



2015–2017 Report from the Chair

Prepared by Domenic J. Licata, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

May 9, 2017

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THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATE

Mission Statement

The Professional Staff Senate (PSS) represents the interests and concerns of the Professional Staff by promoting the general welfare of its members and of the university by:

- Actively participating in the policy decisions of the university.
- Providing a forum for exchange of information, discussion of ideas, and consideration of matters related to the administration of the university.
- Promoting the professional development of individuals committed to careers in higher education.
- Cultivating collegiality among all members of the University community.
- Maintaining liaisons with other organizations concerned with shared governance and university affairs.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Professional Staff Senate shall be a fact-finding, deliberative, and consultative body, with authority to make studies, reports, and recommendations on all governance matters which have a significant bearing on professional employees. The PSS shall operate, in accordance with the policies set forth by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, as a recognized part of the University's shared governance system, and shall, as appropriate, work jointly with others within the five pillars of shared governance: faculty, staff, students, administration and councils.

Officers

President: Satish K. Tripathi

Chair: Domenic J. Licata

Vice Chair: David Love

Secretary: Sarah Piraino

Parliamentarian: Joshua Wallace

Senators

Health Sciences (Area 1)

Jana Blaha
Kelli Bocock-Natale
Barbara Buckley
Fred Covelli
Matthew Deck
Thomas Dzimira
Lynn Emminger
Lin Feng
Geraldine Kremer**
Jaime Maerten-Rivera
Eileen McIlhagga
Debra Stamm*
Christine Stumm*
Kevin Westling

Core Campus Academic Units (Area 2)

Susan Buttaccio**
Shatorah Donovan
Eileen Fleischmann
Jenifer Lawrence*
Lauren McGowan
Gloria Paveljack
Kimberly Popielski Kriz
Michelle Riggio
Maribeth Tamsen
Ryan Taughrin*

Student Support Services (Area 3)

Rachel Blane
Chris Bragdon
Kristen Brill
Terri Budek
Don Erb
Kathleen Kielar

Holly Klick
Lisa Kulka**
Stefanie Lizauckas
Susan Mann Dolce
Alaska McInnis
Susan Ott*
Joseph Rizzo
Zachary Slaybaugh
Timothy Tryjankowski*
Michael Yates

University Support Services (Area 4)

Naciah Bell
Anne Bouvier
James Gordon**
Janiece Jankowski
Christopher Keough*
Mike McManaman
Nora Renda*
Pamela Rose
Eileen Sirianni
Lisa Stephens
Denise Wolfe

University Administration (Area 5)

Susan Bagdasarian
Fran Fiscus*
Erika Grande
Hugh Jarvis
Daniel Kelly
Kesha Lanier*
Douglas Levere
Donna Malecki
Rachel Stern**

* Executive Committee member

** Executive Committee alternate

Committees and Chairs

Awards: Ellen Dussourd and Letitia Thomas, Co-Chairs
Budget Oversight: Susan Ott, Chair
Constitution and Bylaws: Kimberly Krzemien, Chair
Continuous Improvement: Mike Maute, Chair
Elections: Kimberly Krzemien, Chair
Inclusion and Diversity: Chris Bragdon, Chair
Marketing and Communications: Katie Barnum, Chair
Mentoring: Ed Brodka, Chair
Policy and Governance: Joe Helfer, Chair
Staff Development and Engagement: Ed Brodka, Chair (pending)
 Social & Networking Subcommittee: Holly Klick, Chair
 Welcoming Subcommittee: Darla Maffei, Chair
Sustainable Living: Janiece Jankowski, Chair
 Alternative Transportation Subcommittee: Jim Gordon, Chair
 Plant Exchange Subcommittee: Donna Banach, Chair
Website: Jason Parker, Chair

General Membership

As defined in the Constitution of the Professional Staff, the General Membership is composed of non-academic, *exempt* employees in State, UB Foundation, Research Foundation and Faculty-Student Association lines.

The general membership participates in shared governance practices by (including but not limited to) electing senators to the Professional Staff Senate; serving on committees of the PSS, UB Faculty Senate and other university committees; and by consulting with faculty, administration, governing boards, and the student assembly to aid in the development of policies and decisions that affect the University.

STATEMENT OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

“Shared governance is the foundation of higher education in the United States.” —AFT, NEA

Shared Governance is the name commonly given to the collaborative processes by which the faculty, staff, students, administration and councils (the Five Pillars of Shared Governance) express and exercise their governance authority and responsibilities in support of the University at Buffalo. Shared governance is a distribution of authority to various campus and system constituencies based upon law and its mandates and the degree to which each is engaged in that particular area of institutional governance.

Participatory governance must be a process as well as a goal. It requires an ongoing commitment from all, in order to be achieved. Campus governance members must make use of many strategies to listen to, inform, and involve their constituents. College and campus presidents and other administrators responsible for the management of their institutions recognize that the health and vigor of the college or university depend fundamentally upon the vitality, creativity, intelligence, and commitment of academic and professional staff.

