

# Meeting of the PSS Executive Committee

**April 6, 2017**

**567 Capen Hall, 2:30–4:30p.m.**



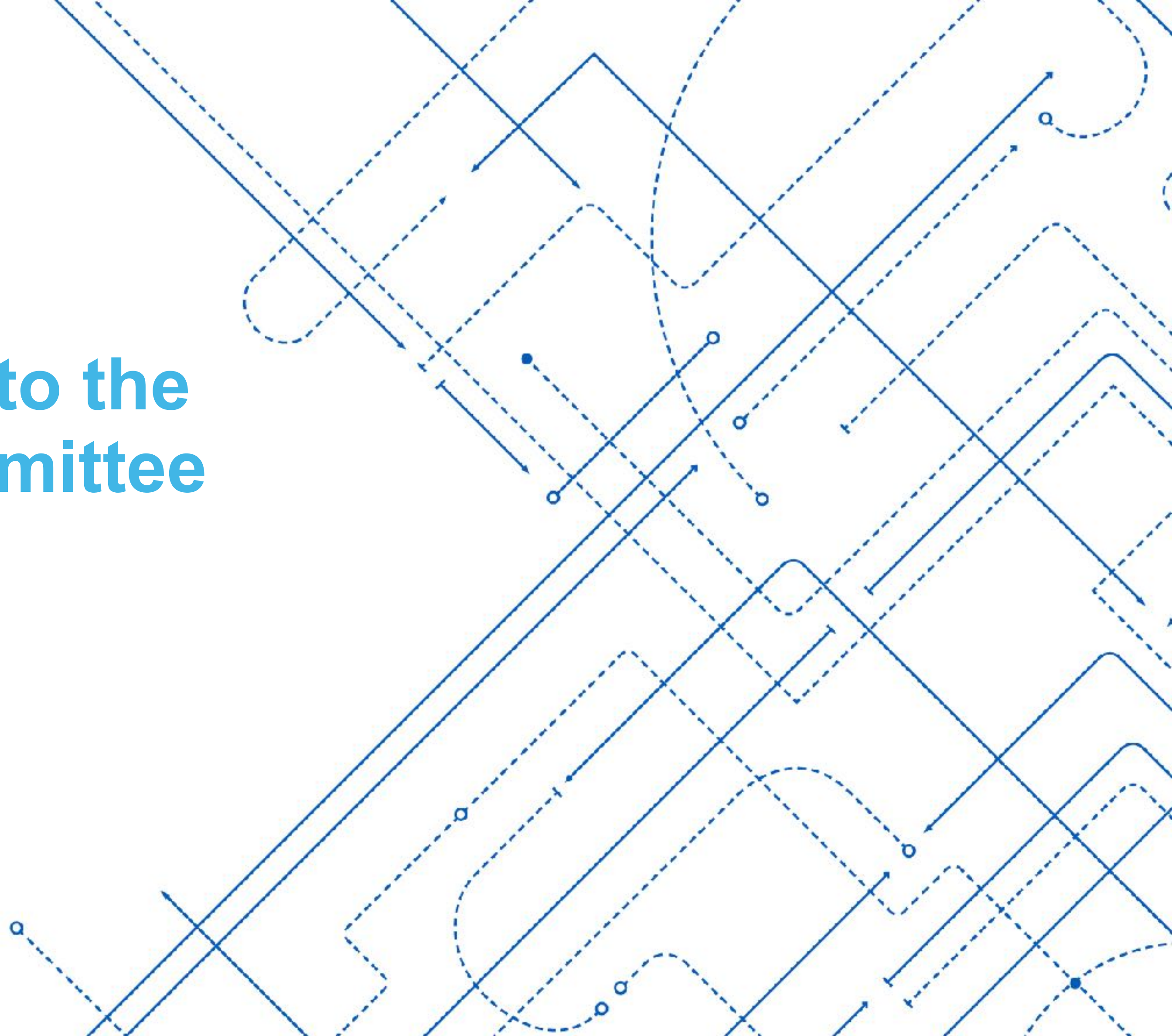
<b>2017-04-06 Professional Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting 2:30–4:30 p.m., 567 Capen</b>				
Time	Item	Leader	Links	Action Needed
<b>2:30–2:35PM</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	Dom		Call to Order
	Adoption of Agenda	Dom		Approval
	Approval of Minutes from 03/02/17	Dom	<a href="#">Link</a>	Approval
<b>Reports</b>				
<b>2:35–3:10PM</b>	Chair's Report	Dom		Receive
	Vice Chair's Report	David		Receive
<b>Unfinished Business</b>				
<b>New Business</b>				
<b>3:10–3:40</b>	Amendment to Approved Minutes from 02/02/16	Dom	<a href="#">Link</a>	Approval
	Discussion of Student Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment	Dom	<a href="#">Link</a>	Adopt or refer to committee
	Set agenda for Mar 16 Senate and GM meeting	Dom		
<b>Program</b>				
<b>3:40–4:30 PM</b>	<del>Tentative</del> —Informal discussion with student governance leaders			
<b>4:30PM</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>			

