



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes April 19, 2022 Online by Zoom

Attendance: Pages 8-14

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 election for the Faculty Senate Secretary has been completed. Cindy Tysick, the only nominee, received 138 votes and she is going to be the new Faculty Senate Secretary starting from the next academic year. We have concluded the nomination period for one SUNY-wide Faculty Senate seat. This is a seat for non-health science faculty and professional staff. We have received only one nomination, the ballot for the election will be sent out in the next few days.

The minutes of the March 15 Faculty Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

President's report: I am pleased to report that we continue to make solid progress in our ambition to situate UB among the top 25 public research universities in the nation. We see this in the latest graduate school rankings from US News & World Report. The School of Public Health and Health Professions climbed 10 spots in the ranking of public and private universities to 31. Among public universities, the school is ranked number 19. The School of Social Work is ranked 21st in the nation, and among the public universities, it is ranked number 10. School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences ranked 14th nationally. Interestingly, all the top 14 schools in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are public universities. Numerous departments and graduate programs are highly ranked, including Nursing, Anesthesia, Cardiology, Library, Information Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Industrial Engineering. I would like to congratulate the schools and the departments for their tremendous achievements. I think we can all appreciate that these rankings are more than just mere numbers, they reflect the profound impact

we are making on the communities we serve. As you know, the national recognition that our schools, departments, and programs receive also enhances our ability to attract the very best students and faculty to UB.

Last month, the Provost and I had the opportunity to meet with nearly two dozen outstanding doctoral student scholars, who were visiting our university as part of UB VITAL Program. This new three-year pilot programs seeks to increase the number of faculty from traditionally underrepresented populations. Developed by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Inclusive Excellence, VITAL brings scholars to UB to expose them to our research and teaching opportunities, and to support them as the next generation of faculty. We will be hosting our second cohort in October to align with the faculty hiring cycles. This program is just one of the many ways we are actively working to build a diverse faculty pipeline at UB.

With the semester winding down, we are looking forward to celebrating our students during the upcoming commencement season, as well as in the mini recognition events that take place this time of the year. I hope you will be able to join me on April 27 to recognize some of the very finest students during UB's annual celebration of students' academic excellence.

F Stoss: Do you have any information about the NYS budget and how it bodes for SUNY, in general, or if we know anything about what's happening for our campus.

President: The budget is basically what the governor had proposed, with small changes. The Governor was funding the TAP gap. The TAP scholarship was capped at a certain level and was not fully funded at the tuition level (tuition is about \$7,000, TAP was capped at \$6,000). The state has funded that gap now. It also has funded the Excelsior gap, so that provides some extra money to SUNY campuses. The budget includes \$53 million money for new faculty hiring, which is a good number. This money is distributed amongst 64 campuses, and community colleges are also eligible. The amount includes benefits, so the money that's actually available for hiring is reduced by about a third. We still don't know how this money will be distributed. Our goal has been to advocate for supporting especially the doctoral campuses and university centers that have grown in size, and to argue for funding of that growth to the faculty. There is money for critical maintenance, distributed according to a formula which takes into account how old the buildings are, etc. Many campuses have increased in size, so we should get priority in our critical maintenance, as opposed to the campuses that have lost enrollment. The new School of Engineering building

was funded at \$68 million, 2/3 of the total cost, and we are raising money for the remaining one third. This is probably the best budget we have had in 18 years.

B Prinari: There are departments that are seeing a higher than normal number of retirements in their tenured faculty, in part due to Covid. I hope that with the budget looking so good there will be investment in new faculty. I fear that if the campus decides that the only new hirings are going to be through the Disciplinary Excellence initiative, a lot of departments are going to be severely penalized because they are not going to be able to replace the ladder faculty they are losing.

President: Definitely. The Deans and the Provost will be working together. When there are retirements, the lines don't go back to the departments automatically. But the Deans will be working with each of the departments and seeing where the needs are, and where it's going to make more impact. In many cases, considering their needs for teaching and research, in those departments it goes back exactly.

Provost's report: I sent out an announcement that we would change LMS (learning management system) and adopt Bright Space as our new LMS. The current LMS is Blackboard and the contract for that is expiring, so that gave us some impetus to reconsider. We conducted a comprehensive review of UB's particular LMS needs, and to explore what program would best meet those needs. There was a review committee, which included representation from the Faculty Senate subcommittees, and they assessed three learning management systems: Blackboard Ultra, Bright Space, and Canvas. In collaboration with the Faculty Senate, Deans, and a variety of stakeholders across the campus, the committee rated Bright Space and Canvas equally, and both yielded significantly higher ratings than our current LMS, Blackboard. The transition from Blackboard to Bright Space will be a three-semester process, with full implementation for all courses starting in Fall of 2023. Further information about the implementation will be forthcoming. I have every confidence that we'll be able to navigate this process well. Our sister institution Binghamton has made this transition from Blackboard to Bright Space in this current academic year, and it seems to be going well.

C Lavin: Is the idea that over the next 18 months we are supposed to get used to and start managing our own migration over to the new system, or are departments going to be assigned to move at a particular time?