Campus Governance Leaders Group

The UB Campus Governance Leaders group (CGL) serves as a linkage between the shared governance bodies on campus including but not limited to — the Faculty Senate, the Professional Staff Senate, the Student Assemblies, UUP (Buffalo Center and Health Sciences Chapters), CSEA, PEF, GSEU and UB Police PBA.

Charge: To disseminate information among the existing governance groups to improve communication, collaboration, and completion of shared goals.

Among our shared interests:

- support of the academic mission of the university
- support of the professional development of all employees of UB
- maintaining a safe environment for working and learning at UB

Co-Chairs of the CGL Group: Chairs of the Professional Staff Senate and Faculty Senate

At large member of the CGL Group: President of the University

Ratification

Approved by the Members of the CGL July 30, 2015

Pending approval of President Tripathi

Resolutions of the Professional Staff Senate, 2015–2017

2015-10-26 — Resolution to rename as “UB Offices of University Shared Governance: Faculty Senate and Professional Staff Senate”

2015-11-05 — Resolution on Greening the Commons

2016-02-08 — Declaration of “University of Buffalo Day of Shared Governance” (Revised February 2017)

2016-03-24 — Resolution to Endorse SUNY University Faculty Senate Resolutions 172-01-1 [Implementation of Preferred Name and Gender Identity Applications on Registration, Email, ID cards, and other Identification Systems] and 172-02-1 [Recommending the SUNY Wide Implementation of Gender Inclusive Spaces]

2016-05-12 — Resolution to Endorse Freedom of Expression Statement for the University at Buffalo

2017-05 — Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment (Approved by the Executive Committee, pending full senate approval September 2017)

2017-05 — Resolution on Tree Planting and Landscaping (in-progress)

2015/2017 PSS Activity

2015

- Inclusive and Transparent Fiscal Planning Process
- Annual Potluck BBQ Lunch
- Sustainable Living Fair
- Shared Governance Continuing Education Seminar: Sharon Cramer, Robert's Rules
- Shared Governance Continuing Education Seminar: Brian White, Drafting Resolutions
- New Employee Welcome Reception
- Workshop: Using LinkedIn as a Career Success Tool
- Narrated Tour of Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus
- End of Semester Potluck

2016

- Shared Governance Continuing Education Seminar: Drucy Borowitz, Efficient Meetings
- Shared Governance Day
- Spring Educational Advisory Workshop
- Earth Week Celebration Luncheon with UB Sustainability and Dr. Sherri Mason
- Electronics and Clothing Recycling Event
- Annual Awards Luncheon
- Biannual Staff Development Conference
- Dessert Social
- PSS Website Redesign CMS Launch

2017

- Shared Governance Day
- Shared Governance Continuing Education Seminar: Robin Sullivan, and others, Social Media
- Electronics and Clothing Recycling Event
- Annual Awards Luncheon
- First Biannual Inclusion and Diversity Conference: *Knowing, Being, Doing* (June)

Appendix I: Amendments to Article I of the Constitution Of The Professional Staff

ARTICLE I: NAME AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. This body shall be known as the Professional Staff of University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.
2. Representation of the Professional Staff shall be administered within the Office of University Shared Governance.
3. The general membership elect officers and senators to the Professional Staff Senate (PSS); nominates and elects in conjunction with the Faculty Senate, representatives from the professional staff or the faculty, senators to the SUNY University Faculty Senate; and proposes and considers for approval amendments to the *Constitution of the Professional Staff*, *Bylaws of the Professional Staff Senate* and the *Code of Ethics of the Professional Staff*.
4. The general membership participates in shared governance practices by (including but not limited to) electing senators; serving on committees of the PSS, UB Faculty Senate and other university committees; and by consulting with faculty, administration, governing boards, and the student assembly to aid in the development of policies and decisions that affect the University.
5. All other rights and responsibilities of the general membership shall be discharged through the elected Professional Staff Senate.
6. The Professional Staff Senate shall be a fact-finding, deliberative, and consultative body, with authority to make studies, reports, and recommendations on all governance matters which have a significant bearing on professional employees. The PSS shall operate, in accordance with the policies set forth by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, as a recognized part of the University's shared governance system, and shall, as appropriate, work jointly with others within the five pillars of shared governance: faculty, staff, students, administration and councils.
7. To promote the general welfare of its members and of the University, the Professional Staff Senate shall:
 - a. Actively participate in the policy decisions of the University.
 - b. Provide a forum for exchange of information, discussion of ideas, and consideration of matters related to the administration of the University.
 - c. Promote the professional development of individuals committed to careers in higher education.
 - d. Cultivate collegiality among all members of the University community.
 - e. Maintain liaison with other organizations concerned with shared governance and University affairs.

Revised — November 28, 2016

Pending approval of President Tripathi

Complete copies of the Constitution and Bylaws can be found at buffalo.edu/pss/about-us/found_doc.html

Appendix II: 2015–2017 Resolutions of the Professional Staff Senate