



Faculty Senate Meeting
February 16, 2021
Online by Zoom

Attendance:

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The Chair, Dr. Robert Miletich called the Meeting to order at 3.00pm.

Agenda: Agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: The Secretary stated the results of the runoff election for the position of FS Chair. Fred Stoss was voted Chair-elect for September 2021-2023. The FS congratulated Fred Stoss and thanked Robert Miletich for his service.

The secretary informed the Senate that SUNY senator and alternate seats were falling vacant and had to be filled. Nomination invites would be sent out soon.

Minutes from December 15, 2020 meeting was approved with minor corrections.

President's report:

The President congratulated Fred Stoss on becoming the Chair-elect.

COVID19: 100% of faculty, staff and students regularly on campus were being tested for COVID19. Testing sites are available on all three campuses. Weekly surveillance testing is also in place.

Teaching: The President thanked the faculty for a productive Fall semester with synchronous teaching. 85% classes are synchronous and if tutorials are removed that number would rise to 94%. UB has continued its mission of reaching the top 25. He thanked the faculty for their hard work.

SUNY Chancellor Malatras visit: SUNY Chancellor Malatras announced that SUNY Upstate Medical will construct a new laboratory at the University at

Buffalo to increase capacity and speed up analysis of Upstate's COVID-19 saliva test. Chancellor Malatras recently increased testing frequency of all students, faculty, and staff on campus to at least once a week and the new Upstate Medical and partner Quadrant Biosciences lab at UB will be able to process 150,000 tests a week, increasing the total testing 350,000 tests per week across SUNY, with results being returned to campuses within 24 hours. The lab will be operational by March 1st.

Governors budget: Despite the pandemic and the ensuing economic downturn, there has been tuition flexibility policy for four university centers, procurement flexibility and also streamline education program approval allowing colleges and universities to adopt new programs without a master plan amendment or licensure. Currently, a new program takes anywhere from 18 months to two and a half years for approval. Critical maintenance budget continues to be the same as last year. However, the state operating budget was cut by 5%, which is a permanent cut. The Governors budget is also contingent upon Federal relief package to the State of New York.

UB and its mission: UB is harnessing innovation in education, research, scholarship and critical care to make an impact on the communities it serves. Through the expression of UBs mission, it seeks to examine and respond to issues of systemic inequality. The Presidents advisory council will help guide and shape programs, policies, activities and traditions. Throughout the fall semester, the President and Provost met with the committee. Late last fall they shared their recommendations which include improving the student recruitment, retention and graduation, increase the number of underrepresented minority faculty staff and university leadership. Reexamine the curriculum through the lens of inclusive pedagogy and antiracism, develop university mentorship program for student researchers of color. Following conversations, the President will initiate a plan for implementing the recommendations. The council's recommendations are ambitious. The university culture will thrive on the ideals of equity and diversity.

Accolades; UB speech scientist, Kris Tjaden and her research team have received a \$3.1 million grant from the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study speech and movement among Parkinson's patients receiving DBS treatment.

Paschalis Alexandridis, UB Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and Deborah Chung, Professor,

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, have been recognized as two of the world's top-cited researchers in a study conducted by Stanford University researchers.

A COVID-19 vaccine candidate, EuCorVac-19 under development by UB spinoff company POP Biotechnologies (cofounders: UB students and faculty Jonathan Smyth, Kevin Carter and Jonathan Lovell) and South Korean biotech company EuBiologics, is moving into human trials in South Korea. Two University at Buffalo (UB) alumni Rohan Shah and Huy Duc Pham have been named to Forbes' "30 Under 30" list for education. While an undergraduate student, Rohan Shah along with other UB students built an education technology company called interactiveX. The company's first product, Classavo, is now being used by students and professors across the nation. Huy Duc Pham serves as the director of product for Classavo.

Provost's report:

In honor of black history month, the Provost acknowledged a few of UBs exceptional African-American alumni and their accomplishments.

