



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022
Online by Zoom

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The Chair, Fred Stoss, called the meeting to order at 3:02pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda: The agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: The minutes of the previous FSEC meeting, as posted on UBbox on April 20, were approved unanimously.

A ballot for the election of one University Faculty Senate (SUNY-WIDE) representative was sent out last week. Also, a survey to poll the voting faculty on the best day/time to hold Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings in the future was sent out. Please make sure you reach out to your colleagues and constituents and encourage them to submit their preferences. The survey is also meant to poll faculty who are not currently involved with the Faculty Senate, but would consider it in the future if the meeting times were more convenient.

President's report: no report

Provost's report: no report

Chair's report: The full report is uploaded on UB Box.

Parliamentarian's report: no report

Items of interest

(GUEST) Joshua B. Sticht, Deputy Chief of Police | UB Police Services:

Last fall, starting around the Thanksgiving holiday, we had several instances where white supremacist posters were put up on both the north and the south campus. This happened in academic buildings, as far as we can tell none of the posters went up in residential spaces. We found a video of one person, but, because of the masking requirements at that time, we have not been able to make an identification. Information about those posters was shared

with the local FBI office and the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation to see if it was part of a larger trend, happening at other universities, but that did not seem to be the case. Unfortunately, in the spring we saw very similar posters and, in fact, some of the exact same posters show up in the academic spine on the north campus again. We have video of a person putting these posters up but, because of the mask requirement that was in place at the time and heavy winter clothing, it was not be possible for us to make up a positive ID on this person. In response to that, and some other historic issues that have happened here at UB, myself and Deputy Chief of Police Karen Schultz, who oversees our investigations, were invited by the Buffalo FBI field office to be part of a Hate Crimes and Civil Rights Working Group that involves officers from the State Police, Amherst Police, City of Buffalo Police, etc. This partnership allows us to work together pretty quickly when we see threats. Three weeks ago, there were social media threats directed towards our students of color that were protesting an event organized by Young Americans for Freedom. And we were able to reach out through this working group to the FBI, and they were actually able to start the subpoena process immediately. The university didn't actually have a University wide policy about posting things on bulletin boards, and this is something that is being now developed.

F Stoss: Rochester and Buffalo are both seeing dramatic increases in gun violence. While north campus may be more insulated from that level of violence, what advice do you have for those persons on south campus and the downtown campus with regard to safety from such violence.

J Sticht (UPD): This always surprises people, but the south campus is actually safer than the north campus in terms of the number of crimes that are committed every year. There are more crimes that occur on the north campus than there are in the south campus, although most of them are petty crimes. There's more opportunity for that to happen on the north campus because it's a larger population. But we also see that the atmosphere in the south campus is a lot tighter, the buildings are locked, staff members on the south campus and even our facilities partners our custodial staff really go out of the way to report. The advice I give everybody is: if something doesn't feel right, call us right away.

P Glick: When I took their Police Citizen Academy years ago, it became very apparent to me that they are trained on things that normal police aren't trained and they go out of their way when they find some students who are having problems. They do mental health checks on them, they do social welfare checks on them. And they do look for other resources. I have been

very impressed how they de-escalate things when the students are involved. I would really recommend anyone who is a long-term faculty member at UB to take the Police Citizen Academy. It will open your eyes to what's happening behind the scenes, and how they're just keeping this campus safer and making it a better place.

J Sticht (UPD): The UB administration is very supportive in terms of resources. We have a crisis intervention training team training that really helps us de-escalate mental health situations, but we also worked with the School of Social Work here to get every officer, investigator, dispatcher trained in trauma informed care, so that they're able to relate better not just to a crime victim that might have suffered a traumatic incident, but interact with a student that may have had a traumatic experience. The Citizens Police Academy was on hiatus during Covid, and we haven't quite gotten to revamp up. If it happens again, the next time will be probably February 2023.

