



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting  
April 8, 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.

**Minutes** Minutes of FSEC meeting, 4/1/2020 was approved and accepted unanimously.

**President's report:**

President Tripathi said that the operating budget and the capital budget is flat this year. However, one should be aware that the State could adjust the budget during the year. All SUNY fellowships also remain the same.

Five UB faculty members have been named SUNY Distinguished Professors, the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system. M. Laura Feltri, Jo Freudenheim, Amit Goyal, Elad Levy and Stephen Tiffany were appointed to the distinguished professor ranks by the SUNY Board of Trustees at its meeting on March 17. The number of UB faculty who have received this honor since 2007 has reached 80 which is a great honor for the campus.

The President thanked the Faculty for the smooth transition to the online instruction in this new normal.

**Provost:** The Provost echoed Dr Tripathi congratulating the Faculty, UBIT and the Center for Education for providing and enabling instruction in this extraordinary climate. However, he said that based on surveys and communication with students, it is understood that students miss being on campus and the University remains committed to delivering and maintaining the aspirations of UB, continuing to deliver courses and address related challenges as they arise in the current climate.

The Provost reminded the Faculty that as a public research university UB was focusing attention on the challenges that the faculty, research staff, postdocs, and graduate students are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 disruption. He has formed a Research and Graduate Education Task Force led by Vice President for Research and Economic Development Venu Govindaraju and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School Graham Hammill. The Provost had communicated this earlier through email to the Faculty. Excerpts from the email: “This task force will be charged with delivering recommendations by May 8, 2020 on issues that include:

- Ensuring that research and scholarship across the university continues to the greatest extent possible while safeguarding the health of the campus community
- Understanding the impacts on maintaining laboratory research if we experience a prolonged restriction to research facilities
- Sustaining future research and scholarship opportunities by facilitating and helping faculty maintain successful grant and fellowship applications
- Preparing TAs to balance instruction in this new environment with the need to maintain progress on their research and dissertations
- Considering opportunities for maintaining retention and completion in graduate degree programs
- Understanding and mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 situation on the future careers of graduate students and postdocs when there are likely to be hiring pauses across the economy, including in higher education
- Understanding the unique needs of international students and providing accommodations to the best of our ability

Now more than ever, it is critical for faculty, postdocs and graduate students to utilize available technology to maintain close working relationships so that, as a campus community, we can continue the significant progress we have made in increasing grant applications, scholarly productivity, clinical care, and research impact. Even in the face of the current challenges, I know that we all share the goal of sustaining this strong research momentum by reopening our research facilities and reengaging in our scholarship as soon as possible. We will do so but must maintain our first priority, which is to protect the health and well-being of all members of the campus community. I look forward to the recommendations of the Research and Graduate

Education Task Force to insure that we do everything we can to meet your needs.”

The Tenure & Promotions and the PRB were continuing to work remotely and it was moving forward smoothly with the PRB doing a tremendous job. Out of the 93 cases on the table this year only 10 were left to be addressed.

New students were given/will be given virtual tours of the campus. Although UB is rearing to get back to what was normal, we need to be sensitive to the current climate and social needs.

### **Chair’s report:**

The Chair spoke of COVID19 and the uncertainties.

**Parliamentarian:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** All presentations are on UB Box.

1. ***UB Budget 2020-2021 & Budget Process:*** Laura Hubbard, the Vice President for Finance and Provost Scott Weber presented the UB Budget 2020-2021 & Budget Process. This presentation was made to the Deans and VPs earlier in December and is on UB Box. They reminded the Senate of UBs visions and goals and presented the paths that were defined to achieve them. They defined how the University progress was measured, and then spoke of UBs rankings, the retention rates of students and Faculty in UB, Federally funded research in UB and Awards conferred on the Faculty. The presentation included (a) the operating budget of 2019-2020, (b) budget model and funding priorities, (c) Financial capacity and (d) future meeting topics.

2. ***Elsevier negotiations:*** Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, Vice Provost for University Libraries gave the Senate an update on the outcome of the SUNY-Elsevier/*ScienceDirect* contract negotiations. Vice Provost had sent out an email earlier which speaks to the presentation and is attached here:

“As you may know, when our most recent contract expired on December 31, 2019, an agreement had yet to be reached between the SUNY system and Elsevier, and the contract was extended through March 31, 2020.

The SUNY negotiations team made great efforts to reach an agreement to maintain the prior level of access; however, it was determined that it was in the best interest of SUNY to cancel the prior agreement and negotiate for a smaller collection of key Elsevier titles.

This new three-year agreement, with the most needed and most valued titles, is now in place. More detail, including links to the core titles, can be found in the [Libraries News Center](#). I've also attached to this email the April 1, 2020 SUNY memorandum announcing the agreement. I would like to thank those who participated in the information sessions last fall for your valuable insights.

In other positive news, last week HathiTrust Digital Library opened up [emergency temporary access](#) to copyrighted material in their digital library for member institutions with copies of those items in their physical collections. More than half of UB's book collection is contained in HathiTrust's online collection. HathiTrust's Emergency Temporary Access Service (ETAS) allows UB students, faculty, and staff to have online reading access to materials that are currently unavailable in our library print collections. "

**3. Course Evaluations & COVID-19:** C Van Zile-Tamsen, Assistant Vice Provost for Educational Effectiveness spoke about the course evaluations in the COVID19 normal. She stated that the spring 2020 course evaluations would be conducted to capture student feedback but would not be used in future faculty tenure and promotion processes. The data would be accrued to better understand the impact of remote instruction on student learning and the student educational experience but would not be aggregated with the historical course evaluation data.

**Executive session:** None

**New business:**

1. Course Piracy Resolution, FSAPG: Phil Glick, past FS Chair presented the resolution for protecting intellectual property and calling to prevent students "from selling to others or uploading to external commercial websites

lecture notes they have prepared in connection with a course, without the written permission of the instructor." The resolution was passed unanimously to be sent to the Academic grading committee for further deliberations.

2. *FS agenda*: The FS agenda for the 4/14/2020 meeting was presented by the FS Chair, Robert Miletich and passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** None

**Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at 4.00 pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, April 2020