



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2022
Online by Zoom

Attendance: (Jessica attaches to the report)

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

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

Agenda: The agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: A call for nominations for one University Faculty Senate (SUNY-WIDE) seat was sent out on Monday. The call is for non-Health Sciences faculty and professional staff. One nomination has been received so far, the nomination period will remain open for 2 weeks. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Parliamentarian's report: no report

President's report: no report

Provost's report: Remarks focused on some recent faculty awards.

Paras Prasad, SUNY distinguished professor of Chemistry, Physics, Medicine and Electrical Engineering, received a \$7.5 million highly prestigious Department of Defense Missouri grant to support a multi-disciplinary team of scientists from several universities focused on developing new concepts for precision testing of important qualities of semiconductor chips.

Jeffrey Lackner, professor of Medicine, has received a \$3.3 million grant from the NIH to lead a clinical trial focused on using cognitive behavior therapy to treat neurologic chronic pain syndrome.

Elizabeth Wohlfert, assistant professor of Microbiology and Immunology, received a \$2.5 million NIH grant to study the response of T-cells and toxoplasma infected muscles, which are key to understanding how to prevent rare negative outcomes from parasitic infections.

Three UB faculty members in the departments of Materials, Design and Innovation, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Computer Science

and Engineering have received CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation. These awards will support research and understanding attitudes toward racial inequality using large scale social media data, advancing high power electronics to clean energy technologies through ultra-wide band-gap semiconductors, and improving building installation through predictive multi-phase modeling.

Elizabeth Otto, professor of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, is a 2021-22 Getty scholar at the Getty Research Institute. This is a prestigious honor in support of her research on national socialism.

John Crassidis, Samuel P Capen Chair Professor and SUNY distinguished professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, received the Dirk Brouwer award from the American Astronautical Society. This is the society's highest honor for technical contributions.

Margarita Dubocovich, SUNY distinguished professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, is the recipient of the 2022 Julius Axelrod award in Pharmacology from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, awarded for significant research and mentoring contributions.

F Stoss: is there any update in terms of the Covid infection rate?

Provost: We've seen a little a little bounce, probably to the levels of October/November. Now that home testing has become much more prevalent, people aren't always reporting. Many universities have even stopped reporting data. But we are always staying very vigilant in this process, and so far I think we're doing well.

B Prinari: I have a question about the pre-travel authorization forms that I brought up a couple of weeks ago before the break. We were notified a few days ago in CAS that now we only need the supervisor's signature, no longer the Dean's signature. There was no pre-travel authorization requirement before Covid, it was instituted as a consequence of the NYS travel advisory in relation to the pandemic. Now that travel has become again more normal, faculty are asking if this additional requirement is ever going to go away.

Provost: I am not sure where we'll end up on that. At some level, it is pretty good practice to have pre-approval to travel without trying to make it too onerous. We'd like to know where our faculty are for safety reasons. But I think right now we are moving in that direction and will continue to obviously consider that.

Chair's report: Uploaded on UB Box. The chair invited all attending the meeting to go back to their constituents and departments and remind colleagues to fill out the COACHE survey.

K Stapleton: When are we going to determine when the meetings are going to be held next year. Elections are going on in CAS right now, and it's important that people know when they need to commit time for meetings next year.

F Stoss: We have a survey ready, to ask whether the meetings should be on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, and whether the time should remain the same or whether we should change the time. We can send that out quickly to all of the faculty, get a response back, and hopefully make the announcement at the April or May senate meeting.

B Prinari: We need to discuss the options on this survey. The reason why it hasn't been sent out yet is because people have different opinions about the time slots to propose. We will have to have a discussion so that we are all on board, at least in the senate executive committee, on what exactly we are going to ask in the survey.

F Stoss: We need to determine when we feel that we can get the greatest participation with the least amount of disruption to class time. If we have time at the end of the meeting we can talk about it. Otherwise, we will put it on the agenda for next week.

Items of interest

Article publication costs: VP Evviva Weinraub Lajoie and Christopher Hollister discussed article processing charges and open access options and fees for scholarly publications, and provided updates on events going on in the university libraries, and on the Teach Anywhere initiative. The full presentation is uploaded on UBbox.

K Stapleton: I am on the FS Library committee, and unfortunately the committee has not met since you became the vice-provost of the university libraries. I think this is an important collaboration, and I will try to step up and make sure that next year the committee will be functional. I also wanted to ask a question on behalf of a colleague in the History department, if indeed the libraries are deaccessioning and actually throwing out lots of microfilm that is still very useful to historians. Is there a process for consulting faculty about materials that they might find useful?

VP Lajoie: I cannot speak specifically about the objects or items that your colleague is talking about. We do deaccession items that are low use or are no longer valuable for our collection. We are not a collection of record, which means that we are not under any obligation, or should we be under any obligation to keep objects in our collection in perpetuity. The liaisons should be working directly with faculty to confirm about our deaccessioning process.

