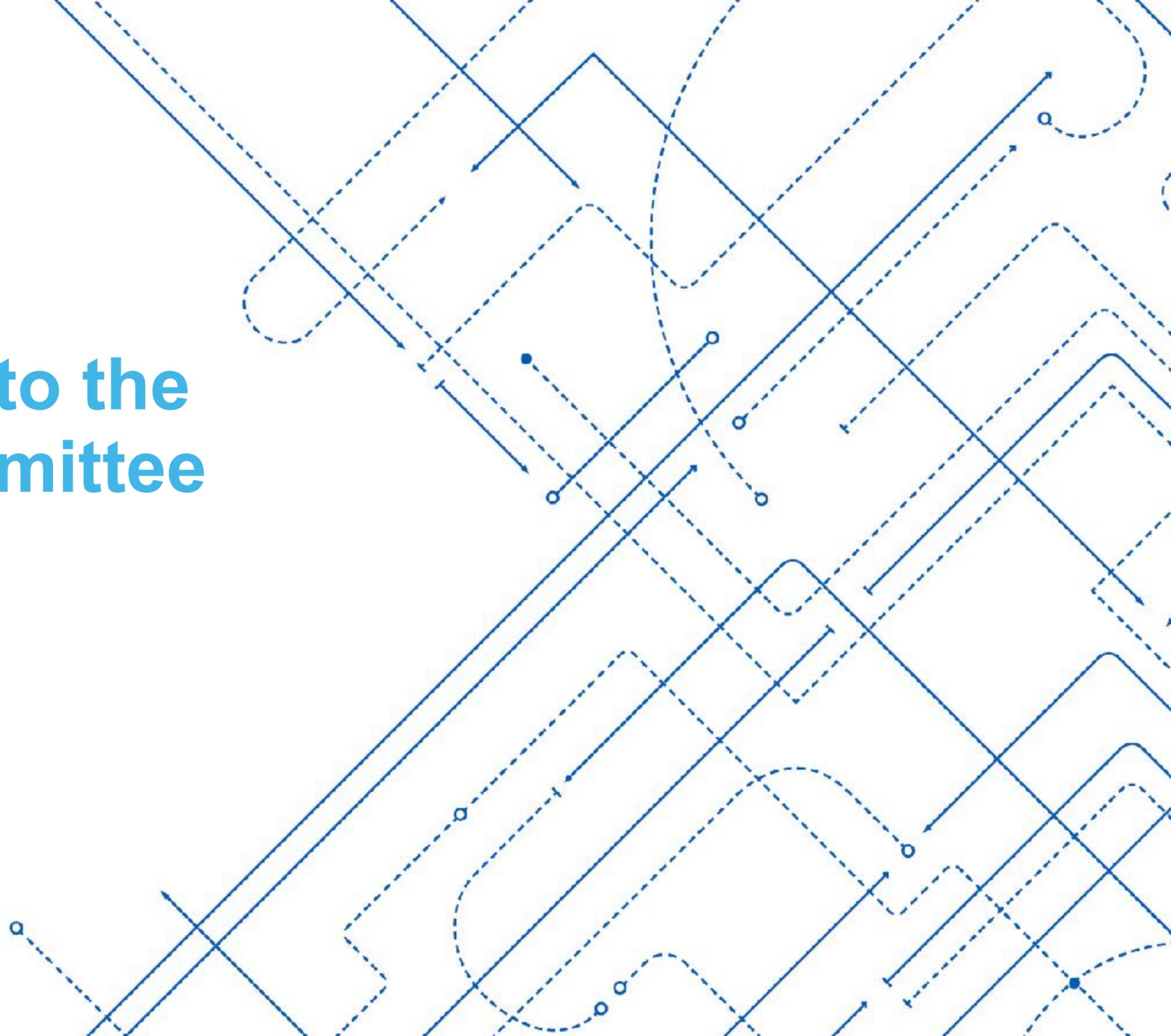
**567 Capen Hall, 2:30–4:30p.m.**



<b>2017-05-04 Professional Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting 2:30–4:30 p.m., 567 Capen</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Links</b>	<b>Action Needed</b>
<b>2:30–2:35PM</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	Chair		Call to Order
	Adoption of Agenda	Chair		Approval
	Approval of Minutes from 04/06/17	Secretary	<a href="#">Link</a>	Approval
<b>Reports</b>				
<b>2:35–2:55PM</b>	Chair’s Report	Chair		Receive
	Vice Chair’s Report	Vice Chair		Receive
<b>Unfinished Business</b>				
<b>2:55–3:30PM</b>	Amendment to Approved Minutes from 02/02/16		<a href="#">Link</a>	Approval
	Discussion of Student Resolution on Fossil Fuel			Discuss
<b>New Business</b>				
<b>3:30–4:15</b>	Appointment of Maribeth Tamsen to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, requested by Chair Kim Krzemien	Dom		Approval
	Request to present Slice Awards at PSS Luncheon	Dom		Approval
	Area Meeting Planning–Senators discuss options	Dom		Plan events
<b>Program</b>				
<b>4:15–4:30 PM</b>	TBD			
<b>4:30PM</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>			

**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



## **Provost's Report to the Faculty Senate, May 3, 2017**

Enrollment Goal Was Met - Monday was Deposits Day

3600 domestic

400 international

\$1M less revenue because of Excelsior. State may or may not have some funds to cover that gap. (\$20M?)

SUNY has yet to approve increase in tuition

Expected 2% negotiated increase will not be covered by SUNY

## Modified Duties

- UUP and JLM asked, Chris Putrino said that there will be a statement issued, not a policy, preserving the contractual appendix allowing for flexibility
