

Meeting minutes of December 16, 2019**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

December 16, 2019, 8:00 a.m.

The Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

Members present:

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Michael Cropp

Jonathan Dandes

Scott Friedman

June W. Hoeflich

Brenda McDuffie

Mike Montoro

Other participants:

Satish K. Tripathi, President

A. Scott Weber, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Attendees:

Jessica Baker, SUNY Counsel

Brice Bible, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Ann Bisantz, Dean of Undergraduate Education

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

John DellaContrada, Interim Vice President for University Communications

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President of Research and Economic Development

Rod Grabowski, Vice President for University Advancement

Robert Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Dean of the Graduate School

Christina Hernandez, Senior Associate Vice President and Interim Office in Charge, Student Life

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and Initiatives

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Marsha Lewis, Dean of the School of Nursing

Bob Miletich, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Alexandra Moyon, The UB Spectrum

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Despina Stratigakos, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence

Tim Tryjankowski, Chair of the Professional Staff Senate

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, Vice Provost for University Libraries

Sue Wuetcher, Editor, UBNOW

Opening business

Call to order

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. To begin the meeting, Mr. Jacobs asked President Tripathi speak.

President Tripathi stated that the university community is mourning the tragic death of an undergraduate student and expressed his condolences to the student's family, friends and classmates. President Tripathi then asked for a moment of silence. Dr. Tripathi continued, stating that UB wants to ensure that students get the emotional and mental health support they need. This is a conversation taking place on higher education campuses across the nation. UB has rethought its counseling services approach. Dr. Tripathi added that during the March UB Council meeting, he would like to have a presentation on students' mental health and the services UB provides.

Welcome and Introduction of New Council Member

Chairman Jacobs welcomed Ms. Brenda McDuffie as the newest member of the UB Council who is attending her first meeting, adding that he looks forward to working with her.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Ms. Hoeflich. Voting yes to approve the minutes without correction were Mr. Montoro, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Hoeflich, Ms. McDuffie and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose.

Topics for discussion or action

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Jacobs asked Vice President Rod Grabowski to present some details to the Council about two proposed resolutions. The first resolution calls for the Council's approval to name the Frank H. Clement and Marilyn D. Clement Professor in Health Care Innovation in the School of Management after UB alumnus Frank Clement and his wife. Mr. Clement credits his UB education with providing the framework for his successful business career. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Ms. Hoeflich. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Montoro, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Hoeflich, Ms. McDuffie and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose. The resolution must now go to SUNY for final approval at the Board of Trustees meeting in January.

The second resolution called for the Council's approval of the naming of the Linda Edelman Chair in Pharmacy Practice. Ms. Edelman is a 1966 graduate of UB who provided a \$1 million bequest after her passing in 2016 to create this endowment in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich and seconded by Mr. Dandes. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Montoro, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose. The resolution must now go to SUNY for final approval at the Board of Trustees meeting in January.

Mr. Jacobs stated Mr. Dandes has agreed to chair the Charles P. Norton Medal committee. Chairman Jacobs also thanked Council members Hoeflich and Friedman for serving on the committee.

Report of the Student Representative

Mr. Montoro began his report by expressing condolences regarding the untimely passing of a UB undergraduate student earlier in December. Mr. Montoro added that he believes UB can and must do

better in helping students carry the burdens of their academic and other responsibilities, along with identifying more swiftly those who are most at risk and in need of mental health support.

Mr. Montoro welcomed Ms. McDuffie to the UB Council and stated that it has been his privilege to serve on the search committee for the new UB provost.

Reflecting on the end of the calendar year, Mr. Montoro stated that UB 2020 is no longer a goal, but a reality. Via strategic investment of resources into key areas, UB has emerged as a leader in public higher education. To continue UB's success, Mr. Montoro would like to see the university recommitting to paying educators a living wage of \$24,000 a year, keeping a close eye on student successes in a holistic way, and fighting in a tangible way against the "numerization" of students. Mr. Montoro also expressed a desire to see UB commit to excellence in the diversity of its student population and faculty. Mr. Montoro also added that he would like to see evidence that UB is divesting from fossil fuel interests in its endowment. Mr. Montoro ended his report by wishing the entire UB community a wonderful holiday season.

University Briefings: Report of the President

President Satish Tripathi began his report by welcoming Ms. McDuffie to the Council. Dr. Tripathi then updated the Council on the national search for the next UB Provost. Five candidates visited campus earlier in the month. UB is now getting feedback on the candidates from faculty, students and staff. President Tripathi is hoping to have the search complete by the first half of January. UB is also in the process of a national search for a new dean for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. On-campus interviews are expected in March. The dean search was delayed to ensure a new provost is identified before the search begins in full so the new provost can decide who the new dean will be.

Earlier in December, UB launched the Community Health Equity Research Institute. In collaboration with the community, this institute will address root causes of health disparities in our region as well as develop and test innovative solutions. UB faculty researchers across ten decanal units are participating.

Two members of UB's faculty were recently named SUNY Distinguished Professors: Krishna Rajan, professor and chair of the Department of Materials Design and Innovation, and John Crassidis, professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

President Tripathi completed his report by reminding the Council that the UB Bulls football team will be playing in the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl on December 20. UB faces the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. President Tripathi offered his congratulations to AD Mark Alnutt, Coach Leipold, the staff, and especially, the student-athletes on earning this bowl bid.

President Tripathi then asked Interim Provost Scott Weber to provide his report to the Council.

