



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
April 14, 2021
Zoom Hall

Attendance: Attached

The recordings of the April 14 meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The Chair Dr. Robert Miletich called the meeting to order at 3.00pm

Agenda: Accepted unanimously.

Secretary's report:

The Secretary presented the minutes of April 7, 2021 meeting. A correction was suggested regarding the name of the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence at the University at Buffalo. With that correction, the minutes was approved unanimously.

President's report: President Tripathi was not present.

Provost's report

COVID19 vaccinations: The Provost shared an update on COVID19 vaccinations. UB continues to have a low positivity rate (0.25% compared to 4.2% in Erie county). SUNY Upstate Medical Ctr testing facility that opened in Farber has increased the testing speed and capacity.

Student vaccinations: With J & J vaccines on hold, student vaccinations remain on hold.

Fall semester: UB is optimistic regarding the safe conduct of the Fall semester. 82% of the Fall courses have been scheduled in person and 18% online.

Academic year: The student registration for the forthcoming academic year remains an evolving landscape. There continues to be a strong interest by new students to attend UB. 65% of the Freshman students with deposits are test optional. However, international student population remain a concern. The Dean's are discussing options to continue delivery of virtual courses.

Budget update: The budget picture remains positive with no permanent reduction or budget cuts and the 5% cut restored. There will be a three year plan to reduce the tap (tuition assistance program) CAP, which for UB is 10 million dollars annually. EOP and educational opportunity center funding is increased. UI programs are restored in this budget cycle that includes programs such as Empire hires, with salary increase negotiations being authorized soon. The streamlined academic review process and tuition flexibility was not included in the budget.

Parliamentarian report: None

Chairs report: Chairs report is uploaded on UB Box.

Obituary:

Dr. Kondai L. Parthasarathy, former associate chief of the nuclear medicine department at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, died April 4 in Buffalo General Medical Center after a lengthy struggle with heart disease. He was 81. He will be missed.

A few moments of silence was maintained in memory of Dr Parthas.

Presentations:

Jean Wactawski-Wende, an internationally recognized epidemiologist and the principal investigator of UB's Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Center presented her work on the most common causes of death, disability and poor quality of life in post-menopausal women including the hormonal study that showed that hormonal therapy actually caused negative events.

Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School spoke about potential changes to the learning management systems (LMS), the blackboard that is currently in use at UB. SUNY is moving from Blackboard to the Brightspace system, the learning-management system created by Desire 2 Learn (D2L). Blackboard and Brightspace are comparable in quality, efficiency and user satisfaction. UB is at a juncture where it needs to make a LMS choice. A committee will be charged to review the different LMS, Blackboard, Brightspace and Canvas, to engage with students and faculty as to their LMS experiences and finally make recommendations.

New or Unfinished Business:

Student stress in relation to the pandemic: Michael Cowen presented a proposal by the academic policy and grading committee. He spoke of the ongoing discussions regarding student wellness days without violating the accreditation standards for Federal and State credit hour requirements and the financial aid regulations. The suggestion presented was that individual faculty review their course plans and decide what measures could be taken towards this goal while preserving learning outcomes. Some suggestions include: relaxing penalty for exam retake, offering to eliminate the lowest test score, conduct surveys to understand the student concerns, opinions and potential possibilities in the class etc. The motion to accept the proposal to consider student stress level reduction methods, was brought to the table and seconded. The student representatives Justin Wolfgang and Michael Montero thanked the Faculty Senate. The motion passed with a voting tally: 14 for: 2 against: 3 abstain.

Communication between Faculty Senate members: E. Brooke Learner brought to the attention of the FSEC that having gone virtual, it was difficult to have discussions among the senators and to get to know each other in the Senate. A discussion ensued regarding the Roberts Rules, pros and cons of using emails etc.

FS agenda: The FS agenda for the coming week was presented and passed.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, April, 2021.



Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
3:00-4:30 p.m.

CHAIR: Bob Miletich - X
SECRETARY: Jessy Alexander - X
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Richard Gronostajski - X
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING: Hiro Hata - X
ARTS & SCIENCES: Michael Cowen - X Ken Dauber – X Barbara Prinari - X Maureen Jameson – 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 - E. Brooke Lerner - X

NURSING:

Jennifer Livingston - 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 -

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:

Graham Hammill - X

Jean Wactawski-Wende - X

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Naish - X

Eileen Sherman -

Robert Granfield - X

Ann Bisantz - X

Kara Saunders - X

Krista Hanypsiak Krause - X

Austin Wolfgang - X

Grant Ashley - X