- UUP pressed on how this would apply to professionals, since word was spread through the deans to faculty
- Mark Coldren made an announcement to Professionals today:
  - “Campuses are encouraged to recognize the importance to employees of a flexible approach to accommodating family care needs. Options may include the following: flexible work schedules, modified duties, alternative work assignments, and temporary reduction from full-time to part-time work.”
  - “While UB is committed to providing flexible work arrangements, where feasible, it is important to note that faculty and staff do not have a right to such arrangements and any flexible arrangement may be modified or canceled at the UB’s discretion, on notice to the faculty or staff member. It is also important to note that faculty and staff serve different professional obligations to the University and, thereby, management may consider differing factors when considering flexible work arrangements among faculty and staff.”

## **UBreathe Free Now**

- Committee met April 26, focusing on creation of survey
- Healthy Campus Survey
  - Over 136 submissions within the first hour
- Report will now be drafted and presented to President Tripathi, possibly later this month or next.

## “Big Ideas” Discussion

- More and better communication
- More interaction between senators and members
- More engagement from administration
- ...?

## **PSS Awards Luncheon, May 24**

- Still awaiting names of recipients
- Invites to go out ASAP
- Executive Committee members attend for free
- Potential MC to invite
  - Laura Hubbard
  - Scott Weber
  - Liesl Folks
  - Mark Coldren
  - Others?