Items in **Red** are amendments added since the initial distribution of the agenda.

**Notice of Audio Recording:** All meetings of the PSS Senate and the Executive Committee are recorded and archived by the UB Office of University Shared Governance.



# Chair's Report to the Executive Committee



## UB Foundation, First Audit by SUNY Since Its Founding in 1962

- Audit began May 2016
- Noted concerns from some faculty, state legislators and SUNY trustees
- UBF includes six affiliate entities and has assets of more than \$1 billion, (largest in SUNY)
- Contributes more than \$100 million per year to university causes, or about 10 percent of the university's annual expenditures
- In 2013, Faculty Senate asked President Tripathi, to make information more available. Tripathi declined.
- In 2016, the UB chapter of the AAUP issued a report stating that the foundation spent nearly \$40 million paying university and foundation employees in 2013-14 and circulated a petition.
- In 2016, the UBF denied a request by the Faculty Senate [and PSS] to add a faculty member, a student and a professional staff employee to the board.

## UB Women in STEM Cooperative

3rd Annual Women in STEM Summit

Took place Wednesday, April 5, 2017



<http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/womeninstem>





## UB Sustainability: Earth Month



<http://www.buffalo.edu/sustainability/engagement/sustainability-month.html>

## State Budget Status

For the first time in six years, state budget was not approved on time.

UB is operating on an “Extended Budget”

Governor suggested that campus foundations could cover the cost of free tuition program.

Opportunities for advocacy against this are being explored.



## **Union immigration crack-down at Medical School**

Do UB policies and claims of “Safe Space” protections apply to Vendors and Contractors working on UB projects?

Phil Glick enquired with Jim Jarvis on the matter of who owns the building site. Jim checked with SUNY, who responded that SUNY legal was not available to consult with individual units, faculty, staff or students.

We have learned that SUNY owns the site.

Office of Shared Governance is still investigating. I have discussed the issue with UUP.

## **Provost's report to Faculty Senate, April 5**

8,000 people to attend accepted students day

Focusing on "yield enhancement"

Numbers look strong in international student acceptance but continuing worries about who will attend.

Canadian enrollment numbers up 30%

Unlikely to see an increase in tuition. Growth, therefore, relies on enrollment increase. Incoming freshman class size projected to remain the same for 2017.

# Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology

## Charge:

Conduct regular reviews of policies and practices of the university computing services, and other information resources and services including such matters as operational aspects, facilities, and general policies for future development.

Maintain continuous liaisons with the Chief Information Officer, the director of the educational communications center, and other appropriate university officers concerned with the development, integration, and administration of information resources.

Carry out such specific studies or investigations regarding informational resources as may be assigned to it by the executive committee.

