



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2022

Online by Zoom

Attendance: Pages 9-12

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The chair, Fred Stoss, called the meeting to order at 3:01pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda: The agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: The chair will report on the results of the poll about the day/time of the FS and FSEC meetings. Kristin Stapleton was voted in to fill the SUNY senate seat. The minutes of the previous FSEC meeting were approved unanimously.

President's report: no report

Provost's report: I wanted to thank the faculty for their hard work over the last year to continue to enhance UB. UB continues to perform exceptionally well on several of the United Nations sustainable development goals, and according to the fourth edition of the Times Higher Education impact rankings, UB is ranked number two in the US, number eight amongst 674 colleges and universities globally in taking urgent action to combat climate change. UB also ranked number one in the US in good health and well-being, which measures research on key diseases and conditions, support for healthcare professions, and the health of students and staff. In addition, UB was recently ranked number five nationally in the EPA's Green Power partnership top 30 colleges and university rankings and ratings. And UB Climate Action Plan to achieve climate neutrality within the next decade, which we launched in 2020 on the 50th anniversary Earth Day, was key to UB's continuing efforts to be an international leader in sustainability efforts. This has been a long-standing commitment since Walter Simpson, who was instrumental in starting it, and we've continued that work most recently with Ryan McPherson more broadly across the campus.



We have a new National Endowment for the Humanities grant, a \$100,000 grant toward the design of a new James Joyce museum. UB holds the largest and most comprehensive collection of manuscripts and works by and about the renowned Irish author. The museum will increase public access, given that we have a lot of scholars who come to UB, as well as folks just interested in James Joyce. This will enable the collection to have a larger and more impactful role in the university and our wider community. The plan would be to expand part of the Abbot library. Abbott was of course very instrumental in the original acquisition of the collection.

I have reported several times to you on the President's Advisory Council on Race. We are nearing the final edition of the report. We had three town halls this semester, and I am really pleased to share that the implementation committee has submitted its final report, which will be shared with the campus community this month, and posted on the Provost's website. Obviously, this was a community-wide effort. We had 140 people directly involved, and many more participated in the town halls and added comments. I am really grateful to the faculty, staff, and students who work so diligently toward the goal of a more diverse, equitable, just, and inclusive campus community, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and all the campus to pursue our goals.

Finally, I wanted to report back on something that was asked of me. Steve Fliesler, SUNY distinguished professor in Ophthalmology, asked a question about raises for advancement to the rank of SUNY DP title. I just want to report back to this group that I did an evaluation, and determined that his concerns were legitimate and have been addressed. I wanted to share that I am appreciative that he brought them forward, and brought this to my attention. We are now addressing the concerns he raised, which were found to be again legitimate and appropriate to bring forward so we thank him and the forum was helpful to do that.

Chair's report: The full report is uploaded on UB Box. It includes a necrology report, with a list of faculty members who have passed away in the past few months, and links to their biographies which highlight some of the tremendous achievements of these faculty:

Isabel Marcus, School of Law
Frederic J. Fleron Jr., Political Science
Jorge J. E. Gracia, Philosophy
Yow-Wu Bill Wu, School of Nursing
Amy J. Vilz, UB Associate Librarian



Peter P. Ekeh, African American Studies

Rossman F. Giese Jr., Geology

Susan Bennett, Rehabilitation Science

John C.G. Boot, School of Management, Sciences and Systems

Linda A. Lohr, University Libraries staff

Murray Levine, Psychology

Peter F. Regan III, Psychiatry

Piyare Lal Jain, Physics

Charles Garton, Classics

Norman Severo, Statistics

Robert Corretore, Family Practice

Rodney L. Doran, School of Education

Rocco C. Venuto, Department of Medicine

Edward J. Massaro, Biochemistry

I also would like to report that we were able to make some substantial increases in the last fall semester on the rosters of our standing committees. But I pointed out in my report that we still have some vacancies: we have one committee that needs members, the Research and Creativity Committee, and the Tenure, Promotion and Privileges committee needs a chair. I also extend my thanks to the Executive Committee for their work and diligence.

Parliamentarian's report: no report

Items of interest

Motivating faculty participation (F Stoss): I would like to have an open discussion on what can we do to motivate our faculty in general about their participation to things related to the Faculty Senate. It's more than just including people to serve on the Executive Committee or as senators, but getting our faculty more actively involved with our standing committee structure, our ad hoc committees, etc. We have taken, I think, one great step in this direction by establishing an ad hoc committee that is going to work on an institutional review of our Senate. I would appreciate if anybody has any comments on what could be done, and how we can foster a dialogue on this.