## **SLICE Awards at the PSS Awards Luncheon**

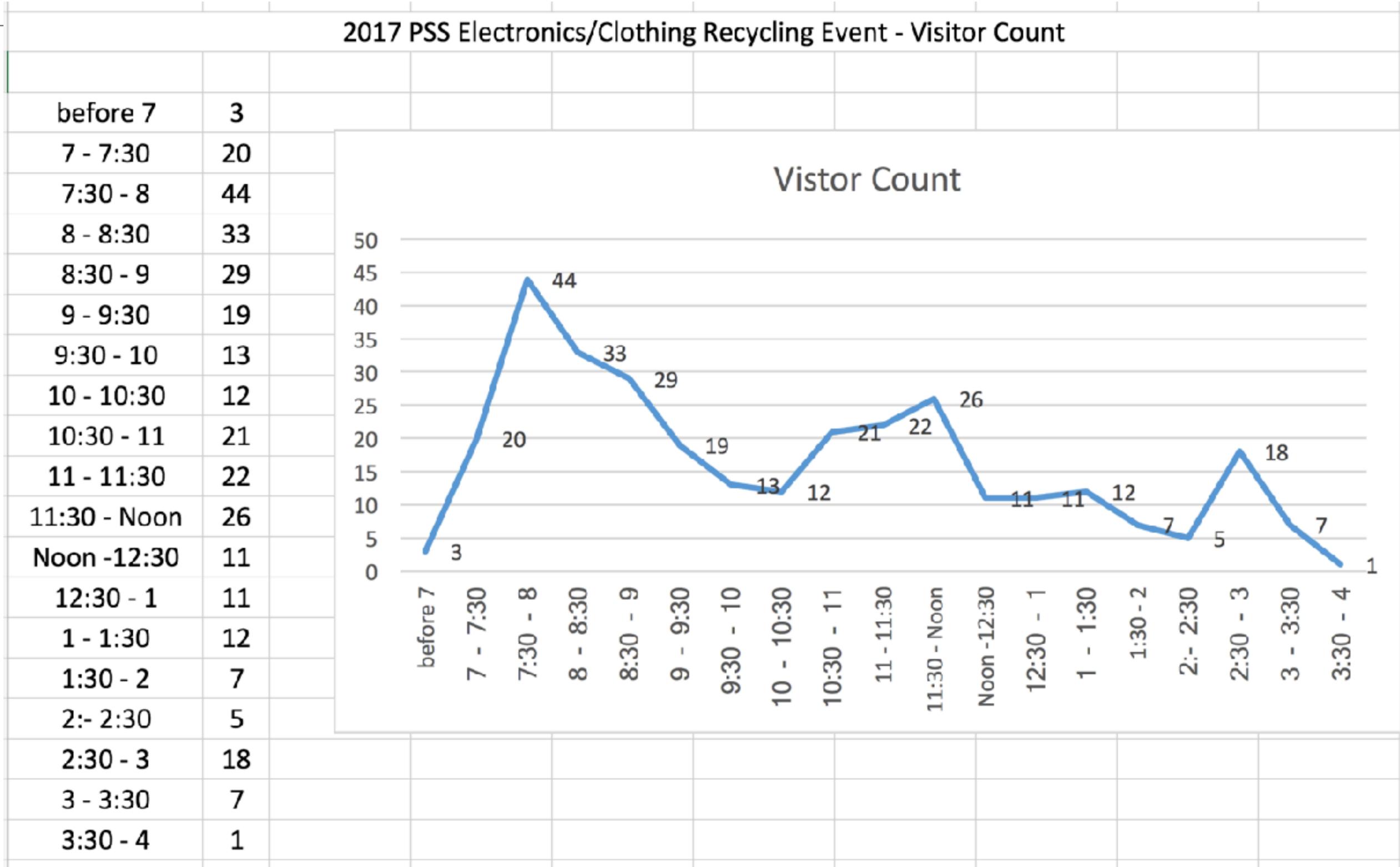
Ryan McPherson has requested that we allow UB Sustainability to present the SLICE Awards during our luncheon.

- Award for Sustainability Excellence by a Department or Cross Functional Team
- Student Leadership Award for Sustainable Action
- Staff Award for Sustainable Operations Initiative
- Faculty Award for Sustainability in Higher Education

## Senator Attendance

- Followup—Reaching Out
- Meeting frequency
- Meeting types

2017 PSS Electronics/Clothing Recycling Event - Visitor Count



## Upcoming

June 1, 2017, 567 Capen

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August

??

Officers' Chats with *Core Academic Units, University Support Services, and University Administration*

