

## **University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

March 28, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

### **Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Brianna Bennett

Michael Cropp

Jonathan A. Dandes

Scott E. Freidman

Brenda W. McDuffie

### **Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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

Rodney Grabowski, Vice President for University Advancement

### **Attendees:**

Ann Bisantz, Dean of Undergraduate Education

Allison Brashear, Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

John DellaContrada, Vice President for University Communications

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President of Research and Economic Development

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

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and University Events

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Teresa Sprow, Associate Director of University and Presidential Events

## **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 December 13, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

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

Chairman Jacobs asked Vice President Rodney Grabowski to present details to the Council about five proposed naming resolutions.

The first resolution is for the naming of the Eileen Silvers, BA '70 and Richard Bronstein Conference Room in the University Club at One World Café. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The second resolution is for the naming of the Choplin Chair in Software Engineering. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. Dandes and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The third resolution is for the naming of the Katherine Johnson Chair in Artificial Intelligence. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Dr. Cropp and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The fourth resolution is for the naming of the Lew and Jacquie Rose Fund for Clinics. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. Dandes and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The fifth resolution is for the naming of the Dr. Marjorie E. Winkler Distinguished Professorship. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Upon approval by the Council, the Choplin, Rose, Johnson and Winkler resolutions will now be forwarded to the State University of New York System Administration for final review and approval by the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Drafts of the resolutions can be found on the [UB Council website](#).  
Chairman Jacobs then asked President Tripathi to give his university report.

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

President Tripathi began his report by informing the Council that Governor Hochul designated UB a flagship of the SUNY system during her state of the state address in January. Tripathi added that UB has long been considered a de facto flagship and that the formal distinction underscores UB's standing as a premier public university. Governor Hochul also approved funding for a new building for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. In December, UB had submitted an application for the building through a 2-to-1 state-to-campus capital matching program. The total cost for the new facility is estimated at \$102 million. In terms of South Campus infrastructure, UB has also received funding to renovate Foster Hall. In accordance with the master plan, this renovation will enable UB to relocate the Graduate School of Education to the South Campus. UB is embedding the school in the heart of the community because that is where UB's faculty and students conduct their clinical and research work. UB is also monitoring state lawmakers in Albany as the state nears its deadline to finalize a budget for the coming fiscal year. The Senate one-house resolution and the Assembly one-house bill are very supportive of SUNY. On the operating side, UB is seeing a commitment to close the TAP gap. The proposed budget also allocates funding for new full-time faculty as well as new state support for EOP, which provides academic support and financial assistance to students with financial need. In terms of capital, the budget looks promising for critical maintenance funding for new facilities and major renovations.

In other news from the spring semester, UB is delighted that four UB faculty members have been named to the SUNY Distinguished Professor ranks. They are Professor Lorraine Collins; Professor Luis Colón, Professor Steven Schwartzberg; and Professor Gil Wolfe.

### ***University Briefings: Report from the Provost***

Provost Weber began his report by sharing a few examples of the groundbreaking and federally supported research of UB faculty. This includes Paras Prasad, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Electrical Engineering, who has received a \$7.5 million, highly prestigious Department of Defense Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) award. This award will support a multidisciplinary team of scientists from several universities focused on developing new concepts for precision testing of important qualities of semiconductor chips. Jeffrey Lackner, Professor of Medicine, has received a \$3.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to lead a clinical trial focused on using cognitive behavior therapy to treat urologic chronic pain syndrome. Elizabeth Wohlfert, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, has received a \$2.5 million NIH grant to study the response of t-cells in Toxoplasma-infected muscles, which is key for understanding how to prevent rare negative outcomes from the parasitic infection. Three UB faculty members have also received CAREER Awards, the National Science Foundation's most significant awards in support of early-career faculty. In addition, UB faculty continue to receive national and international recognition that further demonstrates the importance of their work. Elizabeth Otto, Professor of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, is a 2021-22 Getty Scholar at the Getty Research Institute, a prestigious honor in support of her research on "Bauhaus under National Socialism." John Crassidis, Samuel P. Capen Chair Professor and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, received the Dirk Brouwer Award from the American Astronautical Society. And Margarita Dubocovich, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, is the recipient of the 2022 Julius Axelrod Award in Pharmacology from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. This prestigious award is presented for significant research and mentoring contributions.

Dr. Cropp noted that Professor Lackner has received previous major grants for his research and is highly regarded in his field.

***Report of the Student Representative***

Ms. Bennett began her report expressing a desire from graduate students to receive higher compensation and more competitive, livable wages for their work as graduate and teaching assistants, as well as higher wages for student employees of Campus Dining and Shops. Ms. Bennett also stated that the Student Association has expressed a desire to have access to more storage space.

**Adjournment**

Pursuant to New York State Public Officers' Law, Subsection 105, Chairman Jacobs made a motion to adjourn to executive session for a matter related to the employment history of an individual. Mr. Dandes seconded the motion which was approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:25 a.m.

A video recording of the entire meeting, including all presentations, can be found at this [link](#) on the UB Council website.

*Minutes approved at the June 13, 2022 meeting of the UB Council*