M Jameson: I wanted to suggest that we revive a practice that was in place long ago but seems to have fallen by the wayside. In our FSEC meetings,



we have administrators come and give presentations. But it would be better if we had them come on the day when the relevant standing committee or ad hoc committee is in place. The committee presumably has interacted with the pertinent administrators/officers (say, if it was the Budget Priorities Committee, then it would be presumably the Vice President for Administration and Finance), so that the committee chair and the officer are there at the FSEC meeting together, and there's a frank exchange of concerns and views. It seems to me that in this way the actual concerns of the faculty are brought in an expert way, in a prepared way, to the officer. And we don't get a slide-show, but a real exchange. I think faculty would feel more excited about that than about watching slides.

F Stoss: I know that at least one of our committees has met in conjunction with the office that has oversight of that particular issue or area, and I thought that it was a very useful exchange with them, with a lot of mutual agreement on things. So that's a point that can be very well taken, and we have to examine how this how this can be facilitated.

A Kandel: I think it is a problem with marketing. The Faculty Senate does a really good job, but many people are not aware of the good things that happen through this senate. To give you an example, before I even thought about joining, I was not aware of all the shared governance related issues. If we can have a marketing campaign, where we advertise what we do, why shared governance is so important for faculty, that would be one of the ways to solve the problem.

B Prinari: Amid is certainly right about marketing. Many faculty members don't know what goes on in the Faculty Senate. I know we are all inundated by emails, but at other institutions there is much more regular reporting from the Faculty Senate, and in particular from the chair, to the voting faculty (e.g., monthly emails to all the voting faculty about the important issues that are going on). Kristin has instituted something similar in CAS: the CAS faculty senators that are members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee have been sending monthly reports to the faculty in CAS, and that helps. The faculty don't know what goes on, because we don't tell them. When we tell them, then there is a response (see for instance what happened with the academic calendar change proposal a couple of weeks ago: once we informed them, we received emails from many faculty members wanting to weigh in). Even though we been doing this regular reporting in CAS for over a semester, there doesn't seem to be a significant increase of involvement in faculty senate matters. I believe efforts have to be made to communicate to the faculty what the Senate does much more regularly than we've been doing so far, but it is going to take time before we see any improvement.



Unfinished business

Meeting days/times poll results: The results of the poll regarding the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting times are uploaded on UBbox. 104 responses were received for the 3 questions, distributed as indicated below.

Q1. My preference is for the FS and FSEC to meet on:

Tuesday 47

Wednesday 43

No opinion 31

Q2. Please indicate the times you are/could be available for both FS and FSEC Meetings on Tuesday:

12:00pm - 1:30pm 32

1:00pm - 2:30pm 37

2:00pm - 3:30pm 41

3:00pm - 4:30pm 54

None of the above 17

Q3. Please indicate the times you are/could be available for both FS and FSEC Meetings on Wednesday:

12:00pm - 1:30pm 29

1:00pm - 2:30pm 35

2:00pm - 3:30pm 43

3:00pm - 4:30pm 54

None of the above 22

The most voted day was Tuesday, and the most voted time slot 3-4:30pm.

F Stoss: There was an overwhelming response that people would like to see that the meetings remain at the 3-4:30pm time slot, but the number of people voting for Tuesday and Wednesday does not give a clear mandate. I have a feeling that the people who may have responded to voting for this were the current slate of members of the Faculty Senate, because that number is very close to the number of responses that we received. Which may go back to some of the comments that were just made about marketing and getting



people involved. That could be one of the reasons why we have such a low response rate, which I think was around 5%.

B Prinari: What to do is pretty clear to me. There is no big difference between the number of people who voted for Tuesday and those who indicated they would prefer Wednesday (47 vs 43). However, all the people that are in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee are also in the Faculty Senate, and therefore they have to be available on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Conversely, the people that are only in the Faculty Senate, but not in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, only committed to be available on Tuesdays 3-4:30pm. We have to hold the meetings on Tuesday 3-4:30pm, especially considering that that is the highest voted anyway.

P Alexandridis (chat): The number of FS members serving on the EC is rather small. All FS members currently meet on Tuesdays. The large number indicating preference for Wed meetings suggests that most FS members prefer Wed over Tuesday.

M Dambra (chat): Agree with Barbara

R.J. Multari (chat): People have arranged their Fall teaching schedule around both FS and FSEC meetings based on past practices.

B Prinari (chat): Yes. And those who are on the Senate are already committed for Tue, so we cannot change that this late in the semester.