Senate Area Meetings

PSS Executive Committee

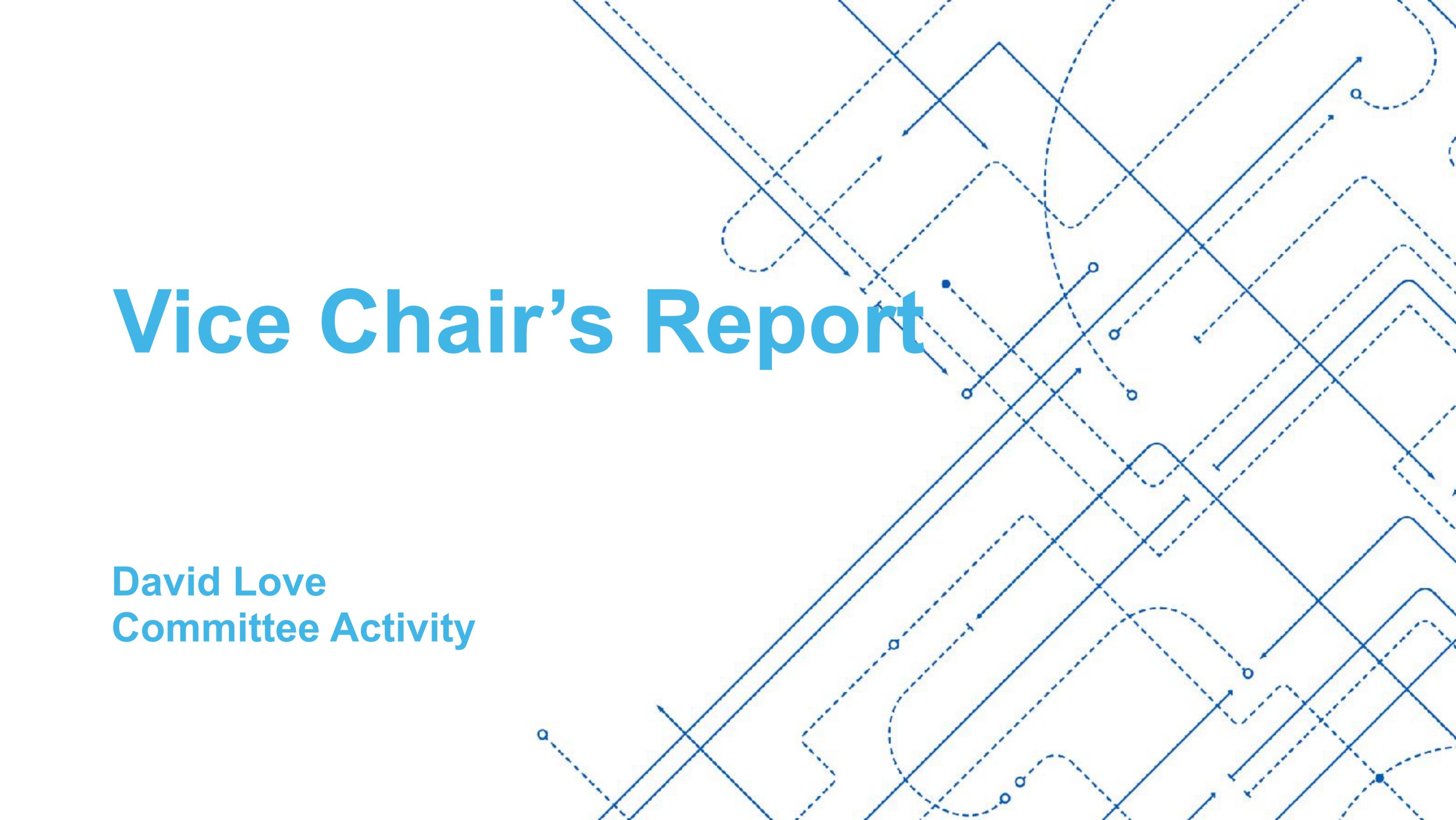
Summer Potluck

Senator & Committee Chairs Planning Meeting

Fall Tailgate Event

*TBD*

TBD

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# Vice Chair's Report

**David Love**  
**Committee Activity**

## Call for Committee Membership

Awards

Budget Oversight

Constitution and Bylaws

Continuous Improvement

Elections

Inclusion and Diversity

Marketing and Communications

Mentoring

Policy and Governance

Staff Development and  
Engagement

Social & Networking  
Subcommittee

Welcoming Subcommittee

Sustainable Living

Alternative Transportation  
Subcommittee

Plant Exchange Subcommittee

Website

# Inclusion and Diversity Committee save the date

## Knowing, Being, Doing:

building a diverse & inclusive community at UB

**Tuesday June 20, 2017**

**8:30 am-4:00 pm**

UB South Campus

Kapoor Hall

Full day conference

### incorporating inclusive excellence by:

Being (re)introduced to diversity theories and models that help guide our daily interactions with others across difference and identifying ways to infuse theory into our practice

Increasing awareness of how one's multiple identities impact their work at UB and recognizing the importance of increasing the multicultural competency of our campus

Engaging in diversity and inclusion related conversations among and between colleagues and identifying institutional policies and procedures that help create and build an inclusive campus community