## Roster:

Brice Bible (Ex Officio, UB CIO), Michael Cowen, Peter Elkin, Edward Fine, Philip Glick (Ex Officio, Chair, Faculty Senate), Richard Gronostajski, Damien Keane, Shiu-Ming Kuo, Xiuqian Mu, Valerie Nessel (Chair), Stephen Spaulding, Charles Syms



# Faculty Senate Committee on Information Technology

## Major Objectives:

- Advisory role to Chief Information Officer.
- Review of IT policies concerning such areas as privacy and security.
- Collect and analyze data related to IT initiatives

## Emerging Objectives:

- To act as a conduit between faculty, students, and technology (including the people who make technology happen)

## Potential Work Products:

- Faculty IT Survey

## **Athletics: Removal of Four Teams**

- UB Shared Governance not invited to participate in any discussions.
- Faculty Senator from Athletics, Jim Atwood, found out about the decision along with everyone else on Monday morning.

## UBreathe Free Now

Met March 29

CSEA and UUP leadership present

Commencement announcer will read PSA:

“The University at Buffalo is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable and safe environment for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. As a result, smoking is prohibited throughout the university, both indoors and outdoors. We kindly ask that you please refrain from smoking while on campus.”

Ken Dahlgren, from Roswell Park, expert policy writer, familiar with campus efforts nationwide. Will assist in helping us to craft a policy appropriate for our size.

- Encourages communication and culture change over fines



## Senator Attendance

We've pushed to increase our numbers, but we have immobilized ourselves by making it difficult to make quorum.

On several occasions we've needed to start late. In March we did not reach quorum.

We examined redistricting to address issues of involvement, and decided not to follow that path. Have always tried to err on the side of inclusivity.

My goal was to create value in holding a senate seat by reaching contested elections. That was not enough. We must build value by tackling interesting issues. I now suggest adhering to the bylaws on attendance issues.

## Senator Attendance: Suggested Email Announcement to be Issued

Jana Blaha
Anne Bouvier
Barbara Buckley
Susan Buttaccio
Shatorah Donovan
Lynn Emminger
Eileen Fleischmann
Lisa Kulka
Jenifer Lawrence
Alaska McInnis
Gloria Paveljack
Kimberly Popielski Kriz
Michelle Riggio
Maribeth Tamsen
Ryan Taughrin
Kevin Westling

In accordance with the PSS Bylaws, your attendance recd for the current year qualify you to be removed as a senator. We have not historically acted on this rule. Given that we are struggling to reach quorum, we are offering you the opportunity to contact us with your intention of remaining a senator. If you do remain, we will expect you to adhere to attendance requirements throughout the end of your term. If we do not hear from you within two weeks, you will be removed from the senate roster.

### Bylaws Article 3, Section E Attendance

- 1 If senators cannot attend a meeting of the Senate or of the general membership, it shall be their responsibility to notify their alternates that they need to attend.
- 2 It is the senator's (or their designated alternate's) responsibility to report their attendance to the Secretary at every meeting.
- 3 If both a senator and that senator's chosen alternate are absent from any two consecutive meetings, or three meetings all year (beginning July 1), that senator shall lose their seat in the Senate. The Executive Committee may move to reinstate the Senator.

## **2017 Awards Luncheon**

May 24, 12-2pm, Center for Tomorrow

Executive Committee Members asked to attend and assist with guiding the awardees.

Complementary lunch provided to Executive Committee members.

“Save the date” to go out soon.



## Upcoming

April 27, 2017, CFT

Senate and General Membership  
Meeting with President Tripathi

Officers' Chats with *Core Campus* TBD

*Academic Units, University*

*Support Services, and*

*University Administration*

Senate Area Meetings

TBD

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# Vice Chair's Report

**David Love**  
**Committee Activity**

## Inclusion and Diversity Committee

- Next conference planning meeting is 4/13 at 9am in Student Union 250
- Date and Location of the conference is June 20<sup>th</sup> in Kapoor Hall



- In the process of developing a monthly newsletter.