B Lerner: Are there resources available to help faculty navigate open access publications and avoid predatory journals, especially as we decide which faculty open publications to support and which not to?

C Hollister: The first line of defense against predatory publishing is always the librarian who is assigned to your school and department. If that person needs assistance in helping to identify what is and what is not an authoritative source of information, then Jonathan Grunert and I are always there to assist as well.

P Alexandridis: My first question is whose decision is it whether the libraries deal with a business or not. By cancelling contracts, obviously you save some money, because you used to pay fees for subscription and you no longer do. So the second question is whether the library could pay something for the purposes of APCs as it would help UB faculty get more citations.

E Lajoie: Most of our budget is still going to pay for books, journals, databases, all the things that our researchers need. The move to open access is slow. We are still paying for the majority of the materials that we have, those costs go up, that is not expected to change. Right now, there's no way that the library's budget could be reallocated to flip the entire university to publish open access. There are other ways that we could approach this, but we're not putting the onus on the library, which is not a publisher but whose job is to disseminate the final version of published materials. Carnegie Mellon recently signed some different kinds of transformative agreements with publishers, there is value in exploring them. We definitely need to explore different models. We cannot pay for APCs, this is a hard line for us, we do not have the money to do that. And we need to shift that conversation into a different way of thinking about how we might pay for it.

COACHE survey update: VP Granfield updated the FSEC on the COACHE 2022 survey. For tenure-track and tenured faculty we are at about 51% response rate. Our goal was 55%, and we might get there. Our last invitation will come tomorrow to the faculty who have not completed the survey yet, and the survey will close on Monday, April 11, which is the last day the faculty can weigh in. If you've not taken the survey, please do, and also, please

encourage your colleagues to take it. Currently, we have seven units that are at over 50%, and five that are over 60% response rate. Many units are doing exceptionally well, while some units are still struggling. Our overall response rate is 41%, which is close to the national average of other universities that are doing COACHE surveys this year. But we are really excelling in our tenure-track and tenured faculty. In the College of Arts and Sciences, for tenure-track and tenured faculty we have nearly 54%, in the College of Education over 63%, in the School of Public Health 56%. School of Law is at 70%, School of Nursing 58%, Social Work 76%. The College of Engineering is currently at 34% for tenure-track and tenured faculty, while their teaching faculty are at 48%. We are struggling with our clinical faculty in the School of Medicine with 20%, while in other units the non-tenured are responding better. We have an overall response rate for the non-tenure track faculty of about 30%

UUP negotiations: Ken Kern, UUP President for the Buffalo Center Chapter, Matt Dimmick, UUP Vice-President for academics, and Carine Mardorossian, UUP buffalo Center grievance officer for academic issues updated the FSEC on UUP negotiations. The input period for collecting member information on issues that they want to see addressed to the upcoming contract negotiations is closed. At the end of this month the contract negotiations team is going to be developing and prioritizing a list of over 145 different areas of concern that our members have throughout NYS, in hopes that maybe we'll starting our contract negotiations with the state this summer. We want to let you know that we are here to help out. However, we can only address those issues that are pertaining to the contract terms and conditions of employment. For other issues, we recommend to go back to the Faculty Senate for further discussion and review.

C Mardorossian: as grievance officer of the union on the academic side, I just want to confirm that the union is always there to hear out what faculty have to say, and to get a sense of the grievances, even when we can't necessarily intervene or help out. There's only so much that the union can do, and I would really recommend that maybe the Faculty Senate think about having some version of a grievance hearing process and mediation.

B Prinari: The Faculty Senate Tenure, Promotion and Privileges committee would probably deal with some of these issues.

PhD stipends: Barbara Prinari presented data collected in collaboration with GSEU students Joseph Sechrist and Lawrence Mullen on the number of

Teaching Assistants (TAs) at UB and at all the other AAU public institutions for AY 2020/21, and on the reduction of TA lines in the College of Arts and Sciences and across the university. The presentation is uploaded on UBbox.

B Prinari: I would like the administration to come and talk to us, and explain how much the university was spending for TAs before and after the PhD excellence initiative.

VP Hammill: I had suggested that we get together with institutional analysis, understand what the request is and then get the data together. The Graduate School doesn't collect this data, but we can certainly facilitate that process.

Unfinished business

None

New business

Bylaws Committee – Adhoc Committee Proposal: As chair of the FS Bylaws Committee, Kristin Stapleton introduced a resolution voted by the majority of the committee to propose that an ad-hoc Assessment Committee for the Faculty Senate be appointed and asked to come up with a plan to assess strengths and weaknesses of our Faculty Senate operations, do a comparison of our peer institutions, look for best practices, etc. The proposal is uploaded on UBbox. Due to time constraints, it will not be discussed or voted on at this meeting, but everybody is invited to think about it, and send suggestions to change it to the committee chair or to the Faculty Senate discussion list. Any suggestion will be incorporated for next week's meeting, where hopefully the resolution will be voted upon. Also, please come with specific recommendations for committee members, with representation from all units.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Prinari, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Senate, April 10, 2022.