## Awards Committee

- Waiting for the names of awards recipients from SUNY Central. They should have already arrived.
- The Awards Luncheon was planned for May 24<sup>th</sup>

## Elections Committee

- The Elections Committee is reviewing membership roster and senator election calls will be emailed out

## Sustainable Living Committee

### Recycling event 4/27/17

- 314 Donors
- 1,200lbs of clothes
- 22,400lbs of electronics

### Electronics and Clothing Recycling at UB

Sponsored by the PSS Sustainable Living Committee

**Thursday, April 27**  
**7:30am to 4:00pm**

**Center for Tomorrow Parking Lot**

#### Bring:

**Clothing, Computers, Monitors and Televisions, Networking Devices, UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supplies) and UPS batteries, Printers, Fax Machines, Scanners, Copiers, Duplicators, Plotters, Typewriters**

*All items used in the function of above devices (i.e. keyboards, mice, speakers, pointing devices, etc.)*

**CD/DVD/VHS/Blue-Ray Players, MP3 Players, Microwaves, iPods, Projectors, Stereos, Video Game Consoles, Speakers, Receivers (audio, cable, satellite), Recorders, Converter Boxes, Amplifiers, Equalizers, Cell Phones, Telephones, Pagers, Answering Machines, Lab/Test & Measurement Devices, Surge Protectors, Wire/Cabling, Computer parts & Laptop batteries**

**NO** liquids, bulbs/lamps, appliances, other batteries, lawn equipment



The background features a complex network of blue lines and arrows. Some lines are solid, while others are dashed. The arrows point in various directions, creating a sense of movement and interconnectedness. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, typical of a business or technology presentation.

# Unfinished Business

# Approval of amended minutes from Feb 2

# Fossil Free UB

Vanessa Dwyer,  
Fossil Free UB Organizer  
President of Environmental Network  
Student Association Senator  
SUNY Student Assembly



1617-01  
University at Buffalo Professional Staff Senate  
UB Office of University Shared Governance  
543 Capen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1601

**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;<sup>1</sup>

**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 CO<sub>2</sub> if burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of global warming;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/PB-unburnable-carbon-2013-wasted-capital-stranded-assets.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

# Fossil Free UB

**Whereas** global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by 50% since 1990 because of man made fossil fuel pollution;<sup>3</sup>

**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;<sup>4</sup>

**Whereas** the investments managed by the UB Foundation have a market value of \$825.6 million as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015;<sup>5</sup>

**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.”<sup>6</sup>

**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”;<sup>7</sup>

**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;<sup>8</sup>

**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;<sup>9</sup>

**Whereas** as of March 2017, a total of over 58,000 individuals and 705 institutions representing \$5.46 trillion in assets worldwide have divested from fossil fuels;<sup>10</sup>

**Whereas** other universities in the north-east region of the U.S. such as Syracuse University,<sup>11</sup> UMass Amherst,<sup>12</sup> Yale University,<sup>13</sup> Unity College,<sup>14</sup> and Barnard College<sup>15</sup> have divested as an approach to addressing global climate change with systematic, comprehensive and scientifically informed policies;

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/investments>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://ub-foundation.org/what-we-do/our-mission/>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.buffalo.edu/president/vision/mission-vision.html>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ussif.org/sribasics>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://cleantechnica.com/2014/04/24/us-solar-energy-capacity-grew-an-astounding-418-from-2010-2014/>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/01/syracuse-university-to-divest-800m-endowment-from-fossil-fuels>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/05/25/umass-system-divest-endowment-from-direct-holdings-fossil-fuels/mS8fOUz43HhF2HAD31ESM/story.html><https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/01/syracuse-university-to-divest-800m-endowment-from-fossil-fuels>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-12/yale-s-big-endowment-sells-less-than-10-million-in-fossil-fuels>.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.unity.edu/news/unity-college-reports-no-loss-fossil-fuel-divestment>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-04/barnard-college-endowment-to-divest-from-climate-change-deniers>.

# Fossil Free UB

**Whereas** SUNY universities such as Brockport,<sup>16</sup> Plattsburgh,<sup>17</sup> Environmental Science and Forestry,<sup>18</sup> and Geneseo<sup>19</sup> 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;<sup>20</sup>

**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.<sup>21</sup>

**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;<sup>22</sup>

**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.

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2015/11/15/suny-students-vote-no-divestment/75782888/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.thunderclap.it/en/projects/34144-divest-plattsburgh>.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.esf.edu/communications/view.asp?newsID=3985>.