Unfinished business

Summary of the 191st UFS Spring Plenary (Patrick Long): We just held the spring plenary at downstate medical campus and it was a hybrid plenary session with people attending both via Zoom and in person. What I took away was a sense of uncertainty within SUNY, but also a feeling of hope. The hope comes from Governor Hochul's new budget, which devotes substantial resources towards SUNY. The uncertainty is on how the money is going to be spent. The other feeling of uncertainty stems from the precipitous departure of Governor Cuomo and Chancellor Malatras, who both left their positions before the end of their terms and, as a result, many positions within SUNY are either not filled at this point, or are filled with people who have interim in their title. Things are in flux in Albany, and that means that things are in flux for SUNY generally. But all indications are that you Governor Hochul does want SUNY to thrive.

There were four resolutions passed by the Senate, three of them were substantive, and the final one was merely congratulating a long-time member of the Senate for her service.

The first resolution was about presidential searches. Several of the campuses have undergone presidential searches recently, and there was a general concern that the search committees for those presidential searches were largely made up of and set by the administration or administrators, rather than having adequate representation by full time faculty. The resolution ended up calling on the SUNY Board of Trustees to review its own

policies and procedures for presidential searches and, specifically, for the makeup of presidential search committees to ensure that full-time faculty who are not in administrative positions were adequately represented. And secondly, that the diversity of these presidential search committees be examined, because there was also a feeling that SUNY's commitment to diversity was not reflected within the personnel of recent presidential search committees.

The second resolution had to do with the continuing fallout from Covid. The Senate recognized SUNY's commitment to the well-being of its students, specifically concerning their mental health. And the Senate called upon the currently interim Chancellor to expand SUNY's commitment to health, wellness and well-being to all faculty and employees of SUNY.

The third resolution called on the Chancellor to establish a comprehensive study of the structure, numbers, and costs of administration and administrators on the SUNY campuses. There was a feeling among the Senate that administration has bloated and we do not have a handle on the cost of that growth, the numbers of that growth, much less the reasons for that growth. So, the third substantive resolution was to ask the Chancellor to review and provide to the Senate a study of the costs of that increase, where it's coming from and really how it's being paid for.

All these resolutions, including the congratulatory final resolution, are available at the University Faculty Senate website.

The other point that came up has to do with the new SUNY-wide general education requirements. One of the courses that are part of the general education initiative is a course on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice, so the Senate has put together a survey that all faculty are asked to participate in, to see what courses are currently being taught on SUNY campuses that address issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. The people in charge of the General Education program want to get a sense of what courses are already out there in the curriculum that would satisfy this new general education requirement.

The next plenary will be in October 2022, and it's hoped it will be entirely in-person. In the meantime, the various committees of the Senate will work through the proposed resolutions, and query the campuses about issues that need to be addressed by the Senate. The upshot of the spring plenary is for me and for our other senators to talk to you and get your input on what you would like the SUNY Senate to deal with.

A Kandel: There is a miscommunication or lack of communication between the Senate and what faculty want. There is a lot of potential in SUNY that we can achieve, but there is no formal way for senators to get opinions, suggestions from the faculty members. We don't have a mechanism for us to streamline that process. If there is a way that we can communicate or get advice from the faculty regarding issues that pertain to SUNY that will be extremely helpful.

F Stoss: Child and elder care is an example. As the chair of the Faculty Senate, I received through the shared governance or campus governance leaders recommendations to make sure that issue was going to be discussed, and it was. And people have been listening, because there is some money in the state budget. It is not enough, but it's a huge first step.

K Stapleton: We're forming an ad hoc committee on evaluating the functions of the Senate. And this could be one thing added to the agenda of this ad hoc committee, namely to investigate how we can best connect our SUNY senators with our Senate and with the Faculty as a whole.

