



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

**FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**October 7, 2015**

**CHAIR:**

Philip Glick

**SECRETARY:**

Cynthia Tysick

**ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:**

Ernest Sternberg

**ARTS & SCIENCES:**

Alex Anas

Michael Cowen

Stephen Dyson

Peter Morgan (excused)

Paul Zarembka

**DENTAL MEDICINE:**

Michael Hatton (excused)

**ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:**

Joseph Mollendorf

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:**

Lilliam Malave

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS:**

Jim Lenker

**LAW:**

Matt Steilen (excused)

**MANAGEMENT:**

Sudhir Suchak (Fall) (excused)

Larry Sanders (Spring)

**MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:**

Michael Chaskes

Peter Elkin (excused)  
James Hassett  
Richard Gronostajski  
Gabriela Popescu

**NURSING:**

Grace Dean

**PHARMACY:**

Fred Doloresco

**SOCIAL WORK:**

Robert Keefe

**SUNY SENATORS:**

Henry Durand (excused)  
Ezra Zubrow  
TBD  
TBD

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:**

Glendora Johnson-Cooper (excused)

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**

Richard Gronostajski

**GUESTS:**

None

1. Minutes approved for 09/23/15
2. The Secretary gave a brief overview of SharePoint, which will be used for all governance documents prior to the “official” adoption by the Faculty Senate or Faculty Senate Executive Committee at which time they will be uploaded to the Faculty Senate website.
3. Chair’s Report
  - Friday the President will give his State of University address at 11a in Slee Hall.
  - The next Shared Governance Education session will be on Resolution Writing. Future sessions in the planning stage are on Sustainability and Social Media.
  - The VPUL, Austin Booth, will visit FSEC on Nov.18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Libraries’ recent reorganization.
  - November 4<sup>th</sup> from 3p-4:30p will be a joint meeting of FSEC and the new Budget Priorities Committee. Laura Hubbard will give the group a primer on budgeting at UB.
4. Unfinished Business
  - Shared Governance Resolution (Hassett)
    - The first reading of the resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate by James Hassett on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It aims to rename the Office of the Faculty Senate to the Offices of University Shared Governance (Hassett) see attached
      1. Mollendorf wondered if there was any hidden agenda. The Chair said no, it was to allow for more transparency at all levels of governance.
      2. Sternberg questioned the implications this resolution might have on the privacy of faculty governance. The Chair responded that the Bylaws are clear and protect faculty governance.
      3. Hassett commented that this allowed more voices to the conversation given that the governance is shared.
      4. The Chair commented that many of the other SUNYs have shared senates and even include students.
  - Buffalo/Niagara Partnership (Zarembka)
    - If the President participates in an organization that supports political candidates or political issues do we need to be concerned about transparency? Does the BNP have a pro-tobacco stance like their parent organization, the US Chamber of Commerce?
      1. Hassett suggested that if the President performs functions as a President of UB then yes we need to observe what he is doing as a member of the BNP.

2. Anas wanted clarification as to what a US Chamber of Commerce “pro-tobacco” policy might be and Zarembka referenced taxation policies.
  3. Sternberg noted that UB is part of the WNY community and that this community has gone through economic hardships. UB is involved at many levels in trying to improve the economic situation in WNY and questioned how we can be expected to pull out of one part of it.
  4. Lenker reminded the members that the President represents himself at the BNP, not us and he just has to fill out a conflict of interest form in the Fall as many of us who sit on boards do. He should recuse himself when a board issue comes up that could be a conflict but we (UB) are embedded in the community.
  5. Glick was glad that the President was involved in BNP because we are one of the biggest educators and employers of the region. He highlighted our commitment to experiential learning and that can only be successful if we are all out in the community serving on boards or volunteering in other ways. He said that the President has taken steps to distance himself from issues he doesn't agree with on BNP.
- Committee Due Dates
    - The issue of timely reporting on the part of Committee Chairs was discussed. The Secretary reminded everyone that the bylaws state that committees must report by the end of March and that last year she and the administrative assistant started reminding Chairs of this in January but only a few committees responded.
      1. Popescu commented that the Chairs and Committees don't know what they have to do. **The Chair will make sure they are contacted.**
      2. Sternberg said that the Academic Freedom and Inquiry committee he chaired had a poor performance and this year they have appointed Valerie Nessel from Library Science as Chair.
      3. Popescu asked if the terms of service could be spelled out and if chairs could be appointed for one year.
      4. Tysick responded that **she would update the Committees website to include the section of the Bylaws that covers terms of service and the names of chairs.** She also advised the members that new senators had emailed her wanting information on how to serve on committees so she feels the orientation at the next Faculty Senate meeting will be important.
    - **IT security** as it pertained to emails was brought up by Sternberg. He would like the committee to consider bringing this up as an issue.
      - Malave agreed that **this should be an item for new business**

- Anas pointed out that management can change the content of emails so it goes beyond privacy.