Provost: I don't know exactly how the transition is going to take place. We are working with the vendor right now to think about the process, do we go

with super users, first. Maybe there's some volunteers that will want to go, be the early adopters and move through that process. Obviously, we will have to extend our Blackboard contract for some period of time, as we move everybody so we're trying to give people enough time to make that transition. The exact format and sequence of transition has not been decided yet.

M Jameson: Theoretically, it could be helpful if we could negotiate some deal with Binghamton where we might have guest accounts on a fake course for some of us who are interested in getting a head start on learning the new system. Or maybe Bright Space would just offer us that opportunity before the official migration starts.

Provost: That's a great idea. I'll check with VP Graham Hammill to see where we are.

B Prinari: A faculty member brought up an issue regarding the criteria for calculating salary equity adjustments. This faculty member said that right now the only criterion for calculating salary equity adjustment is time in rank, which negatively affects faculty of color and women, because oftentimes it takes longer for them to be promoted, so, on average, they have less time in rank. Regardless of the specifics, I think that productivity and merit should factor in in some way when deciding on salary equity adjustments.

Provost: Working with all the Deans across the university, I would say that time in rank is a part of a calculation that many of them use, but probably a minor part and that they actually are much more focused on productivity and contributions and impact of the scholarship teaching and contributions and citizenship across the domain. I have a feeling there's some conflation here between the UUP salary contract and the compression. But I would say that I am not a believer that time in rank is an accurate predictor of salary.

B Prinari: So, as I understand: the UUP salary contract is a different issue, but when Deans look at equity adjustments time in rank is not and shouldn't be the only criterion.

Chair's report: Uploaded on UB Box.

Parliamentarian's report: no report

Items of interest

Report from Ryan McPherson, UB Chief Sustainability Officer: The presentation is uploaded on UBbox.

Elections Committee - SUNY FS Nominations Reminder: See Secretary's report.

Senate Institutional Review Committee – Member Nominations: The Bylaws Committee has been meeting over the course of the spring semester. Among other things that are in the purview of the committee, we also discussed the idea that a more thorough review of the Faculty Senate should be done, to make sure that we are keeping up with best practices and that the Senate is structured in the way that best serves the institution. The Bylaws Committee forwarded to the FSEC a resolution establishing an institutional assessment ad hoc committee that would be charged with devising a study plan and executing it or overseeing its execution. The resolution was approved by the FSEC, and is available on UBbox. The other idea that we talked about and put into the resolution was that, if it's decided by the Senate that this is actually a useful exercise, we can make it part of the bylaws. The Bylaws Committee could take charge of including in the bylaws to have a periodic review, just like degree programs. I am here to report on the approved resolution, and also to urge all senators to nominate people to serve on the ad hoc institutional review committee. Ideally, we would like to get the committee formed this spring, so that it could come up with an initial plan for carrying out the review before the end of the spring semester. And then figure out how what timeline it can follow in order to complete the review.

I would like to ask Fred to create a deadline for nominations to be received so the committee can be formed. The CAS FSEC representatives can send a message to the entire faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences to ask for nominations for committee members. Maybe senators from other units could do that as well.

F Stoss: That would be very possible, so that we would be able to announce the members of that committee at our next faculty senate meeting on May 17th.

K Stapleton: The FSEC has to appoint the ad-hoc committee members, so we would like all the nominations in hand for the May 4th meeting. I would like to propose that we asked for nominations by the week before.

B Lerner: There should be a faculty-wide announcement that we can then amplify within our educational units.

Unfinished business

FS/FSEC Meeting Times Poll: We will send out a meeting poll to the faculty to determine what day of the week, and what time we will be meeting for future Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings and Faculty Senate meetings. Presently, the Faculty Senate meetings are held on Tuesdays once a month (3-4:30pm), and Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings are held on Wednesdays (3-4:30pm) three times a month, except for those months that have holidays or spring break, is probably the most notable where we only have two. The FSEC passed a resolution to have both FS and FSEC meetings on the same day, on different weeks of the month. At the last FSEC meeting it was proposed to poll the faculty to ask if people have a preference on having both FS and FSEC meetings on Tuesdays or on Wednesdays (and if it doesn't matter to them, they could select both). As far as the times are concerned, the following options would be included: 12-1:30pm, 1-2:30pm, 2-3:30pm, 3-4:30pm. The proposed format for the poll is uploaded on UBbox. In Fall, we are going to be looking at having our meetings no longer being online, but being in person meetings.

J Livingston: For the time, my preference would be if we could do that as a rank order, instead of a forced choice.

B Prinari: It would not be a forced choice, people could select as many options as they want. Also, it would be more difficult to analyze the responses. But I can talk to Mary Odden from the CATT office, and see if they can be rank ordered.

J Latorre: It could be difficult to decide before all of our class schedules are finalized.

B Prinari: Yes, but the alternative is just to keep the meeting times as they currently are. We have to change the day, because that's been voted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to make sure that the FS and FSEC meet on the same day. We might as well poll the faculty about the meeting times. Even if we cannot change them this coming academic year, we might be able to change it for the following one. The main reason for this polling about the meeting time is that faculty mentioned that the current time is very unfriendly to people that have kids because it conflicts with the school pick-up time.