P Glick: The issue of getting a vote on the SUNY Board of Trustees has come up in the University Faculty Senate several times. It is essential that the President of the Faculty Senate has a vote on the Board of Trustees. They have no voting right now, and that's ridiculous. Also, regarding presidential searches, one of the main jobs of our UB Council is to choose our next President. And eight of the nine members on that Council are appointed by the Governor, and one is a student representative. There is no place on that Faculty Council for faculty or staff, this needs to be changed in New York State guidelines. And then the last thing that would make UB a much better place is passing some legislation so SUNY campus foundations have more transparency. Right now, they're hiding behind a law that says private foundations can be totally private. But UBF is so essential to the mission of UB that it is ridiculous to call it a private foundation. If we have more transparency of what's going on at the UB foundation, we can make UB an even better place than it is right now. There's legislation that's been proposed for all of these things, it just needs to be moved through and we need our senators to help move that stuff through. The vote on the Board of Trustees is where it's all going to start, because if we can have a voice in a vote in the Board of Trustees, then we can get these other things done on the campuses. We should make sure the state legislators hear us. And when they have higher education committee meetings, we need to testify, and we need to tell them about this over and over again in public, until they change the laws of the Board of Trustees, the State and the New York State Department.

B Prinari: Maureen Jameson, who is not here today, brought this up a couple of days ago as well, this is certainly an issue that is on many people's radar.

F Stoss: The professional staff will be asking one of the State legislators to attend their meeting, perhaps it would be appropriate for us to do something similar.

J Naish: Brian Higgins is the legislator who is joining the professional staff call tomorrow.

P Long: Monica Wallace, one of the legislators from Cheektowaga, is a former UB faculty member from the Law School, so she is certainly someone who understands our issues, and I think she would be a sympathetic ear for us to speak to.

New business

Academic, Policy, and Grading Committee - Resolution to Amend the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar: Kara Saunders, from the Registrar's office, presented for its first reading a resolution to amend the 2022-23 academic calendar. The proposed resolution, uploaded on UBbox, would include a two-day fall break in October (Mon, Oct 10 – Tue, Oct 11). Because of this two-day break, it is necessary to maintain the required number of contact hours. In order to do this, the end of the Fall 2022 Semester is extended from Monday, December 19, 2022 to December 21, 2022.

The resolution will be voted upon by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at its May 4th meeting and, if it passes, it will then be presented at the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year on Tuesday May 17th at 3:00 pm, with a request to suspend the rules so that it can be voted upon on first reading.

B Prinari: Have you considered starting the semester two days earlier, instead of finishing two days later?

K Saunders: The larger issue of when to start the fall semester, and whether that should be shifted as well, is something that is under discussion by the committee. But we felt it was too significant of a change to propose in this rapid manner, so it is something that we are considering in terms of the larger calendar change. It is all also something that would be extremely challenging for student life and others to implement at this late date because contracts for housing, as well as employment for the people who work within housing and pricing relating to housing, have already been set, and so the

representatives of student life have requested that, if we were to make the change for the fall semester, which they are very supportive of doing, we would add any necessary time at the end of the semester, rather than shifting the first day of classes.

K Stapleton: Although I suspect there'll be a lot of support for it, there might be concerns that I am not aware of, so I encourage everybody else to get in touch with your faculty about it.

F Stoss: A note will be sent out to the faculty to inform of this proposed change, and the timeline for the vote, so they can voice their support or concerns to their senators.

K Saunders: The change is currently proposed only for the next academic year. This calendar is what we consider to be the university calendar which impacts undergraduate, graduate and pharmacy courses. It does not impact the three areas on campus that have their own academic calendar, or the DDS program the JD program and the MD Program. So, for example, if the Medical School offers of course at the undergraduate level, it would be under this calendar, but if the Medical School is offering a course to their MD students, it would be under the MD calendar.

In person meetings: The Chair of the Faculty Senate announced that we will begin the next academic year with our Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate meetings being in person meetings. We can address whether or not we want to make them hybrid meetings.

B Lerner: We just had the big Earth Day presentation, I think making all of these meetings in person is not in line with good use of time and resources. We should have in person Faculty Senate meetings, and at least one of our executive committee meetings should be in person. But given that we're all going to drive over to the Center for Tomorrow, it just doesn't make sense to me to do it three times a month. It is awkward to have some people in the room and some on Zoom. I would propose to have two of our executive meeting stay virtual, one be in person. And that the Faculty Senate meetings be in person.

