



University at Buffalo Council

Meeting minutes

December 4, 2017, 8:00 a.m.

The Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

Members present:

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Mike Brown

Michael Cropp

Jonathan Dandes

Scott Friedman

Pamela Heilman (by phone)

June W. Hoeflich

Other participants:

Satish K. Tripathi, President

Charles F. Zukoski, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Attendees:

Aviva Abramovsky, Dean of the School of Law

Brice Bible, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

Joshua Flaccavento, Graduate Student, Department of English

Philip Glick, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Rod Grabowski, Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Robert Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and Initiatives

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director of Presidential Communications

Domenic Licata, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Teri Miller, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion

Nancy Paton, Vice President for University Communications

Juhi Roy, UB Business Agent, Graduate Student Employees Union

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

Robin Schulze, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UB IT

Scott Weber, Vice President for Student Life

Sue Wuetcher, News Content Manager, UBNOW

Opening business

Call to order

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2017 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Ms. Hoeflich, and the minutes were approved without correction.

Topics for discussion or action

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Jacobs began his report by acknowledging President Tripathi who delivered his sixth state of the university address in October. The Chairman then stated there were several naming resolutions to be considered by the UB Council.

Consideration of naming resolutions

The first resolution called for the Council's approval for the naming of an endowed chair and fund in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to be named the "Peter A. Nickerson, PhD, Chair in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences," and the "Peter A. Nickerson, PhD, Dean's Fund." Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Dr. Cropp, seconded by Mr. Friedman and was approved unanimously.

The second resolution called for the Council's approval of the naming of several interior spaces in the Jacobs School. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. Dandes and was approved unanimously.

A third resolution called for the Council's approval of the naming of the Anthony J. Colucci Jr. Buffalo Law Review Suite. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Dr. Cropp and seconded by Ms. Hoeflich and was approved unanimously.

Report of the Student Representative

Mr. Brown reported to the Council that shortly after the Council's September meeting, the university restored 24 hour bus service between the North and South campuses including overnight shuttle services for Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Brown informed the Council of a meeting he participated in with students from the UB Fossil Free UB campaign and leadership at the UB Foundation on November 8. The goal is to ask the UBF to divest from any possible stocks and assets related to the fossil fuel industry. Mr. Brown asserted that failure by the UBF to divest from these types of investments can harm the university's reputation by undermining institutional values for sustainability. Mr. Brown stated the current congressional tax plan is causing great concern to students. Particularly, the elimination of the student loan deduction and repeal of the lifetime learning credit. Mr. Brown also shared the concerns of students regarding the right to active counsel at administrative hearings at the university. Mr. Brown completed his report by discussing several other areas including Council executive session, stipend compensation for graduate students, and the impact of the proposed repeal of net neutrality.

University Briefings: Report of the President

President Tripathi began his report by discussing the late Peter Nickerson, a member of the UB family for nearly a half century as a faculty member, Dr. Nickerson was thoroughly devoted to UB. Dr. Tripathi expressed gratitude to Dr. Nickerson for choosing to give back to the university in a way that will have a lasting impact on UB. President Tripathi also congratulated Chairman Jacobs for being recently reappointed as chairman of the Council by Governor Andrew Cuomo. President Tripathi also congratulated Chairman Jacobs for being inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in November.

President Tripathi introduced UB's new vice president for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, Rodney Grabowski. Mr. Grabowski is a highly accomplished fundraising executive with more than 25 years of experience and comes to UB from the University of Cincinnati. VP Grabowski addressed the Council stating his excitement for joining UB and looks forward to working with the Council and university leadership. President Tripathi also thanked Councilmember Dandes who served on the search committee for the new VP for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement.

President Tripathi continued his report stating UB is gearing up for the grand opening of the new home of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences which is set for Dec. 12. SUNY recently presented its state budget request for 2018-2019. Operating support requests include a \$72.8 million increase to the base for collective bargaining costs and \$30 million for new investment in the Competitive Innovation Fund. The capital funding request is \$800 million for one year and \$4 billion over five years. Per year, this breaks down to \$550 million for critical maintenance and \$250 million for campus priority projects. SUNY is also advocating to continue the maintenance of effort clause to cover predictable, mandatory cost increases. At the federal level, UB is closely following the progress of proposed federal tax reform legislation. Among concerns are two provisions: tax on graduate school tuition and a tax on endowments. UB continues to voice its strong opposition to these provisions at the university level, as well as with colleagues in SUNY and the AAU. Concluding his report, President Tripathi reported that the SUNY Board of Trustees approved the naming of both the "Stephen Still Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics," and the "Murchie Family Fieldhouse."

President Tripathi then asked Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Dr. Venu Govindaraju, to speak with the Council to elaborate on UB's artificial intelligence (AI) research.

University Briefings: Presentation by Vice President Research and Economic Development

Dr. Govindaraju began his presentation by stating UB is very well positioned to be a leader in AI research. UB's vision is 'AI for Social Good.' AI cuts through all disciplines such as engineering, health sciences, humanities, social sciences and physical sciences among others. Like electricity did more than 100 years ago, AI will revolutionize industry and society today. Part of this evolution is the abundance of data from sensors and statistics collected which help computers learn to make the correct decisions. Examples include speech translation, face recognition, and object recognition all performing at levels that exceed human performance. Areas of concern that will require further study and examination regarding AI include ethical issues, confidence in AI, the protection of civil liberties, potential unemployment as a result, and cyber security.

UB's history of AI includes postal automation that reads handwriting on envelopes. UB recently received a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to accelerate the discovery process for research by using data analytics from computers. UB also received \$4 million from the NSF and New York State to work on the development of self-driving automobiles. Other areas of research include precision medicine, advanced manufacturing, and digital humanities. 160 UB faculty recently met to discuss AI and potential research. There are two large-scale proposals in the health informatics and autonomous systems areas.

University Briefings: Report of the Provost

Provost Zukoski began his report informing the Council of national and international awards and honors received by UB faculty including Elizabeth Otto, Associate Professor of Art, who received a highly prestigious Frank H. Kenan Fellowship from the National Humanities Center, Deborah Raines, Associate Professor of Nursing, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and Donald Mager, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named a fellow of three prominent societies: the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, and International Society of Pharmacometrics.

Provost Zukoski also discussed numerous recent educational collaborations taking place at UB. Examples of this interdisciplinary scholarly work include the College of Arts and Sciences partnership with professional schools to provide students in traditional liberal arts disciplines with direct pathways to professions. These currently include dual degree programs that lead from liberal arts undergraduate majors to a Juris Doctor Degree or teaching certification. Building on faculty strength and WNY's growing reputation as a leader in 21st century medicine, UB is developing programs in several emerging health related fields. Among these is a new master's degree program in Genetic Counseling, which is offered jointly by the JSMBS, School of Nursing and the College. Building on UB's growing strength in environmental programs and sustainability, the schools of Architecture, Engineering, and Management, and the College are developing an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Sustainability in order to provide interdisciplinary training for students interested in pursuing careers in the field. Creating these programs is challenging because they cross schools and often combine undergraduate and graduate education. To facilitate the creation of these programs, UB established an Educational Collaborations Committee, which includes representatives from Academic Planning, Undergraduate Education and the Graduate School.

Adjournment

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. Dandes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Minutes to be approved at the March 5, 2018 meeting of the UB Council.