## 5. New Business

- Libraries' Reorganization (Zarembka)
  - Paul Zarembka quoted the April 15, 2015 FSEC minutes "Paul Zarembka: The libraries recently went through reorganization. Was that not supposed to get Faculty Senate approval first? 1. Answer from the Provost: UB council is looking to that for him. There is a question whether or not it is an academic unit or a support unit. The Libraries are a "mercurial beast". He continued "Paul Zarembka said while that was nice to hear it doesn't negate the fact that it looks like the reorganization needed to get Faculty Senate approval first."
  - Zarembka reminded the Chair that the Provost has not reported a determination if the libraries are an academic unit, and asked that the Chair ask the Provost do so at the October 14th meeting.
  - Zarembka stressed that we should stand up for the librarians who are faculty. The Chair announced that the VPUL would be attending a November meeting of FSEC to discuss the reorganization. Zarembka **charged the Chair with assuring that a non-management opinion** on the reorganization was necessary to hear both sides of the issue.
  - Popescu asked who's authority is it to decide if faculty in a given area are "support". Can the administration say bio-chemistry is a support unit.
  - Glick pointed out that the libraries do not grant a degree even though they are faculty.
  - Mollendorf cited the SUNY Board of Trustees as a place we might look for answers.
  - Dean asked for the Bylaws criteria for being a senator.
  - Tysick responded that Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor, Librarian, Associate Librarian, and Assistant Librarian are all voting faculty and eligible to be senators.
  - Tysick commented that in terms of granting a degree there are faculty in the Educational Opportunity Center and by definition they would be allowed to reorganize without Faculty Senate approval because they don't grant a degree.
  - Anas questioned whether or not this body has the authority to decide if the Libraries are an academic unit and not the Provost.
  - Mollendorf cited references to other universities that have defined the role of the libraries as academic.
  - Hassett suggested that we look to the other three SUNY Centers for answers. The Chair then **asked the Secretary to research what the governance documents say at the other Centers in regards to librarians and the libraries.**
- IRB (Lenker)

- The VPR has acknowledged that the process has been terrible. There has been backlogs that have played substantial havoc on researchers' ability to complete their clinical trials and other human subjects related research.
- 25-30 faculty from the Social and Behavioral sciences attended a listening session in September but Lenker walked away with little confidence that the VPR and IRB administrators will institute meaningful change. Hiring a couple of navigators and a few more administrators has taken months, they've known of these issues back in the spring. It's critical to our research so why has it taken so long to fill the vacancies?
- It took four weeks to get a simple amendment to a protocol approved. The approval came back with only two lines of comments. It took six weeks to get approval for a protocol that was simply analyzing the data of another institution, no human subject involved at UB.
- Malave concurred that it is a terrible process.
- Keefe had a protocol closed when his research was still being conducted. Online tutorials did not answer many of the questions he had on the process.
- Popescu asked what Lenker is suggesting. He would like to bring the issue to the Provost. He feels that the Provost doesn't know how dire the situation really is.
- Hassett commented that he believes this is a cyclical issue, he has seen this kind of backlog before during his 30 years at UB.
- Sternberg suggested that since this is such a serious concern for our research colleagues maybe we should draft a letter of concern. No motion was made.
- Anas suggested inviting the head of IRB to an FSEC meeting. **The Chair will invite Ken Tramosch to a future FSEC meeting.**

#### 6. Executive Session to make committee appointments

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm

Submitted by  
Cynthia Tysick,  
Secretary to the Faculty Senate  
10/9/2015

## Statement of Shared Governance Resolution

### Preamble

Governance is the name commonly given to the processes by which the faculty and staff participate in the expression and exercise of their authority and responsibility in support of the University at Buffalo. It is most often accomplished within the context of what we called “shared governance,” a distribution of authority to various campus and system constituencies based upon law and its mandates.

Shared governance must be a process as well as a goal. It requires an ongoing commitment from all, in order to be achieved. Campus governance members must make use of many strategies to listen to, inform, and involve their constituents. University and campus presidents and other administrators responsible for the management of their institutions recognize that the health and vigor of the college or university depend fundamentally upon the vitality, creativity, intelligence, and commitment of academic and professional staff.

Whereas, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers have declared “Shared governance is the foundation of higher education in the United States” and

Whereas, civic service by academic and professional staff to the university at the campus level or at the State-wide level are critical to the collective thought, collective effort and common cause of democratic participation, and

Whereas, the Middle States Accreditation, Standard 4 Leadership and Governance, reads “The Commission on Higher Education expects a climate of shared collegial governance in which all constituencies (such as faculty, administration, staff, students, and governing board members) involved in carrying out the institutional mission and goals participate in the governance function in a manner appropriate to that institution; and

Whereas, collaboration between faculty, staff, students, administration and governing boards is essential in carrying out the vision of shared governance,

Therefore be it resolved:

The Faculty Senate and the Professional Staff Senate, in the spirit of shared governance, will inculcate the values of trust, collegiality, dialogue, sharing perspectives, listening, shared sense of purpose, recognizing differences while remaining open to finding common ground, transparency of information, and

Therefore be it also resolved, The Offices of University Governance, aka the Offices of the

Professional Staff Senate and the Faculty Senate will be known as the “Offices of University Shared Governance: Faculty Senate and Professional Staff Senate”.

