



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
September 9, 2020
Zoom Hall

Attendance: Attached

All proceedings of the meeting was recorded and uploaded on UB Box.

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dr Robert Miletich at 3.00pm

Agenda: The agenda was accepted unanimously.

Secretary's report: Minutes of 6/12/2020 was approved and accepted unanimously. The Secretary reminded everyone that during the year ahead there would be a number of positions that needed to be filled and requested that the Senators participate in the process by taking up the positions or figuring out good candidates for the posts. In addition, she mentioned that senators from all decanal units needed to be filled and a reminder would be sent out in October.

President's report: President Tripathi spoke of the unprecedented times we are experiencing, which is also today's global experience. The University is committed to keeping the campus and associated sites safe. To make the University a safe place, he mentioned that each of us must adhere to the University health protocols in place and risk expulsion if one is not compliant. He said that the updated student conduct policy reflects necessary compliance with UBS health and safety guidelines. The University is working with the community leadership groups and local officials such as the Police Department. UB has established a screening protocol spearheaded by Dean Cain, which includes daily health check, on campus testing for antibodies as well as PCR testing for asymptomatic students, random pool surveillance and confidential phone lines for students that test positive for the virus. Another currently ongoing dialogue is on race & racism, and diversity, inclusion and social justice. The President informed the FSEC of the formation of the President's advisory council comprised of Faculty, staff, students and alumni to address issues of race and culture at UB, and guide and shape the university's programs, policies, activities and traditions. The council will inform how UB can harness its tripartite mission of education, research and engagement to battle racism and dismantle structural barriers

to equality. The committee has been working on Faculty, staff and student hiring, recruitment, admission, retention, graduation curriculum, teaching and community engagement and relations. There have been discussions at the Town-hall meetings arranged to address these issues. He stated that “More than ever before, UB should serve as a bastion of hope and a community of action compelled by the greater good.” UB will remove the names Millard Fillmore, James O. Putnam and Peter B. Porter from four locations on campus, a decision that aligns with the university’s commitment to fight systemic racism and create a welcoming environment for all.

Effective immediately:

- Putnam Way on the North Campus will be renamed Mary Talbert Way in honor of the Buffalo civil rights pioneer.
- Millard Fillmore Academic Center, which is part of the Ellicott Complex and houses academic departments, student residences and other services, will be known as Academic Center until a new name is determined.
- The former Putnam’s Marketplace Eatery in the Student Union will be known as Union Marketplace & Eatery.
- Porter Quadrangle, a residence hall in Ellicott, will be renamed at a later date.

Provost report: Provost Weber welcomed everyone back on campus and gave an insight into what is today’s UB normal. UB welcomed 4200 freshmen. However, due to COVID19 campus density is reduced by about 30%. About 40% of the faculty were teaching completely online. Occupancy of residence halls is reduced by 48%. There is a quarantine plan in place. 29 students are in isolation. 63 have been deemed positive on campus including 2 employees. The good news being so far there have been no serious cases. The daily cases of COVID19 are being recorded. If more than 100 cases are recorded in 2 weeks the University will move completely online for two weeks.

Michael Cain, Chair, Screening, Testing, Contact Tracing Protocol Committee, Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences presented the COVID19 testing measures in place.

As part of the university’s ongoing and evolving efforts to help protect students, faculty and staff from the spread of the coronavirus, UB is conducting randomized COVID-19 surveillance testing of students, faculty and staff. By testing large numbers of people on campus who do not have COVID-19 symptoms, valuable insights will be obtained into asymptomatic

but individuals with infection, which will help us reduce transmission of COVID-19 within the UB community. Periodic, randomized, surveillance *testing* of a representative sample of asymptomatic students, faculty and staff provides an important metric of changes in *prevalence* of COVID-19 within the UB *community*. Saliva sample aliquots (from 12 individuals) are being pooled and subjected to PCR with 2-3 days turnaround time for the results. If positive, then the stored samples are individually tested to trace the positive individual.

Approved by the New York State Department of Health for use by all SUNY institutions, this simple and non-invasive testing procedure checks for the presence of the virus using saliva samples pooled in batches. The Screening, Testing, and Contact Tracing Protocol Committee has recommended use of this approach at the present time. Surveillance testing will focus on three groups:

- Students residing in campus housing.
- Students in nearby privately owned, multi-resident apartment complexes, as well as students in the Buffalo area taking in-person classes during the fall semester.
- Faculty and staff.

Individuals who do not have on-campus, in-person interactions are also subject to random testing.

Sewage testing has also begun to determine community prevalence. The cases are beginning to show a downward trend since the last 4 days. Everyone needs to continue best practices – masking, social distancing and hand washing. Further information is available on the [COVID-19: UB Planning and Response website](#).

Chairs report: Dr. Miletich spoke of the university efforts in the face of the pandemic. He stated that Buffalo Center UUP is co-sponsoring a Zoom session by Howard Bunsis on September 11 at 3pm to discuss the Bunsis report on UB's finances.

It was suggested that the Bunsis report and subsequent responses be uploaded onto UB Box.

The Chair introduced 2 new members: Dr. Gronostajski as Parliamentarian and Ms. Jessica Neish as the administrative assistant in the Office of Shared Governance.

Faculty Senate orientation: Dr. Miletich gave the new senators an orientation. The slides are uploaded on UB Box.

Business item: Dr. Basaran presented the SUNY no confidence resolution. The SUNY Board of Trustees bypassed a traditional nationwide search to name Jim Malatras a longtime close aide to Cuomo as the new State University of New York Chancellor. The SUNY Faculty Senate, SUNY Faculty Council of Community College and SUNY Student Assembly passed a joint resolution of no confidence in the political appointees serving on the Board of Trustees. The FSEC voted in favor of the resolution with 86% approval – 19 yay:1 nay: 2 abstain.

FS meeting: The Agenda for the FS meeting next week was accepted and approved.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4.20 pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate,
September, 2020.

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
3:00-4:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Bob Miletich - X
SECRETARY: Jessy Alexander - X
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Richard Gronostajski -X
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING: Unknown
ARTS & SCIENCES: Michael Cowen - X Ken Dauber - X
DENTAL MEDICINE: Othman Shibly - X
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER: Michael Baugh - X
ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES: Paschalis Alexandridis - X Adly Fam - X
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: Janina Brutt-Griffler - X
LAW: Matthew Dimick - X
MANAGEMENT: Michael Dambra - X
MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: Anna Blumenal-Perry - X Channa Kolb - X E. Brooke Lerner - X
NURSING: Sharon Hewner - X

PHARMACY:

Marilyn Morris - X

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Albert Vexler - X

SOCIAL WORK:

Laura Lewis - X

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

Alison Fraser - X

SUNY SENATORS:

Cemal Basaran - X

Philip Glick - X

Fred Stoss

R.J. Multari - X

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

Satish Tripathi - X

PROVOST OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

A. Scott Weber - X

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATE:

Tim Tryjankowski - X

COUNCIL OF ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP (COAL):

Mike Montoro - X

INVITED GUESTS:

Michael Cain - X

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Naish

Gail Reino

Eileen Sherman