University Briefings: Report of the Provost

Interim Provost Weber began his report by stating that UB remains committed to fostering diversity and inclusivity on campus, recognizing that a diverse, equitable and inclusive community is an essential foundation for achieving excellence and success. SUNY is supporting UB's efforts through its PRODiG program. In the first round of PRODiG funding, UB will receive \$2.2 million over three years to support 14 new tenured and tenure-track underrepresented minority and women-in-STEM faculty. Over the last ten years, UB has had significant success in diversifying its student body, and approximately half of UB's student body is now composed of minority and international students. UB has a variety of efforts underway to enhance recruitment and retention efforts aimed at significantly diversifying faculty, including: integrating best practices for diverse faculty searches; providing online training for search committees; building diverse recruitment networks; providing excellent mentorship and professional

development programs for new and mid-career faculty; and enhancing diversity in PhD programs to build better faculty pipelines. This is particularly important as underrepresented minorities make up less than 10% of the national labor force available for full-time faculty positions.

Dr. Weber continued by informing the Council of several exciting new degree programs introduced this year, including a bachelor's degree in law and a new undergraduate major in neuroscience that is a collaboration between the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Weber completed his report by sharing that one of UB's signature Curricular Distinction programs has been recognized with a national award. UB's Inter-professional Education – or IPE – program has received a Program of Merit Award for Institutional Excellence and Innovation in Inter-professional Education and Collaborative Health Care from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions.

Presentation: President Tripathi

President Tripathi thanked the Council for the opportunity to share a few details from his State of the University address in October. The address was an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments achieved through UB 2020 and discuss how to leverage these accomplishments for UB's future. This includes UB's ambition to become a Top 25 public research university in the nation in the next decade.

UB 2020 was a catalyst for the university to strengthen the impact of its mission and focus on academic and research excellence. UB transformed students' education with programs such as the UB Curriculum, Honors College, expanded opportunities for global education and Finish in 4. In graduate education, UB created new doctoral programs, interdisciplinary departments and the inter-professional education curriculum in the health sciences. In the area of research, UB leveraged its strengths to create greater societal impact by building research infrastructure, creating innovative basic and applied research, and fostering an interdisciplinary culture for research. UB also enhanced the campus physical environment by modernizing living-learning spaces and building state-of-the-art facilities for research.

The outcomes have been impressive. Since UB 2020 began, the university's 4 year graduate rate has increased from 35 percent to 60 percent. Freshman applications reached 31,000 last year—an all-time high and up 40 percent since 2013. Along with increased selectivity, there has been an increase in underrepresented students to 17 percent of all UB students in 2019—up nearly 8 percent since 2004. UB students are also winning more national awards such as Fulbright Awards, NSF and NIH awards, and Marshall, Udall, Truman and Goldwater Scholarships. Sponsored research expenditures have risen from \$129 million to \$178 million in the past 15 years, and the faculty's scholarly citations increased nearly 50 percent in just a six-year period. UB has also received major large center grants from the NSF and NIH.

UB has dramatically enhanced the living-learning landscape across all three campuses for students and faculty with new buildings and renovations. These include, on the North Campus: Greiner Hall, Davis Hall, Heart of the Campus and Murchie Fieldhouse; on the South Campus: Hayes Hall, Pharmacy Building and Abbott Hall; and on the Downtown Campus: Jacobs School building, CTRC and EOC.

UB has a history of leadership in environmental responsibility and climate change mitigation and recently launched a new Department of Environment and Sustainability. UB committed to reduce overall energy usage 20 percent by 2020 and has already surpassed that mark. UB's energy usage is down 35 percent and 100% of electricity comes from clean, renewable sources. UB plans to install solar panels across all three campuses by the end of 2020, and the university is ranked third among 250 universities worldwide for climate action.

This past fall, UB was ranked 31st among the best public universities by both U.S. News and World Report and Times Higher Ed/Wall Street Journal. Dr. Tripathi stated that UB's aspiration is to become a top 25 public research university in the next decade. Considering UB's trajectory, this is the next natural phase of UB's evolution. UB continues to follow the guiding principles of UB 2020 and hone the articulation of these goals to achieve greater societal impact by enhancing scholarly productivity; growing our research portfolio; providing students with innovative, research-grounded educational experiences; building upon our university-wide culture of equity and inclusion; and deepening engagement in the region by strengthening UB's partnerships.

UB anticipates challenges, including a continued flat level of state appropriations; a decline of high school graduates in the Northeast; the reluctance of some international students to study in the U.S.; and questions about the value of higher education. Despite challenges, UB is determined to achieve these goals by continuing to advocate for the public UB serves and share the inspiring story of UB.

The Boldly Buffalo campaign is also critical to UB's Top 25 ambition. UB will continue to work with university friends, supporters and alumni to make transformative education more accessible through increased scholarships and fellowships and to invest in faculty through increased endowed chairs and professorships.

Dr. Tripathi concluded his report by noting as he did in his State of the University address that UB was a very good institution with great potential 15 years ago. Today, UB is transformed in its research and academic enterprise; built environment; and engagement with communities. The potential of UB is truly limitless, and the university must keep sights clearly set on its mission-based priority: to harness its intellectual and creative capacities to positively change the world. Dr. Tripathi thanked the Council for its commitment and advocacy of UB.

Adjournment

Chairman Jacobs then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Mr. Friedman. Voting yes to approve adjournment were Mr. Montoro, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 a.m.

Approved at the March 9, 2020 meeting of the UB Council.