Eva M. Noles was a registered nurse, a nursing educator, and a former Director of Nursing at Buffalo, New York's world-renowned Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. The first African-American nurse to train in Buffalo, Eva actually retired twice only to come back to train many people on how to provide various levels of healthcare. She was with Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center for over 30 years, serving in many capacities.

James C. Dunn, M.D. graduated from the University at Buffalo Medical School at age 21. He served both as associate clinical professor for the Department of Anatomical Sciences and assistant clinic professor of Department of Surgery, School of Medicine at UB. He received the Harriet Tubman Vanguard Award given by the Coalition for Afro-American Health and Wellness and at present lives in Tucson, Ariz.

Dr. Dexter Johnson is an Engineer, Educator, Entrepreneur, and Minister, who graduated from the University at Buffalo (UB) with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering in 1987, and a M.S. and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, in 1989 and 1995, respectively. Dr. Johnson is employed at the NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, Ohio, where he serves as the Chief of the Structural Dynamics Branch, and has worked there since 1990. His current engineering interests involve overseeing Structural Dynamics work focused on Aeropropulsion, Launch Vehicle and Spacecraft Dynamic Environments applicable to Flight and Ground Hardware Design,

Development, Test, and Evaluation, as well as Aeronautics Research and Technology Development, as a supervisory aerospace engineer.

Search for Vice Provost for International Education: UB had an extraordinarily strong pool of finalists for the vice provost for international education, which serves as a testament to the reputation of UB's international academic research programs.

The provost announced the appointment of Nojin Kwak, Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Media, and Director of the Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan, and Director of the BTAA Korean Studies e-School, as UB's Vice Provost for International Education, effective this summer. The Provost said, "Dr. Kwak stood out because of his impressive leadership experience, commitment to international research programs and student experience, innovative approach to building partnerships, dedication to inclusive excellence, and creative vision for the future of international programs at UB."

The Provost thanked the faculty for their time, effort and input in considering the finalists for VPIE.

Chairs report:

Report is on UB Box.

Parliamentarian report: None.

Presentation:

Retention Task force: Presented by Kara Saunders and Corey Smith. Their presentation included: Why do first year students leave UB? Are retention and graduation rate closely related with one another? The importance of retention versus persistence is that they illustrate two different worldviews or mindsets. Student success and retention are an institutional measure of continued enrollment.

Retention rate has held flat at seven to 86%. Reasons for student departure may include academic success, not feeling connected to the UB community, not being able to get into their desired major, financial reasons, and family or personal reasons.

They asked the FS to reflect upon and let them know if anyone could identify risk factors that could interfere with student engagement; possible methods of early detection, intervention and means that could steer them towards the many resources and services available on campus to help

them. UB has a retention rate of 87% while institutions such as Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin, Maryland etc have a retention rate of mid to upper 90%. Therefore, UB has set a bold ambition to achieve 93% retention. One of the primary objectives of the retention Task Force is to identify strategies that will support students across a number of different demographics.

Old Business/New business: Three resolutions that have been uploaded on UB Box.

1. Resolution on Department of Indigenous Studies was presented by Diane Christian. The motion was brought to the table, seconded and discussions ensued.
2. Resolution on Faculty satisfaction survey was presented by Paschalis Alexandridis for the first reading. The motion was brought to the table, seconded and discussions ensued.
3. Resolution: Changes to F grade regarding participation was presented by Michael Cowen and Kara Saunders. The motion was brought to the table, seconded and discussions ensued.

SUNY Plenary resolutions:

1. Resolution (first reading) presented by Fred Stoss: Racial Equity and Social Justice Curriculum passed at the 186th Plenary of SUNY, October 15-17, 2020 by a vote of 58:1:2. The motion was brought to the table and seconded.
2. Resolution (first reading) presented by RJ Multari: Resolution regarding the importance of maintaining effective shared governance practices during times of crisis, passed at 186th Plenary, October 15-17, 2020 by a vote 59:0:2. The motion was brought to the table and seconded.

Executive session: None



Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 4.17 pm. -

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, March, 2021.