



**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2022.  
Zoom Hall**

**Attendance:**

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The Chair, Fred Stoss called the Meeting to order at 3.00pm.

**Agenda:** Agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

**Secretary's report:** The secretary reminded everyone that the FS secretary position was falling vacant at the end of the academic year and the invite for nominations is still open.

The minutes of the previous meeting was approved unanimously.

**President's report:** The President relayed the exciting news that Governor Hochul has designated UB as a flagship University of the SUNY system underscoring UB as a premier public university. It positions UB to make an even more profound impact on the communities it serves. It will also enable UB to attract and retain the very best faculty and students, secure competitive federal research funding and catalyze growth and innovation across business and industry. He thanked the faculty for upholding the mission of excellence.

Governor Hochul has approved funding for the new Engineering building through a two to one state to campus capital matching program. With the exponential growth of enrollment in UBs engineering programs, a new state of the art academic building for the students has been one of the Presidents foremost priorities. It will be located near existing engineering buildings on the North campus.

UB has also received funding to innovate and improve the campus infrastructure, which will enable the relocation of the graduate school of education to the south campus. This move will also allow UB to further collaborations with Community partners and improve educational outcomes.

The one world CAFÉ opened on the first day of the Semester and students have been flocking to it. There is no dining right now, but once the dining options become available it will become an even more popular destination for the entire university community.

The US Air Force research lab has selected researchers in UB School of Engineering and Applied sciences, to lead a \$5 million research study to improve the nation's ability to track and monitor escape spacecraft.

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical sciences has secured a \$2.3 million grant from the NIH, to help prevent life threatening drug interactions. A 750 K grant from the US Department of Agriculture was secured by the faculty in the school of public health and health professions to expand access to locally grown and produced food in underserved communities.

Fred Stoss thanked the President and opened the floor for questions.

In response to the questions regarding: (a) what will Gov Hochul's rethinking SUNY mean for UB, and (b) when the governor lifts the mask mandate for businesses, has UB received any timeline for similar move?

The President responded that Gov Hochul has talked about differentiating UB and Stony brook to more research oriented flagship campuses providing more flexibility and hopefully more resources to achieve some of the goals. In her State of the State address she spoke about coming up with plans in increasing enrollment in SUNY. The question is: Can campuses really differentiate themselves, so that they can attract more students. The second question is the mask mandate, which is just for businesses right now. The schools are still required to have the mask and nothing will really change for UB, at the moment. UB will keep the Faculty, students and staff updated.

In response to updates on funding for the health science centers and the medical centers-

The President responded that the operating budget remains the same with no cuts; secondly the tap gap that was supposed to be eliminated in 5 years ie., 4 years from now, the Governor is eliminating it this year. Based on this, there will be \$53 million for the SUNY system faculty, although how much of that money will be allocated to each institution remains to be seen.

For the health sciences: the governor has allocated 10 billion for healthcare, which includes money for bonuses for health care workers. The School of engineering building is a 104 million dollar project for which the State will be

paying 68 million, we have to raise the rest of the money from philanthropic and other sources.

**Provost's report:**

The Provost, Scott Weber informed the Senate that UB had launched the COACHE (Collaborative on academic careers in higher education) survey. He encouraged the faculty to respond to the survey especially since the survey is designed to improve faculty recruitment, retention, work life & quality, and to provide UB with valuable feedback and benchmarking data.

The middle states re-accreditation will take place in the academic year of 23/24. The last time UB had accreditation visit by the by the middle states Commission on higher education was in 2014. The institutional responsibility is to provide evidence that UB is in compliance with middle states accreditation standards and document that we have in place, institutional self-improvement processes. That involves ongoing assessment planning and organizing self-study efforts. The self-study was recently launched and is being overseen by an executive committee and steering committee that includes 117 participants in addition to the Faculty senate professional staff senate chairs. There are representatives from appropriate faculty senate standing committees on the self-study teams and steering committee. The FS will be updated as to the progress by the committees.

**Chair's report:** The report has been uploaded on UB Box.

**Items of interest:**

***Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs:*** Bob Granfield, the Vice Provost along with Tilman Baumstark gave insights into the COACHE survey. He thanked Barbara Prinari, Brooke Learner, Lisa Stevens and Fred Stoss for their participation on the internal preparation committee to create customized questions for COACHE. COACHE survey is used by over 300 universities across the country, and this is UB's fifth time to participate. It is an opportunity to receive faculty input and to let the faculty voice be heard on a host of issues related to faculty life. The COACHE gives insights as to UB's current status and what the future holds for the next several months.

Tilman Baumstark, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs continued detailing the survey. COACHE survey was launched following the endorsement letter by the Provost, Vice Provost and Senate Chair. All full time faculty will receive an invite to complete the survey. A landing page has been created for COACHE. The page will give updates, response rates, additional information that comes out of COACHE, and questions regarding the anonymity and the confidentiality of the survey. There is a COACHE implementation team consisting of senators, administrators that are related to faculty support from across different units and the different offices. All of them are contacts and hopefully can speak to the benefits of coache and help answer questions. Following data collection, the data will be analyzed. The results of 2017 are presented, along with what has been done with the results and how they have helped initiate different policies, initiatives and programming. In 2017 for the first time non-tenure track faculty in the qualified ranks were included in the survey. The presentation ended by reiterating that all full time faculty which is 75% FT and above should participate in the survey as it really is an opportunity to express their thoughts about a range of issues related to Faculty life in the university.