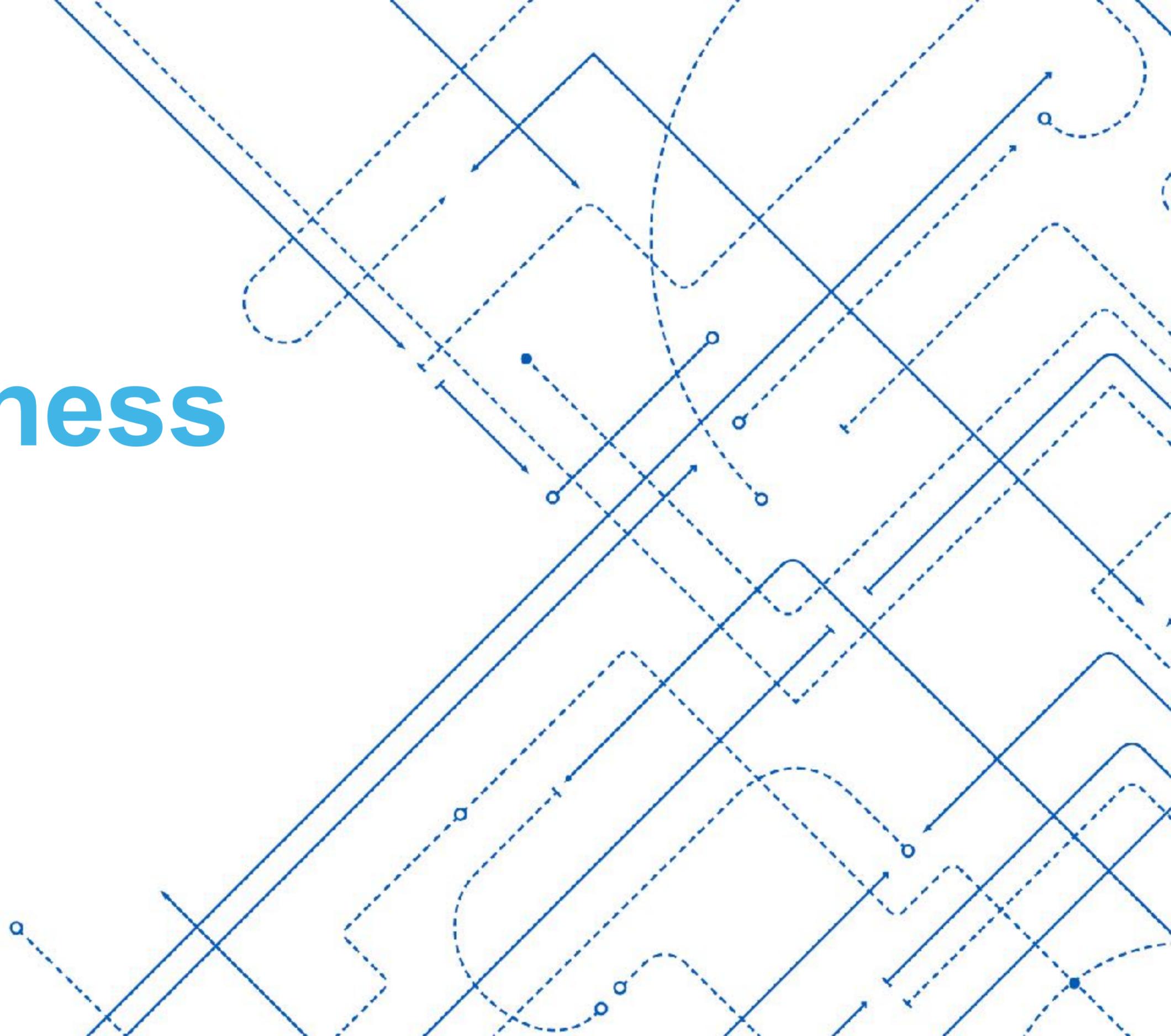
<sup>19</sup> <https://wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cultural/Divest+Geneseo+Action+Project>.

