

Drive to 25 Resolution

Approved by the Professional Staff Senate Executive Committee, February 11, 2021

Approved by the Professional Staff Senate, February 25, 2021

Whereas, University at Buffalo (UB) President Satish Tripathi, in his 2020 state of the university address, envisioned that the priority of UB will be to rise to a top 25 rank in nationally regarded publications such as the US News and World Report: Ranking of US public research institutions;

Whereas, the address was given and accepted as a report to the university community and further accepted as the President's report by the University Council;

Whereas, the metrics highlighted as "areas to improve upon" in those rankings included national and international award recognitions of faculty, retention of students, increase in research activity and growth of student enrollment;

Whereas, the UB Professional Staff Senate (PSS) was established on July 30, 1971, thus marking the 50th Anniversary of the UB Professional Staff Senate on July 30, 2021;

Whereas, the PSS was established by proclamation of President Robert L. Ketter and the PSS Constitution ratified in 1972, defining the purpose of the Senate to **"seek an active role for the professional staff in the governance of the University; provide advice and counsel in administrative matters, and assist in the development of administrative policies and procedures"**;

and Whereas, many of these ranking factors (including those we currently score highly in) will involve direct and indirect input, and support from the highly educated, dedicated and talented professional employees of UB, as stated in the PSS charter;

now, therefore be it Resolved, that the professional staff of the University at Buffalo commit to working to enhance the global reputation of UB by:



University at Buffalo

Professional Staff Senate

University Shared Governance

- Continuing to provide exemplary professional service to all research endeavors
- Continuously calling on University leadership to divest from UB investments in fossil fuels
- Prioritizing excellence of service to student experiences and academic offerings
- Promoting initiatives to diversify to UB community at every level, to increase representation from historically underrepresented groups and bring new perspective while continuing to grow a global community
- Influencing campus decision making as it relates to sustainability issues and issues of campus beautification and assisting in planning and supporting all UB campus beautification initiatives
- Promoting participation in larger sustainability initiatives to promote awareness throughout the UB community (for example, see the UB sustainability calendar <http://www.buffalo.edu/sustainability/keyinitiatives/sustainability-month.html>)
- Promoting awareness and education through various modes of delivery including social media, videos, and events sponsored through the PSS and other campus groups
- Continuing to impact and influence university policies that promote a robust system of physical, mental and emotional well-being of students, faculty and staff by the most robust means across our campus community
- Striving to offer exceptional service to students, parents, faculty, researchers and all UB community members so as to increase satisfaction, recruitment and retention outcomes through careful planning and assessment of services in student advising, community engagement, employee professional development, alumni relations, outreach to UB professional staff retirees, all in order to create life-long learners, educators and service providers as full time members of our extended UB community. All of these efforts will foster our collective aim to improve undergraduate four-year and six-year graduation rates by extending additional support to at risk students starting their freshman year, providing a clear pathway to graduation
- Identifying and taking active steps to eliminate any gaps in student retention initiatives and graduation rates that may be influenced by race, ethnicity, gender, first-generation status, disability status, and veteran status

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We look to continue to nominate members of the Professional Staff Senate to serve as active members of campus committees and hiring search committees to promote a diverse work force that best reflects the diversity of our students and of us all...in areas of race, religion, and gender... as diversity and awareness of social and societal issues can in some part be addressed through the lens of diverse staff leading to a more represented and thus comfortable student body.

In stating our commitment to these standards as well as offering professional flexibility to solve unforeseen challenges as they materialize, such as remote learning and instruction with the myriad of support services and technologies necessary behind the scenes to allow for faculty and students thrive, based on the efforts and expertise of all UB professionals,

We submit this resolution to UB President Tripathi, his administrative cabinet and the UB Council on this the 2nd day of March 2021, our annual Shared Governance Day, and be it further resolved that members of the PSS look forward to working with campus and community partners at every occurrence as it relates to our shared goal of achieving a top 25 national public university ranking for the University at Buffalo.