


University at Buffalo
Professional Staff Senate

Executive Committee Meeting
 Thursday, December 1, 2016
 2:30pm 567 Capen Hall

OFFICERS	
Domenic Licata	PRESENT
David Love	PRESENT
Sarah Piraino	EXCUSED
Joshua Wallace	PRESENT
AREA I	
Debra Stamm	ABSENT
Christine Stumm	PRESENT
Geraldine Kremer	PRESENT
AREA II	
Jennifer Lawrence	ABSENT
Ryan Taughrin	ABSENT
Susan Buttaccio	
AREA III	
Susan Ott	PRESENT
Tim Tryjankowski	PRESENT
Lisa Kulka	
AREA IV	
Chris Keough	PRESENT
Nora Renda	PRESENT
James Gordon	
AREA V	
Fran Fiscus	PRESENT
Kesha Lanier	PRESENT
Rachel Stern	
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
Philip Glick	ABSENT
James Corra	ABSENT

GUEST
Janiece Jankowski
Matt Deck
Mark Coldren
Maribeth Tamsen

PSS Executive Senator Meeting

December 1, 2016

2:35 pm

567 Capen Hall

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A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Susan and seconded by Nora. All in attendance approved the motion and it was carried.

Dom announced, to the group, that the meeting was being recorded and that it will be publicly available, upon request.

A motion to approve the November 2016 Minutes was made by Nora and seconded by Fran. All in attendance approved the motion.

Chair’s Report:

- Dom announced that the PSS Constitution and Bylaws Amendments were adopted by the General Membership via electronic voting. These amendments clarified some language, and Dom thanked all who participated in the “substantial overhaul!” I total of 164 ballots were cast and the results are as follows:

Constitution Amendment Vote:

Accepted – 145
Abstained – 7
Did Not Accept - 12

Bylaws Amendment Vote:

Accepted - 151
Did Not Accept - 13

- Dom welcomed the Chairs of the Faculty Senate and Council of Advocacy Leaders (COIL) to the meeting.
- Phil and Dom attended the Senior Leadership Retreat on November 16, 2016 where the topic was entitled: Achieving Operational Excellence.
 - At this retreat, they discussed new procedures and systems that will be coming to benefit staff (i.e. procurement; space) and the delineation between Department Responsibility versus University Responsibility.
- Dom stated that Laura Hubbard was scheduled to present at our upcoming membership meeting next Thursday. The Provost, has likewise, been invited to speak.
- Dom discussed the UB Fossil-Free Initiative and UB’s Impact Investment Committee
 - This consists of an active group of UB students who are looking to develop surveys to measure our willingness to promote sustainable investments
 - They plan to meet quarterly and we (PSS) might wish to play a role
- David and Dom met with Jay Roorbach from UB’s Emergency Preparedness Office and they have invited Jay to present to the General Membership Meeting in February 2017.

- Kesha suggested that a presentation by UBPD and Jay's group might be a good idea. They could discuss topics such as: weather alerts; power outage procedures; or medical outbreaks.
- The UB Alert System was discussed and it was reported that 14,000 faculty, staff, and students are currently registered to receive emergency texts. We discussed whether this should be an "opt out" program where everyone would automatically be enrolled and then "opt out" on their own.
 - It was discussed if PSS should endorse this charge and Tim Tryjankowski stated that while the idea is a good one, we would need to be sure that the "dead zones" on campus are addressed as some spaces cannot even receive cell phone connections.
 - Kesha mentioned that some folks don't have cell phones or must pay by the message or don't want to share their personal information.
 - It was discussed that a disclaimer could help put people at ease as it relates to the confidentiality of the program.
- The Adopt-a-Family Program is underway and the PSS has identified two families:
 - 1) Mom and 8-year old daughter
 - 2) Mom and Dad and 1 year old daughter
 - The deadline to contribute to these families in need is Friday, December 16, 2016.
- The Inclusion and Diversity Committee will be hosting their End-of-Semester Potluck on December 7, 2016 at 12:30 pm.
- Our next Executive Senator's Committee Meeting will be held on February 2, 2017

A motion was made to accept the Chair's Report by Tim and was seconded by Chris. All in attendance approved the motion.

Vice Chair's Report

- Nominations for SUNY Center Senators is December 14, 2016.
- Dom covered everything else

A motion was made to accept the Vice Chair's Report by Nora and was seconded by Chris. All in attendance approved the motion.

Old Business

None

New Business

- David discussed the proposed Electoral Area Reorganization initiative.
 - What problem are we trying to solve? We are trying to solve the problem of PSS
 - Engagement**
 - What is our intrinsic motivation?
 - How have we tried to increase engagement in PSS?
 - The proposal is to increase from 5 Areas to 22 Areas with the intent to align ourselves with established university organizational structures.
 - We discussed the Pros and Cons as follows:

- Pros: More room for participation and better identification of where “the holes are”
 - Cons: Will we have “quorum issues”; we will eliminate some seats at the table; ratio of 30:1 (PSS membership: Senator)
 - Janiece mentioned that this is a very important discussion and that the voices of the present senators are paramount (i.e. the Libraries will lose seats) and should be addressed at their meeting.
 - Kesha mentioned that maybe we don’t need 22 different areas, but rather organize by decanal units. Also, would the executive board also expand?
 - Matt mentioned that engagement needs to be addressed! He discussed the lack of Area Meetings and access to list serves as problematic.
- It was decided that an Exploratory Committee regarding this initiative should be established.
 - Tim Tryjankowski made the motion that in order to continue to build upon engagement for PSS we establish a reorganization sub-committee – asking for volunteers to assist. Kesha seconded the motion. Eight (8) of the attendees voted “yes” so the motion passed.
 - This exploratory committee will be discussed at the next General Membership meeting.
- **Guest Speaker**
 - Mark Coldren, Associate Vice President of Human Resources addressed the group regarding the following topics:
 - UB Edge (PSS could encourage staff to set up profiles as it’s a great repository of information that informs performance programs/evaluations, etc...) Leadership training was also discussed.
 - Professional Development Issues (i.e. Performance Programs, Pathways, and Opportunities for advancement)
 - Definition of the term “professional staff” was discussed including the new “exempt” rules and the importance of expanding our membership.
- **Minutes-taker**, Susan J. Ott, had to leave for another meeting at 4:45 pm and this meeting wrapped-up in her absence...