<sup>20</sup> <http://sunysa.org/sunysa-resolution-archive/>.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> <http://admissions.buffalo.edu/experience/about-ub.php>.

# New Business

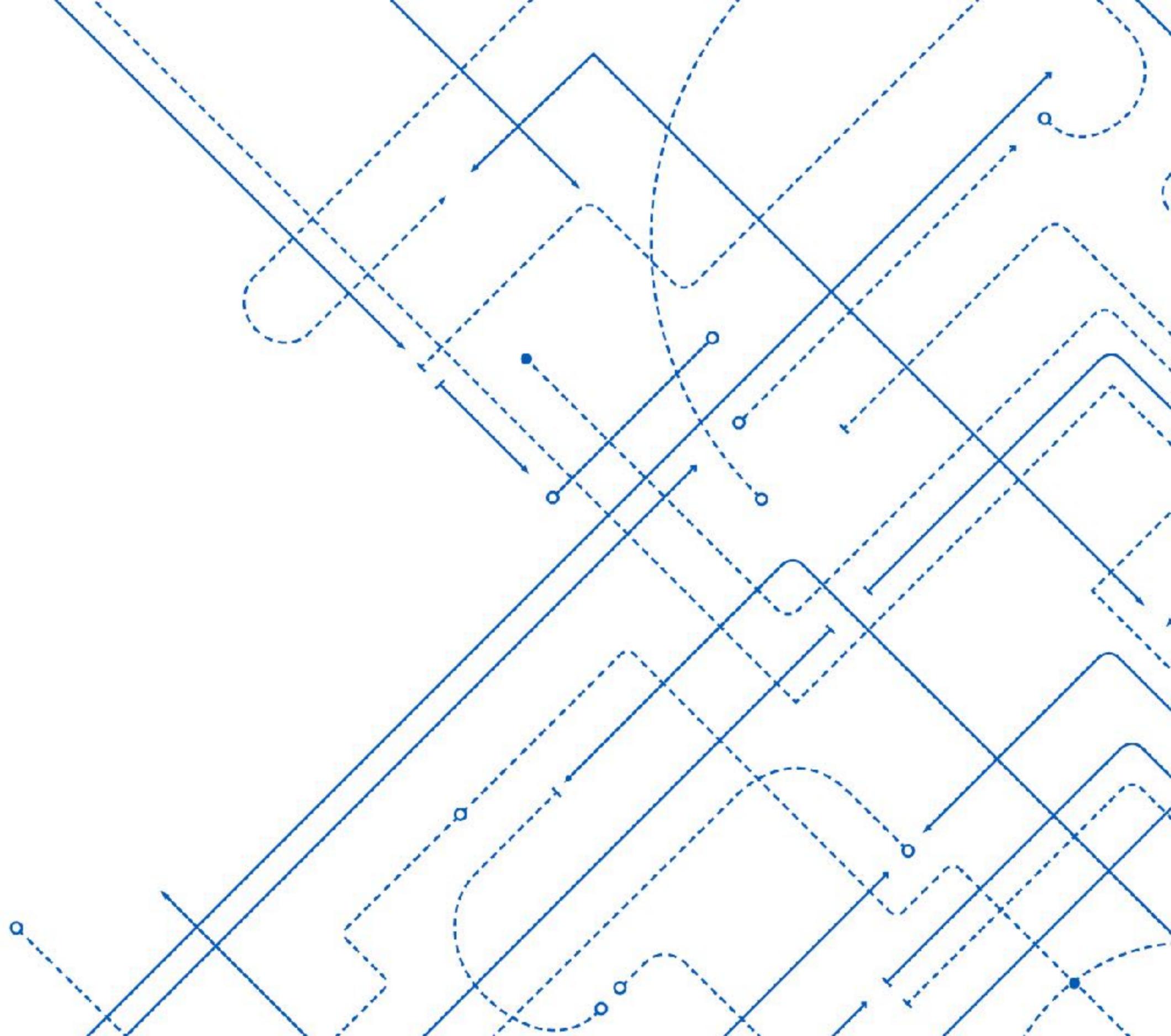


# Agenda for Upcoming Senate and General Membership Meeting

To be discussed at August Planning Meeting

**September 27, 2017**

**Program:**



# Adjournment