F Stoss: The Faculty Senate is going to be going hybrid for all winter meetings, so there are precedents for that.

B Prinari: I support Brooke's suggestion, I think it could be made into a formal proposal that we can vote on before the end of the semester. I actually like the idea of allowing hybrid participation, it increases attendance anyway. For

various reasons, some faculty members might not be able to join in person on a given day, and if it's not the rule but rather the exception that they can join remotely when the meeting is supposed to be in person, I think it would be useful. How would we handle voting procedures for in person or hybrid meetings?

F Stoss: Before Covid we just used to have slips of paper with the choices for voting and we used to pass the slips of paper, fold them, and hand them to counters. For hybrid meetings, we'd have two sets of results, which did happen at the last plenary.

M Steilen: I think there is a significant cost of not meeting in person, and we'd want to weigh that cost as best we can, against the inconvenience of an in-person meeting, which is very real. Some of the costs that come to mind to me is actually being in the same room with administrators. One of the main functions of the executive committee is to act as a collector of information, receiving reports from the Provost and other members of the administration. I think that is a much more effective thing in person. I also think there's camaraderie particularly within the Executive Committee, which does have value to the function of the body and which is lost in virtual meetings. I am not opposed to some of the proposals that I am hearing, but I want us to consider the full range of costs to virtual proceedings for the Executive Committee.

P Glick: Most votes during in person meetings were by voice, or by show of hand, and it was only when we got very controversial things that we went to paper ballots. I think what Matt said about camaraderie is really important.

B Prinari: Since the issue of costs was raised, we should clarify if the Faculty Senate is going to be charged for the use of the room for in person meetings. If that's the case, that's one of the first things that I would go and renegotiate with the Provost. It is not acceptable that the main governing body of the faculty be asked to pay to meet for doing their work, what they're supposed to do.

F Stoss: The Faculty Senate meetings were held at the Center for Tomorrow, and whether or not they charged, I still have to investigate.

P Glick: The charge was for catering, they did not charge us for rooms. And we didn't have an AV person, so we did the AV ourselves.

K Stapleton: My understanding is that the budget of the Faculty Senate is negotiated with the Provost. I asked about it in the past, but never really got a satisfactory response.

P Glick: I think it's good for the Chair of the Faculty Senate to present the budget to the Executive Committee every year, and it's a negotiation, but they do not charge us for rooms.

F Stoss: The Professional Staff Senate has been having similar concerns about their budget. I have a meeting next Monday where I can bring this up, and we can deal with it in the in the hopefully near future.

B Prinari: This could be another item for the ad hoc committee to work on, looking at best practices for the senate budget at our peer institutions, and convince our administration that we should follow best practices.

F Stoss: Ana Blumenthal Perry said in the chat it would be nice if not all meetings are held at north campus, which would be something that we would also have to look into in terms of providing an alternate site for convenience of all. We don't have enough time this semester, but these might be some items that we can address over the course of the first couple of months of the fall semester.

P Glick: Hayes Hall has a beautiful room we've used for Faculty Senate meetings before, and there's ample parking on the South campus. The problem with the downtown campuses is that there is just not any parking for non-Medical School faculty, but there's ample room down there also if we wanted to have a meeting down there.

J Naish: The Center for Tomorrow is now run through campus catering, and it appears there is a charge to rent the room for a full day or a half day, regardless of catering

B Prinari: If there is a charge, then I think we should be looking at other venues. There are other large rooms on campus, including in the Center for the Arts, and we can probably find a faculty sponsor so that we are not charged for the use of the room.

K Stapleton: I would suggest that if we are charged for the room, we simply ask the provost to increase the Faculty Senate budget accordingly.

F Stoss: There are new facilities that would be supposedly adequate at one world CAFÉ.

K Stapleton: At one of our next FSEC meetings, we should ask the President whether that space is finished, and if it's available for the faculty to use it.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Submitted by Barbara Prinari, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Senate, April 28, 2022.



Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 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 - ✓

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