## Electronics and Clothing Recycling at UB

Sponsored by the PSS Sustainable Living Committee

**Thursday, April 27**  
**7:30am to 4:00pm**  
**Center for Tomorrow Parking Lot**

### Bring:

**Clothing, Computers, Monitors and Televisions, Networking Devices, UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supplies) and UPS batteries, Printers, Fax Machines, Scanners, Copiers, Duplicators, Plotters, Typewriters**

*All items used in the function of above devices (i.e. keyboards, mice, speakers, pointing devices, etc.)*

**CD/DVD/VHS/Blue-Ray Players, MP3 Players, Microwaves, iPods, Projectors, Stereos, Video Game Consoles, Speakers, Receivers (audio, cable, satellite), Recorders, Converter Boxes, Amplifiers, Equalizers, Cell Phones, Telephones, Pagers, Answering Machines, Lab/Test & Measurement Devices, Surge Protectors, Wire/Cabling, Computer parts & Laptop batteries**

**NO** liquids, bulbs/lamps, appliances, other batteries, lawn equipment

**Recycling services by Maven Industries and Hearts for the Homeless**

Please note that this collection is for PERSONAL items ONLY! Equipment which is property of the university should not be recycled at this event. Facilities has



## Sustainable Living Committee

- Recycling Event will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Center for Tomorrow Parking Lot.
- Many sustainability efforts ongoing, including a possible Apiary effort in conjunction with the UB Campus Garden Club.

## Policy and Governance Committee

- Next meeting is scheduled for 4/18 @ 8:30 at Tom's restaurant.

## Budget Oversight Committee

- The Committee met 4/5 and discussed a range of issues and continue to work to create a robust transparent budget process.
- During a review of minutes at the officers Staff meeting 3/31 we realized that while the executive committee approved the membership of the committee there was no official vote on the mission and charge of the Budget Oversight Committee.



# Unfinished Business

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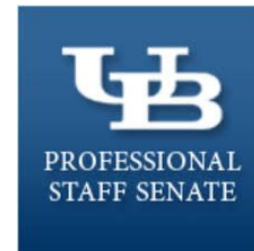


# New Business



# Fossil Free UB

Vanessa Dwyer,  
Fossil Free UB Organizer  
President of Environmental Network  
Student Association Senator  
SUNY Student Assembly



1617-01  
University at Buffalo Professional Staff Senate  
UB Office of University Shared Governance  
543 Capen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1601

**RESOLUTION 1617-01**  
**TO: Members of the Senate**

**FROM: Fossil Free UB**

**DATE: 19 March 2017**

**SUBJECT: SUNY University at Buffalo Endowment Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry**

## **Action Requested**

The Professional Staff Senate of UB calls for the UB Foundation to immediately freeze any new investment in the fossil fuel industry, divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years, and reinvest in clean energy and socially responsible alternatives.

## **Resolution**

**Whereas** the University at Buffalo (UB) Professional Staff Senate (PSS) may enact resolutions concerning issues of importance to the professional staff body in regards to governance of the university, and development of administrative policies and procedures.

**Whereas** for the purposes of this resolution, a “fossil fuel company” shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative’s “Unburnable Carbon” report;<sup>1</sup>

**Whereas** in its “Unburnable Carbon” report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> if burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of global warming;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/PB-unburnable-carbon-2013-wasted-capital-stranded-assets.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

# Fossil Free UB

**Whereas** global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by 50% since 1990 because of man made fossil fuel pollution;<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas** a portion of UB endowment is invested amongst the top 200 fossil fuel companies, the top 90 accounting for two thirds of global emissions;<sup>4</sup>

**Whereas** the investments managed by the UB Foundation have a market value of \$825.6 million as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015;<sup>5</sup>

**Whereas** the UB Foundation mission states that the foundation “plays a vital role in helping UB establish, enhance and expand its global reputation. We are proud to support and promote UB’s activities and programs by assisting in the acquisition of strategic assets, managing and providing resources, and providing an array of services for the UB community.”<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas** the UB mission states that the University is “dedicated to bringing the benefits of its research, scholarship and creative activity, and educational excellence to global and local communities in ways that impact and positively change the world”;<sup>7</sup>

**Whereas** investments in companies

- a) that are complicit in violence or violate human rights
- b) that violate workers’ rights and
- c) threaten environmental sustainability,

do not constitute socially responsible investments and fail to promote UB’s values;<sup>8</sup>

**Whereas** since 2010, U.S. solar capacity increased 418 percent and the industry is projected to exponentially grow by 2040 to \$3.7 trillion in global investments;<sup>9</sup>

