



Faculty Senate Meeting
April, 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 reminded the Senate of the ongoing call for nominations to fill the SUNY Senator seat that has fallen vacant.

Minutes from March, 2021 meeting was passed unanimously.

President's report:

Budget: The budget outlook is very positive. The 5% cut that currently exists in the budget will end with the academic year in June. Tap-cap deficit will be reduced this year and will be further reduced in the next three to four years. Excelsior scholarship has been extended until 2022-2023. There is an increase in Capital budget along with the capital 2:1 grant-matching program. The proposal for mid program review thereby shortening the course approval process was not approved.

COVID19: The J&J vaccine has been stopped and UB will continue to follow CDC guidelines. The President encouraged students to get vaccinated at the Western NY vaccination clinic. COVID 19 testing center is live at Faber Hall with results being returned in 24 hours. UB continues to be optimistic about increasing robust vaccination, distribution and administration. Students at the School of Management have developed a website called vaccine hound that gives you the site of vaccination availability.

Commencement: 17 in person commencement ceremonies will be held between April 30 and May 16. Limited number of guests will be allowed to attend based on New York State Department of Health capacity restrictions. Commencement exercises will take place at outdoor locations on North

campus. Many of the ceremonies will also be live streamed. Everyone attending will be required to follow safety protocols, including wearing a mask and social distancing. In terms of capacity for each ceremony graduates will be allowed 2 to four tickets for guests.

UB alumnus Dexter Johnson, NASA Technical Fellow for Loads and Dynamics, and Peter Rogerson, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Geography, will receive the UB President's Medal in recognition of extraordinary service to the university.

Thomas A. Russo, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at UB, will receive the Norton Medal at the Jacobs School commencement ceremony on April 30.

David Chu, whose highly regarded research has brought antiviral drugs to clinical practice and improved the lives of countless patients worldwide, will receive a SUNY Honorary Doctorate of Science at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' commencement ceremony on May 15.

The recipient of a SUNY Honorary Doctorate of Science, William Kinkel, a pioneer in the field of Neuroimaging will be recognized at the Jacobs School's commencement ceremony on April 30.

Incubator in downtown Buffalo: UB's new incubator was opened in the heart of downtown Buffalo. This incubator will be able to enable UB to accelerate the commercialization of faculty breakthroughs.

Faculty Accolades: UB faculty members Thomas Russo (infectious diseases), Frank A. Scannapieco (oral biology) and Bianca Weinstock-Guttman (neurology) have been named SUNY Distinguished Professors, the highest rank in the SUNY system.

UB faculty members Jaekyung Lee and Anya Bernstein have received 2020-21 Fulbright Scholar Awards, one of the most widely recognized and prestigious scholarships in the world.

Lee, professor of counseling, school and educational psychology in the Graduate School of Education, will journey to South Korea, Vietnam and Kazakhstan to investigate educational equity and engage in research collaborations and trainings with international universities and think tanks.

Bernstein, professor in the School of Law, will travel to Germany to examine how democratic states create legitimacy, and will use interviews and ethnography to study German national administrators.

Provost's report: None.

Chairs report: The Chair informed the FS that there would be the Annual meeting of all voting faculty on May 11th.

Report is on UB Box.

Parliamentarian report: None.

Presentation: Amy Bisantz, Dean of undergraduate education presented the status of the UB curriculum. It was a reflection on the first five years of our innovative, student-centered approach to general education. The presentation is on UB Box.

Old Business/New business: The resolutions are uploaded on UB Box.

SUNY Plenary resolutions:

1. *TIAA Divestment:* Resolution on divestments of fossil fuel and deforestation assets (second reading): The resolution was presented by Fred Stoss. SUNY University Faculty Senate recommends and strongly supports the resolutions of SUNY constituent campuses to date, the UUP, and NYSUT; and urge the Chancellor to publicize SUNY support for divesting all TIAA funds from the fossil fuel industries and resulting deforestation activities. The motion was brought to the table and seconded. Discussion ensued regarding nuclear energy, oil exploration etc. The resolution passed with a vote of 41yay:5nay:8abstain.

2. *To establish a standing Health and Safety Committee:* The resolution was presented by Bob Miletich. This resolution is a continuation of a resolution that was passed by the FS including the various arms of the shared governance units and a union component to establish a health and safety committee that was not promulgated. This resolution will serve as a mechanism to give voice to Faculty health concerns in a changing environment having witnessed COVID19 and experiencing global warming. This committee will be vigilant that compromise health and to mitigate and resolve those threats. The motion was brought to the table and seconded. A few amendments were suggested. Discussions ensued. The resolution passed with a vote of 40yay:8nay:5abstain.



Executive session: None

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 4.22 pm. -

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