P Alexandridis (chat): How about the decision for FS and FSEC to meet on the same day? For me the vote is for Wednesday

B Prinari: The FSEC already voted a resolution that they will meet on the same day, and that shouldn't be questioned. We just have to decide which day, and to me there's absolutely no question that it should be Tuesday, precisely because those in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee already have the Tuesday *and* Wednesday time slots available, because they are supposed to be present in both. Those that are only in the Senate might have teaching commitments on Wednesdays, so we cannot move the meetings to Wednesday. If we want to make such a change, we would have to discuss it way ahead of time, and announce it to the faculty for future academic years (after 2022-23), so they can arrange their teaching schedules accordingly.

M Jameson (chat): I agree with Barbara

F Stoss: We should also keep in mind that there are efforts that are going to be taking place to change the entire academic calendar to incorporate a small fall break, to perhaps change the scheduling for the winter term, and for changing the start and ending dates of both fall and spring semesters. If that does take place, it might be appropriate to stay with the current day/time for the meetings.



K Stapleton: I would like to propose a resolution to have all the Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings next year on Tuesday, 3-4:30pm.

Resolution to have all the Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings on Tuesdays, 3-4:30pm: 17 eligible to vote, 15 voted. The resolution passed with 80% yes, 20% no.

SUNY FS election results: Kristin Stapleton will be our new university faculty senate representative senator. CAS Dean has already been notified.

New business

Approval of 4/19 Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda: The agenda uploaded on UBbox was approved. One of the presentations might be moved to the first meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in the fall.

M Jameson: This will be the annual meeting of the voting faculty, to which all voting faculty are invited. If we will be taking any vote at this meeting, we have to clarify who can vote.

F Stoss: The only resolutions that we would have to vote on are endorsements of the resolutions at the SUNY plenary. We can preface the vote by saying: only those members of the Faculty Senate can vote.

B Prinari: What about the virtual meeting resolution. It is on first reading at the FS, but I was under the impression that we were going to ask to suspend the rules to vote on it.

J Baugh: The virtual meetings pertain only to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, so the faculty doesn't even really need to concern itself with this.

F Stoss: Our first FSEC meeting will be in person anyway, we can have the vote at the first FSEC in the fall.

B Prinari: If I can abuse of Provost Weber's time for a couple of minutes, there is one thing that I would like to bring up. The Provost wasn't here when this issue was raised. At this point, his office should have received the request from the chair of the Budget Priorities Committee about the number of funded TAs and the expenditures in TA allocations at UB before and after the PhD Excellence Initiative. We looked at the number of TAs at UB and at all the other public AAU institutions for 2020-21 as provided in the IPEDS. The ratio of TAs per faculty at UB is in the bottom third of the public AAU institutions, and the reduction in the number of TA lines university-wide that



followed the PhD Excellence Initiative seems to have had an impact on this. It's been extremely difficult to get the information. I was told that we had to set up a meeting with the Office of Institutional Analysis. We had the meeting last week, and at the end of the meeting we were told that the request should have gone to the Provost. I hope that in the fall we can have an update, and a discussion within the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Provost Weber: We are pulling the data right now, so definitely can have the conversation in the fall.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4:02pm.

Submitted by Barbara Prinari, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Senate, May 15, 2022.



Executive Committee Meeting Attendance
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR:

Fred Stoss - ✓

SECRETARY:

Barbara Prinari (interim) - ✓

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Nicholas Chibuikem Ogam - ✓

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:

Hiro Hata -

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES:

Michael Cowen -

Maureen Jameson - ✓

Barbara Prinari - ✓

Kristin Stapleton - ✓

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Othman Shibly -

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER:

Michael Baugh - ✓

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

Paschalis Alexandridis - ✓

Marina Tsianou - ✓



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Tiffany Karalis-Noel - ✓

LAW:

Matthew Steilen - ✓

MANAGEMENT:

Michael Dambra - ✓

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

Anna Blumental-Perry - ✓

Channa Kolb -

E. Brooke Lerner -

Michael Morales -

NURSING:

Jennifer Livingston - ✓

PHARMACY:

Marilyn Morris - ✓

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Albert Vexler -

SOCIAL WORK:

Annahita Ball -

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

John Beatty - ✓

SUNY SENATORS:

Cemal Basaran - ✓



Amit Kandel - ✓
Patrick Long -
R.J. Multari - ✓
Ken Seldeen (alternate) -

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

Satish Tripathi -

PROVOST OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

A. Scott Weber - ✓

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATE:

Tim Tryjankowski - ✓

COUNCIL OF ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP (COAL):

Brianna Bennett -

INVITED GUESTS:

Joanne McLaughlin -
Kara Saunders -
Joshua Sticht -

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP:

Robert Granfield - ✓
Graham Hammill -
William McDonnell -
Eileen Sherman - ✓

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Naish - ✓
Bob Miletich - ✓
Phil Glick - ✓



University at Buffalo

Faculty Senate

University Shared Governance

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