**Whereas** as of March 2017, a total of over 58,000 individuals and 705 institutions representing \$5.46 trillion in assets worldwide have divested from fossil fuels;<sup>10</sup>

**Whereas** other universities in the north-east region of the U.S. such as Syracuse University,<sup>11</sup> UMass Amherst,<sup>12</sup> Yale University,<sup>13</sup> Unity College,<sup>14</sup> and Barnard College<sup>15</sup> have divested as an approach to addressing global climate change with systematic, comprehensive and scientifically informed policies;

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>.  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change>.  
<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ubfoundation.buffalo.edu/investments>.  
<sup>6</sup> <http://ub-foundation.org/what-we-do/our-mission/>.  
<sup>7</sup> <http://www.buffalo.edu/president/vision/mission-vision.html>.  
<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ussif.org/sribasics>.  
<sup>9</sup> <https://cleantechnica.com/2014/04/24/us-solar-energy-capacity-grew-an-astounding-418-from-2010-2014/>.  
<sup>10</sup> <https://gofossilfree.org/commitments/>.  
<sup>11</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/01/syracuse-university-to-divest-800m-endowment-from-fossil-fuels>.  
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/05/25/umass-system-divest-endowment-from-direct-holdings-fossil-fuels/mS8IfOUz43HhF2HAD3IEsm/story.htmlhttps://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/01/syracuse-university-to-divest-800m-endowment-from-fossil-fuels>.  
<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-12/yale-s-big-endowment-sells-less-than-10-million-in-fossil-fuels>.  
<sup>14</sup> <http://www.unity.edu/news/unity-college-reports-no-loss-fossil-fuel-divestment>.  
<sup>15</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-04/barnard-college-endowment-to-divest-from-climate-change-deniers>.



# Fossil Free UB

**Whereas** SUNY universities such as Brockport,<sup>16</sup> Plattsburgh,<sup>17</sup> Environmental Science and Forestry,<sup>18</sup> and Geneseo<sup>19</sup> have divestment campaigns;

**Whereas** on April 15th, 2016, the SUNY Student Assembly passed a resolution (57-7-2) calling on SUNY to fully divest from companies and interests that manufacture fossil fuels;<sup>20</sup>

**Whereas** on April 15th, 2016 the SUNY Student Assembly passed a resolution that supports S.5873/A.8011A (“Fossil Fuel Divestment Act”) in relation to limitations on investments of public pension funds.<sup>21</sup>

**Whereas** on November 27th, 2016, the UB Undergraduate Student Association passed a resolution (20-1-3) calling on the UBF to fully divest from the fossil fuel industry;

**Whereas** the University at Buffalo is a public institution, and currently has a total enrollment of 29,806 students, of which 9,855 are graduate students;<sup>22</sup>

**Whereas** the PSS believes that investments should support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming climate;

*Now be it further resolved that:*

- I. The Professional Staff Senate body calls for the UB Foundation to immediately freeze any new investments in the fossil fuel industry, divest from direct ownership and commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within five years, and reinvest in clean energy and socially responsible alternatives;
- II. PSS urges UB to invest in socially responsible investments and divest from the fossil fuel industry to continue the precedent of being a national and global leader;
- III. The UBF Board of Trustees will release quarterly updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment.
- IV. In following its mission statement, UB should show leadership by investing in companies that will lead us to a clean energy future.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2015/11/15/suny-students-vote-no-divestment/75782888/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.thunderclap.it/en/projects/34144-divest-plattsburgh>.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.esf.edu/communications/view.asp?newsID=3985>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cultural/Divest+Geneseo+Action+Project>.

<sup>20</sup> <http://sunysa.org/sunysa-resolution-archive/>.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> <http://admissions.buffalo.edu/experience/about-ub.php>.

# **Agenda for Upcoming Senate and General Membership Meeting**

Article V: Executive Committee of the Senate

Section C — Powers and Duties

4. Set the agenda for meetings of the Senate and general membership.

**April 27, 2017**

Program: President Satish Tripathi

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# Program:

## Discussion with Student Governance Leaders



# Adjournment

