



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting
March 11, 2020
567, Capen 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.

Minutes Minutes of FSEC meeting, 2/26/2020 was approved and accepted unanimously with few corrections.

President's report:

COVID19: Update on COVID19 on campus addressing the safety of the UB family. UB is constantly monitoring the status, following the suggestions of the CDC and the Governor's and county offices and are ready to take proactive measures. A COVID19 advisory committee has been formed with representation from all the different arms of UB: Administration, faculty, staff and students to provide perspectives and a voice to campus readiness. There is also a COVID19 task force that was formed in January 2020 that is working beside the advisory committee. There are also various working groups looking into different aspects of campus operations. All the working groups and the task force are led by members of the cabinet. All study abroad programs have been suspended or cancelled. All students returning from impacted countries have to abide by CDC regulations. UB COVID website is being kept up to date and the response to it has been positive. The campus will remain functional. However, reduction in numbers will help social distancing. At the press conference in the afternoon that day, Gov Cuomo said that all SUNY, CUNY in person classes would go live from March 19th. UB will be on spring break the next week and would follow instructions from the State and Federal agencies as the situation develops.

Dean of School of Engineering: The search for the new Dean is moving forward with all the candidates having visited the campus.

University finances: The President stated that prudence was exercised in managing of SUNY & UB resources in order to promote resilience, maintain reserves and operate effectively and efficiently. The Benesis report drew

erroneous conclusions since it was not based on sound accounting principles and willfully disregarded generally accepted definitions. In order to correct the false narrative he invited Provost Scott to clarify some of the information that day and mentioned that a complete response would be presented to the senate at a later date.

Provost: As per the Governors announcement classes will be changed from in person to distance learning format. For classes where in person is necessary the instructor will decide on the modality of instruction. A variety of platforms such as blackboard and webex will be used. Hiccups are expected since we are in uncharted territory but we are not alone. Peer-to-peer guidance is encouraged but help desk and staff will be provided to navigate the technology. A few hours later it was expected that SUNY would be conferencing with the Presidents to decide what the forward movement would be. Although it is our priority to see our students graduate it has to be a balance between prudence and operations. Resident halls, dining halls and libraries will remain open until notice. Decisions have to be made regarding the fulfilment of learning objectives. The University will remain open with due diligence to the safety of our faculty, staff and students. There was some discussion regarding testing practices and travel restrictions.

Bunsis report: The Provost made clear that UB recognized the value of transparency, campus discourse regarding the University financial management and future. UB engages the campus in financial discussions, along with presentations to the FS, FSEC, budget priorities committee, Deans, Chairs, posting of budget statements on the website have all be part of the efforts for transparency. UB Foundation have been the subject of discussion. However, SUNY audit stated that the information made available by the Foundation have been comparable to, or above and beyond what other Foundations publicly disclose.

Administration salaries: The claim in the report that UB spent high amounts on administration salaries was erroneous since Mr Bunsis equates institution support with administration salaries. Throughout the report Mr Bunsis has used his own definitions instead of the accepted accounting terminology. The Provost went on to explain institutional support and said that he would be happy to breakdown the numbers and to continue the conversation.

Chair's report:

Faculty Senate Secretary Election: He congratulated Jessy Alexander for being elected as the FS secretary and appreciated her willingness to serve.

Shared Governance Day: The shared governance day that took place on 03/03/2020 was very successful.

Parliamentarian: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Professor Timothy Murphy, MD, senior associate dean for clinical and translational research and SUNY Distinguished Professor of medicine, spearheads the five-year, \$21.7 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue Buffalo's rapid trajectory growing its health care and research sectors. "The CTSA program is designed to develop innovative solutions that will improve the efficiency, quality and impact of the process for turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public." It provides resources to the research community to enhance their research. It also has a pilot study arm that will support proposals that are in dire need for preliminary data towards bigger grants, introduce faculty for clinical trials. Community engagement and inclusion of underrepresented minorities are a very important facet of this endeavor. The presentation is available on UB Box.

Bunsis report: Prof Ken Dabur, chair of the budget priorities committee led the discussions on the Bunsis report. Budget is downloaded by the administration with priorities already in place. Presentations by the administration to the FS have the priorities already baked in. FS is charged with budget priorities but never occurs. He reminded the FSEC of the Living wage stipend. FS asked for increase in stipend. Instead of the joint committee and associated discussions Capen launched the excellence initiative raised the stipends, reduced the number of years of support and graduates. Transparency is very limited as to the categories and measures where the money was being used etc. He reiterated the findings of the Bunsis report. Delays in posting with prior reports expunged, salaries were compared with that of other peer universities. Universities subsidises athletics upto 30.7 million per year which is the highest in MAC. Faculty is flat while the tenure track faculty is lower with the Assistant Prof reaching 22%. He urged everyone to read the report.

There was a motion to send this report to the budget priorities committee before presenting it to the FS. The motion was seconded. It was passed unanimously.

Executive session: None

New business: None

Old Business:

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 4.00 pm.

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, February 2020