B Lerner: We should try to have at least one of our monthly meetings being virtual.

F Stoss: This is what the SUNY Faculty Senate is doing, we will consider it for future discussion.

B Prinari will reach out to Mary Odden from the CATT office to set up and send the poll as soon as possible.

New business

SUNY FS Spring Plenary Review: C Basaran introduced for first reading resolutions that were approved at the SUNY FS Spring plenary.

Resolution 1 – SUNY Health, Wellness and Well-being

Resolution 2 – Recognition of Service

Resolution 3 – Cost of Administration

Resolution 4 – Presidential Search

The resolutions are all uploaded on UBbox.

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Prinari, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Senate, May 3, 2022.

Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR:
Fred Stoss – ✓

SECRETARY:
Barbara Prinari (interim Secretary) – ✓

PARLIAMENTARIAN:
Nicholas Chibuikem Ogam – ✓

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING:
Hiro Hata –
Kerry Traynor –

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES:

Michael Cowen –
Maureen Jameson – ✓
Barbara Prinari – ✓
Kristin Stapleton – ✓
Jason Benedict – ✓
Gino Biondini –
Sampson Blair – ✓
Julie Bowker – ✓
Vesna Danilovic – ✓
Christopher Dennison – ✓
Grady Gambrel – ✓
Walter Hakala – ✓
Eero Laine –
Chad Lavin – ✓

Yiqiang Li – ✓
Sara Metcalf – ✓
Kimberly Meehan – ✓
Carin Mardorossian – ✓
Harvey Palmer – ✓
Justin Read –
Wei Sun –
Liana Vardi – ✓
Marion Werner –

DENTAL MEDICINE:

Othman Shibly –
Richard Hall –
Michelle Kay – ✓
Benita Sobieraj – ✓

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER:

Michael Baugh – ✓

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES:

Paschalis Alexandridis – ✓
Marina Tsianou –
Kevin Burke – ✓
Lora Cavuoto –
Qiaoqiang Gan –
Julia Latorre – ✓
Cecilia Hilde Martinez-Leon –
Presentacion Reyes – ✓
Kallol Sett – ✓
Tarunraj Singh – ✓
Ferah Percy Vandrevala –
Jose Walteros – ✓

Junson Yuan –

Jennifer Zirnheld – ✓

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION:

Tiffany Karalis-Noel – ✓

Blythe Anderson – ✓

Stephanie Fredrick – ✓

Alisa Husain –

LAW:

Matthew Steilen – ✓

Matthew Dimick –

Patrick Long –

Stephen Paskey –

MANAGEMENT:

Michael Dambra – ✓

Laura Amo – ✓

Myungsun Kim –

Chunchi Wu – ✓

MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES:

Anna Blumental-Perry –

Channa Kolb –

E. Brooke Lerner – ✓

Michael Morales – ✓

Yongho Bae – ✓

Vanessa Barnabei – ✓

Elsa Bou Ghanem – ✓

Marilou Ching –

Richard Chou –
Stewart Clark – ✓
Michael Duffey – ✓
Valerie Elbersen – ✓
Michael Farkas – ✓
Edward Fine –
Seth Glassman –
Michael Guppenberger – ✓
Wilma Hofmann – ✓
Liise Kayler –
Supriya Mahajan – ✓
Yaron Perry – ✓
Matthew Ruggieri –
Ferdinand Schweser – ✓
Spyridon Stavrou – ✓
Elizabeth Wohlfert –
Ahmad Zaaroura –

NURSING:

Jennifer Livingston – ✓
Darryl Somayaji –

PHARMACY:

Marilyn Morris – ✓
Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson – ✓
Erin Slazak – ✓

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS:

Albert Vexler – ✓

Adam Graczyk –

Jeanne Langan – ✓

Vijaya Prakash K. Muthaiah – ✓

Todd Rideout – ✓

SOCIAL WORK:

Annahita Ball – ✓

Peter Sobota –

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:

John Beatty – ✓

Carolyn Klotzbach-Russell – ✓

Deborah Chiarella (alternate) –

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:

Scott Weber – ✓

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATE:

Tim Tryjankowski – ✓

COUNCIL OF ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP (COAL):

Brianna Bennett – ✓

INVITED GUESTS:

Ryan McPherson - ✓

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP:

Robert Granfield – ✓

Graham Hammill –

William McDonnell –

Eileen Sherman – ✓

Kemper Lewis -

Robin Schulze - ✓

Paul Tesluk - ✓

Carig Abbey - ✓

Dan Kelly -

Marsha Lewis - ✓

Jean Wactawski-Wende - ✓

Keith Alford -

Allison Brashear - ✓

Robert Shibley - ✓

Suzanne Rosenblith - ✓

Ann Bisantz - ✓

Aviva Abramovsky - ✓

Gary Pollack - ✓

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Naish – ✓

Phil Glick –

Bob Miletich – ✓

Adly Fam - ✓

Ashley Li -

Tom Slomka -