



**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

September 25, 2017, 8:00 a.m.

Council Room, 505 Capen Hall

**Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Mike Brown

Michael Cropp

Scott Friedman

Pamela Heilman

June W. Hoeflich

**Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Scott Weber, Vice President for Student Life

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

Lee Melvin, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

**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

Philip Glick, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

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

Nancy Paton, Vice President for Communications

Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean of the Graduate School of Education

Sue Wuetcher, Educator of UBNow

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UB IT

James Holstun, Professor, Department of English

Teresa Miller, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence

Wendy Irving, Assistant Vice President for Gift Planning, Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

## **Opening business**

### ***Call to order***

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### ***Welcome and introduction of the New Student Representative***

Mr. Jacobs welcomed and introduced Mr. Mike Brown, the new Student Representative to the UB Council. Mr. Brown is in his junior year at UB pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and computer science.

### ***Approval of minutes***

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich, seconded by Ms. Heilman, and the minutes were approved without correction.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

### ***Report of the Chairman***

Chairman Jacobs reported there were several naming resolutions to be considered by the UB Council.

### ***Consideration of naming resolutions***

The first resolution calls for the Council's approval of the name of the new planned UB fieldhouse to be named the Murchie Family Fieldhouse. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich and seconded by Dr. Cropp and was approved unanimously.

The second resolution calls for the Council's approval of the naming of the Stephen Still Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. Brown and was approved unanimously.

The third resolution calls 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 on the ACT conference***

Chairman Jacobs asked Councilmember Heilman to give a report on the New York State Association of Council Members and Trustees (ACT) 47<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Ms. Heilman informed the Council that UB student Devashish Agarwal received an ACT scholarship. The annual meeting also discussed the emphasis on student completion and the Excelsior Scholarship. Ms. Heilman stated the director of the SUNY Impact Foundation, a non-profit corporation formed in 2016, presented to the ACT and added that the foundation's first focus will be to raise money for the Educational Opportunity Program.

### ***Report of the Chairman***

Chairman Jacobs completed his report by encouraging members of the Council to attend President Tripathi's annual State of the University address on October 6.

### ***Report of the Student Representative***

Mr. Brown informed the Council of his experience in student government including his service to the Student Assembly. Among his top priorities is to improve communications between students and the administration. An issue students are currently concern about is the change in late night busing schedules implemented for the fall semester. Mr. Brown stated student leaders will meet with university administrators in October to talk about the use of student fees to ensure they are a part of the decision-making process. President Tripathi and Vice President Weber met with the leaders of COAL (Council of Advocacy and Leadership) in September to discuss numerous topics including graduate student stipends and administration transparency. Mr. Brown informed the Council about the SUNY Student Assembly's efforts over the summer to advocate for an extension of NYSUNY 2020 and Maintenance of Effort bill as well.

### ***University Briefings: Report of the President***

President Tripathi began his report by introducing two newly hired deans, Ms. Aviva Abramovsky, dean of the School of Law, and Dr. Suzanne Rosenblith, dean of the College of Graduate Education. President Tripathi also informed the Council that the search for a new Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement is underway and hopes to have a new VP in place by January.

UB continues to rise in the ranks of the nation's best public and national universities, ranking 97<sup>th</sup> overall and 41<sup>st</sup> among public universities in the latest U.S. News and World Report rankings.

President Tripathi also addressed the guilty pleas of two former UB employees charged with grand larceny. Financial mismanagement in the former University Life and Services organization was discovered after an internal audit. UB took swift and appropriate measures as soon as it was discovered. Numerous measures have been implemented to ensure the university is exercising the utmost diligence in business and financial practices. President Tripathi asked Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ms. Laura Hubbard to speak with the Council to elaborate on these new controls.

### ***University Briefings: Presentation by Vice President of Finance and Administration***

Ms. Hubbard began her presentation by reviewing UB's internal controls and changes made as a result of the recent audit. Ms. Hubbard stated she and President Tripathi began discussing the need to enhance UB's internal control environment when she first arrived five years ago, this includes reviving the university's internal audit unit. Among these recent changes includes: realigning the internal audit unit, move the reporting of accounts payable and travel from procurement to Financial Management; and reinvigorate Policy Library business processes; improve risk assessment; and create a UB hotline to report irregularities. To improve Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), UB has implemented a new reporting structure. To address control activities, UB created the position of Director of Compliance and International Controls. This new director is working with individual units to determine risk assessments. Ms. Hubbard also

addressed additional corrective actions taken specifically within the Faculty Student Association (FSA) organization, which included updating FSA by-laws, reorganizing the FSA Board of Directors structure, and the additional of an audit committee.

***University Briefings: Report of the Provost***

Provost Zukoski began his report by giving an update on enrollment for the 2017-2018 academic year. This year, in Buffalo, is welcoming more than 2,900 new graduate and professional students, approximately 5,800 new undergraduates, including more than 4,100 first-time freshmen.

Some new academic programs being implemented include undergraduate degrees in Public Health and Statistics, combined bachelor's-masters degree in Athletic Training, and bachelor's of chemistry and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD).

UB faculty continue to win major awards and grants which will be celebrated at the Celebration of Faculty and Staff Academic Excellence on October 26.

***University Briefings: Report of the President***

President Tripathi elaborated on the campus improvements being made at UB including recent projects such as 1 Capen, 1 Diefendorf, the Silverman Library, Dental School, and the construction of the new Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences building. The School of Dental Medicine also celebrated the completion of the first phase of a renovation of the school's pre-clinical simulation center and patient clinics. President Tripathi asked Vice President Weber, Vice Provost Melvin, and Vice Provost Hammill to further describe the campus enhancements being made and its impact on UB.

***University Briefings: Presentation by Vice President of Student Life, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management***

Vice Provost Weber described how UB's Heart of the Campus phase 2 project (1 Capen & 1 Diefendorf) is bringing together student learning spaces and services for increased efficiency and convenience. Vice Provost Melvin informed the Council that the 1 Capen project helps recruit and retain students who feel UB may be too big for them. Nine offices for student services are now housed in 1 Capen. These include the UB Card Office, Parking and Transportation, Academic Advisement, and Financial Aid. During the first month, 1 Capen saw 20,000 visits.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting to executive session. (to discuss personnel matters) The motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich and was seconded by Mr. Friedman. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Minutes to be approved at the (December 4, 2017), meeting of the UB Council.