***Distinguished ranks:*** Steven Fleischler quoted the SUNY policies & procedures on distinguished ranks: “your appointment is a promotion that carries 10 year and rank if it has not already been attained and the salary increase of up to \$5,000 in addition to any negotiated general salary increase. Such increases will be funded from the campus budget through the normal process for funding promotions, the increases built into the salary base of the appointee and it must be included in campus budgets of ensuing years.” This is a mandated policy from the SUNY Board of Trustees in formal written policy with no language that would allow for deviation from the policy, such as to not increase the base salary of anyone who has attained the distinguished rank. He brought to the attention of the FSEC that in UB there is no policy that instructs the administrators in the different schools and colleges about what the level of compensation increase to base salary should be. There are faculty who have received the distinguished rank that have never received base pay increase which should be corrected as a matter of equity in salary since some faculty get \$5,000 while others do not. This needs to be remedied, and a reasonable policy established to make sure the SUNY policies are followed. Provost Weber responded that he

would consult all the Deans and ask them what their policies have been to get a better understanding of this issue.

***PhD Stipends Resolution:*** Barbara Prinari briefly reminded the FSEC of a resolution that was passed by the Senate in 2021 urging the administration to support the increase in graduate stipends without having to cut the number of lines. In 2018, it was decided that PhD stipends would be at least \$20,000 bringing UB to the level of other peer institutions. There was only temporary funding from the University to support this increase, after which the colleges were on their own to find the necessary financial resources. The College of arts and sciences (CAS), the largest unit on campus with funded teaching assistantship, in 2018/2019 had 631 funded PhD students, the average stipend was below \$20,000 and the total expenditures for stipends was about 11.5 million. In 2021/2022, two years later, CAS had a 28.7% cut (minus 192 lines) and only 450 funded PhD students remain with a stipend above the 20,000 and the total expenditures for stipends decreased by over \$3 million. She asked for information as to what was happening across the university landscape, not just the CAS. She commended the President on the raise of PhD stipends but requested the President and the Provost to engage in a discussion to understand how the PhD lines could be maintained. Graham Hammill responded that the Provost is committed to centrally fund comprehensive fees for full time fully, funded students. The students who received those fee payments this past year are 1389 PhD students across the campus and of those 559 are in the college. The College has made cuts to the number of PhD students, but on looking back over about 10 years the trend is that the college significantly increased the number of PhD students around 2010/2011. However, over the past probably four years there's been a decline in the enrollment in PhD students in the college while other schools have grown enrollment with PhD students in engineering probably showing the most growth. None of the other schools have shrunk enrollment or if it is shrinking its marginal. If you look at projected enrollment it is largely based on faculty hiring and research expenditures. At the program level, UB is one of the few institutions that pays fees across all full time, fully funded PhD students. Othman Shibly added that in the dental school, fees are through grant funding. Due to loss in funding, the dental school lost the PhD American students.

Fred Stoss tabled the discussion and suggested an executive session at one of our faculty senate executive committee meetings.

**SUNY Plenary:** RJ Multari gave an overview of the winter 2022 faculty senate plenary that occurred in mid-January. The provost in charge went over enrollments, marketing information, the new micro credential space, the general education implementation and the system wide switch from Blackboard to Bright space. The presentation slides and plenary resolutions are on UB Box.

The Chair stated that there were two resolutions passed at the plenary that the FSEC had to endorse so that they can be presented at FS for 2 readings. The first resolution was by the equity inclusion and diversity committee with regard to the successful implementation of the SUNY general education including diversity equity, inclusion and social justice.

In response to a question on whether the vote was for endorsement or for putting it on the FS agenda, The Chair responded that once it was endorsed it automatically goes on the agenda. It is that the FSEC feels it is good enough to go on the FS agenda for the two readings and vote in that body. Poll results: 79% voted yes 11% no and 11% abstained.

The second resolution was also from the equity inclusion and diversity Committee, calling for the advancement of historically underrepresented faculty.

The results of the poll are 78% yes 6% no and 17% abstain.

The presentations of the resolutions was added to the FS agenda.

The next was a point of information: It is a resolution that was passed by the faculty Council of Community colleges regarding searches for chancellor's and Upper administration positions.

Phil Glick pointed out that both the President of the university faculty Senate and the President of the FCC have no voting rights on the board of trustees, and this has to be addressed at the plenary.

**New business:**

The agenda for the Faculty senate meeting was presented and passed unanimously.

**Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, February 2022.



**University at Buffalo**  
**Faculty Senate**  
University Shared Governance

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 9, 2022  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

**CHAIR:**

Fred Stoss - ✓

**SECRETARY:**

Jessy Alexander - ✓

**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:**


**UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP:**

Robert Granfield - ✓

Graham Hammill - ✓

William McDonnell -

Eileen Sherman - ✓

Tilman Baumstark - ✓

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jessica Naish - ✓

Bob Miletich - ✓

Phil Glick - ✓

Steven Fliesler - ✓