



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

The Council

## University Council Meeting

August 26, 2015  
The Council Room, 505 Capen Hall

### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman  
Robert T. Brady  
Michael W. Cropp (by phone)  
Jonathan A. Dandes (by phone)  
Pamela D. Heilman  
June W. Hoeflich (by phone)  
Melissa Kathan

#### Other Participants

Satish K. Tripathi, President  
Nancy Wells, Vice President for  
Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement  
Daniel White, Director of Athletics

#### Additional attendees

Eric Alcott, Senior Associate Dean of  
Medical Development and Alumni  
Relations  
Brice Bible, Vice President and Chief  
Information Officer  
Michael Cain, Vice President for Health  
Sciences and Dean of the School of  
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff, Office of the  
President  
Tom Dinki, Editor-in-Chief, *The Spectrum*  
Eric Gross, Senior Associate Athletic  
Director for Development  
Philip Glick, Chair, Faculty Senate  
Connie Holoman, Deputy to the President  
Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance  
and Administration  
Domenic Licata, Chair, Professional Staff  
Senate  
Laura Palka, Secretary, Office of the  
President  
Nancy Paton, Vice President for University  
Communications  
David Shurtleff, Instructional Support  
Specialist, UBIT  
Scott Weber, Senior Vice Provost for  
Academic Affairs  
Joseph Zambon, Interim Dean, School of  
Dental Medicine

## **Call to Order and Opening of Business**

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He thanked the members for attending this special meeting of the Council, and noted that approval of the minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting would be deferred until the September 30 UB Council meeting. Although this meeting was called specifically for one item of business, the chairman took the time at the meeting's outset to introduce the new student representative to the Council, Melissa Kathan.

Ms. Kathan is beginning her senior year at UB, with a double major in political science and management. She plans to attend law school after graduation. She has been extensively involved in student government on campus and at the SUNY level throughout her time at UB. Chairman Jacobs welcomed Ms. Kathan and said that the Council looks forward to working with her this year.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

### ***Consideration of naming resolution for the UB Stadium West Club***

Chairman Jacobs began by stating that the Council's sole item of business at this meeting is a genuine pleasure for those present, as members of the Council and as friends of Dr. Edmond Gicewicz ("Doc"). The Council had the occasion to confer emeritus status on him after his 16 years of service to the Council, and joined in the celebration at the 2013 commencement when President Tripathi honored Dr. Gicewicz with the President's Medal.

Dr. Gicewicz was very deserving of those honors, but the one being considered at this meeting is especially meaningful. The chairman said that more than anyone he knows, Doc bleeds "True UB Blue." An anonymous gift has been made to name the West Club at the UB Stadium in Dr. Gicewicz's honor—the most fitting way imaginable to honor his legacy at UB, for generations of athletes and fans to come. Chairman Jacobs called on President Tripathi for additional remarks.

President Tripathi thanked Chairman Jacobs, and reiterated the chairman's comments that Dr. Gicewicz has a truly special place in the heart of the UB family. He has enriched the university in so many capacities, as a distinguished alumnus, as an accomplished faculty member, and as a steadfast university friend and devoted volunteer. It is hard to think of anyone more deserving of this very special tribute. Dr. Gicewicz has left his mark on so many elements of the university, from the medical school and the university alumni association to this Council. His lifelong impact on UB's athletics programs embodies that legacy in a very special way, from his own days as a distinguished student athlete to his steadfast presence in the stands cheering on today's UB Bulls. He is, and will always be, the embodiment of UB Bulls pride and spirit.

It is wonderful to know that Dr. Gicewicz's legacy will have a permanent place of honor in the UB Stadium, where it will be appreciated by UB student athletes and Bulls fans for generations to come. President Tripathi said he speaks on behalf of the entire UB family when he says how very grateful everyone is to the anonymous donor for honoring this cherished UB friend in such a fitting and meaningful way. He then asked Vice President Nancy Wells and Director of Athletics Danny White to share with the Council further background about this gift and its impact before the members consider the resolution.

Vice President Wells thanked the president and noted what a pleasure it was to help introduce this resolution to name the UB Stadium West Club in honor of Dr. Gicewicz. She thanked the members of the Council for taking time out of their schedules on short

notice for this very brief but important meeting at which the Council has a special opportunity to approve a tribute to one of their own.

The home football season opens in only ten days, and it is important to start the season with the new Gicewicz Club ready to go. Thus, it was imperative to approve this naming in public session so that it could be widely announced and celebrated. Vice President Wells added a plug for members of the Council that there is still time for them to buy their own club seats in the new Gicewicz Club!

This naming resolution that the Council will consider is the result of a gift from an anonymous donor who wishes to celebrate Dr. Gicewicz and commemorate his longstanding relationship and contributions to UB. At the request of the donor, the amount of this gift is not being publicly disclosed, but it is substantial. It ranks in the top ten gifts to the Division of Athletics and is more than worthy of the naming that accompanies it.

Eric Gross, from the UB Athletics leadership staff, and Wendy Irving, from Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Gicewicz recently to share with him the news of this gift in his honor. Doc was humbled and touched by this recognition, and his family is delighted that his name will be associated with the football program and UB athletics in this way.

Dr. Gicewicz's impact and influence are wide-reaching, evidenced by the smiles seen at the mention of his name. Vice President Wells observed that everyone has fond, funny and special recollections and stories of their moments with Doc. As Chairman Jacobs and President Tripathi noted, this is such a fitting way to honor Dr. Gicewicz's legacy at UB.

Vice President Wells asked Mr. White to share more with the Council about what this gift means to UB's athletics program.

Mr. White also thanked the Council members and expressed how happy he was to be able to join Vice President Wells in introducing this very special resolution. UB Athletics is thrilled to be able to honor Dr. Gicewicz in this way, as he has meant so much to UB athletics and the entire university. He was a tremendous student-athlete, a dedicated and caring team physician and, today, remains one of the most beloved and recognizable faces at UB football games. To have the new club seat venue at UB stadium bear his name is only appropriate, as he has devoted so much of himself to this program.

The gift made in Dr. Gicewicz's honor was very generous. UB Athletics is working diligently to bring an indoor practice facility to the university; UB is the only program in the Mid-American Conference without an indoor practice space for its student-athletes. The lack of such a facility poses significant challenges for coaches in their efforts to recruit the finest student athletes to UB. The very special gift honoring Dr. Gicewicz gets UB one step closer toward that goal. It is only through gifts such as this that UB will be able to offer all its coaches and student-athletes facilities that are commensurate with a championship program in each of its 20 sports.

The hope is that others are equally inspired by the selflessness and generosity shown by this particular donor and perhaps compelled to give back to the university in the same or similar way. UB is delighted by this gift, and honored to have the opportunity to commemorate Dr. Gicewicz's special relationship to the university and to the UB football program.

Mr. White then called the Council's attention to the naming resolution in their meeting packets.

Prior to considering the resolution Chairman Jacobs remarked about how selflessly Dr. Gicewicz volunteered his personal time to the university and to the Council. He was always willing to take on special projects in service to the university, and made many trips to Albany in the name of UB and the Council. He took responsibility to serve UB and the Council very seriously, and his devotion is matchless.

Chairman Jacobs then called for a motion to approve the resolution to name the Edmond J. Gicewicz Club at the UB Stadium. Ms. Heilman so moved, and Mr. Brady seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

***Adjournment***

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn to an executive session. The motion was made by Mr. Brady and seconded by Ms. Heilman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Approved at the September 30, 2015 UB Council meeting