



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting  
September 23, 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:**

*U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg* lost her life on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Dubbed by Acting SUNY Board of Trustees Chair Merryll H. Tisch, as “an opera-loving rock star” U.S. Justice Ginsburg received a SUNY honorary degree from and in UB. President Tripathi reminded us there were a few firsts on that occasion. It was the first day (of the academic year), for the university community. It was the first campus visit by a justice of the Supreme Court and the first time a Supreme Court justice has received a SUNY honorary degree.”

To quote then SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, Justice Ginsburg was a lifelong advocate for gender equality and women’s rights, and was always in pursuit of social justice. She wrote for the majority in the landmark 7-1 Supreme Court decision striking down the longstanding male-only admissions policy of the Virginia Military Institute, found the policy to violate the Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law”.

She taught us: (1) to give a voice to your passion and that (2) its never too late to mark your footsteps on the sands of time. She entered the Supreme Court at the age of 61 and her actions thereafter made sure she will never be forgotten. A moment of silence was maintained to remember her.

*Elections:* 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.

*Task Force on Safeguarding University and Faculty Assets and Interests:* The Secretary reminded the Senate that there would be a Town Hall on Wednesday, September 30 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to discuss the findings of the Task Force on Safeguarding University and Faculty Assets and Interests. The draft report of the Task Force findings is available in [UB Box](#).

*Adeline Fagan*, MD, a graduate of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Class of 2019, died Sept. 19 due to COVID-19 complications leaving family, friends, teachers and colleagues grappling with the loss. She was 28.

The Secretary thanked the University Administration spearheaded by Provost Weber and Dean Cain and the UUP under the leadership of Dr. Phil Glick for the vigilance and care being taken to keep the University safe in this time of the COVID19 pandemic yet doing the necessary to help the University in its forward trajectory.

The minutes of the 9/16/20 FSEC meeting was approved and accepted unanimously.

**President's report:** None

**Provost report:**

Provost Weber welcomed The Center for Diversity Innovation's inaugural class of Distinguished Visiting Scholars, Waverly Duck, Terri Watson, John Major Eason, Mishuana Goeman, Victoria Udondian, Patricia A. Matthew, Vanessa M. Holden, Nicholas K. Githuku, Eli Clare. These scholars would bring real mentorship opportunities for UB students. UB is dedicated to enhancing its social impact and addressing issues related to structural racism and an equity through its curriculum. The Provost reiterated that one of his top priorities is to focus on UB's research and hiring and retention practices and to at least double the number of underrepresented minority faculty in the next five years.

- Three University at Buffalo researchers have received the National Science Foundation's CAREER award, one of the nation's most prestigious honors for early-career scientists and engineers. UB's 2020 recipients are Margarete Jadamec, PhD, in UB's Department of Geology and the Institute for Computational and Data Sciences; Huamin Li, PhD, in UB's Department of Electrical Engineering; and Ann-Marie Torregrossa, PhD, in UB's Department of Psychology.
- Tamara Thornton, Professor, who is a professor of history received the highly prestigious American Antiquarian Society National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for "Globes and the Global Imagination in America: A Study in People, Ideas, and Objects."
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke awarded a five-year, \$2,224,925 grant to Jian Feng, professor of physiology and biophysics in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB.
- And interdisciplinary team of researchers affiliated with us Renew Institute have received at \$1.9 million grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to improve plastic recycling process and policy.

- In conclusion, the Provost together with President Tripathi and Vice President Hubbard acknowledged the resolution passed at last week's Faculty Senate meeting. He reiterated that they remain committed to an open dialogue with the Faculty Senate, which would only be successful if all the parties work collaboratively and respectfully with each other. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has a critical role in ensuring that the committees of the Faculty Senate including the budget priorities committee function with integrity and dealings with the administration. In a similar manner, the Provost and Laura Hubbard would work closely to provide information that was asked regarding the University's finances within the boundaries of what is available and reasonable.

**Chairs report:**

Obituary: The Chair read the names of the colleagues lost during the summer:

- *Rossmann F. Giese* Professor emeritus in the Department of Geology,  
*Susan Bennett* Pioneer in rehabilitation practices for people with MS.  
*Amol S. Lele*, MD, Clinical associate professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology.
- *John C.G. Boot* Past chair of the Department of Management Science and Systems in the School of Management.
- *Linda Lohr* University Libraries staff member and curator of the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection in the Health Sciences Library.
- *Murray Levine* SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Psychology and a longtime UB faculty member who in the 1960s helped launch the emerging field of community psychology,
- Dr. Miletich requested a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

The Chair requested the senators to join the committees and serve as liaison for the Senate.

Presentations:

**COVID19 UB committees:** Dr Shibley gave an overview and context for the work by the committees. The presentation is uploaded on UB Box.

**Budget presentation:** Vice President, Laura Hubbard helped the Senators navigate information regarding the budget, financial and analysis information through the Administrative Services Gateway landing page.

**Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 4.18 pm.

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

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 23, 2020**  
**3:00-4:30 p.m.**

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

**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 - X

R.J. Multari - X

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:**

Satish Tripathi -

**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:**

Laura Hubbard - X

Robert Shibley - X

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jessica Naish - X

Gail Reino - X

Eileen Sherman - X

Robert Granfield - X

**PHONE ATTENDEES:**

(716) 390-3509