



Faculty Senate Meeting
November 17, 2020
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: The Agenda was presented and approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: The Secretary informed the FS that an open forum for presenting the FS Chair candidates was conducted on November 11th. The election for FS Chair was ongoing and would run from November 18th – December 1st. The election was conducted in collaboration with the Office for Educational effectiveness.

Minutes from the meeting of September 23, 2020 was presented and unanimously approved.

President's report: The President thanked the faculty for their hard work. He reported that 2000 tests were being carried out/week. Several measures were in place to maintain social distancing such as the grab-n-go food services. Spring classes would begin on February 1st. Students were asked to quarantine for a week prior to their arrival on campus.

Provost's report: The Provost stated that the number one priority was to maintain a safe environment in UB. The COVID19 situation is being monitored very closely. Thanksgiving testing for students on campus has begun already. The testing centers are running smoothly, and are available on all campuses.

Decanal transitions:

Dean James M. O'Donnell, the eleventh Dean of the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences & Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and of Pharmacology and Toxicology will be stepping down at end of the current academic year to resume a full faculty role as Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacology and

Toxicology. During his seven years of leadership at UB, the school's US News and World Report ranking has significantly improved, up from 22 to 14, and the school's enrollment has remained strong despite increasing competition in New York State. Dr. O'Donnell will leave the school well poised to build on this success, for years to come.

Dean Nancy J. Smyth will step down as Dean of the School of Social Work effective at the end of the current academic year after 16 years of leadership, and return to a faculty role as a Professor of social work. Her leadership has truly transformed the School of Social Work. Dr. Smyth led the school in creating and implementing a strategic plan that aligns its vision and goals with UB's institutional priorities and focuses on preparing students for success in the 21st century, and enhancing faculty productivity and impact through the creation of the Buffalo Center for Social Research to support faculty research.

The Provost stated that both Professors have been excellent Deans and University leaders. They have significantly advanced each of UB's educational, research, and engagement missions, leaving the respective schools well positioned to build on their success for years to come. The search for the new Deans for both the above-mentioned Schools will begin later this semester and UB hopes to have new leadership determined by the end of Spring 2021.

The search for the Vice Provost for International Education is moving forward with a strong and diverse pool of candidates and they hope to have the finalists by January. The Provost welcomed nominations for the post.

Chair's report:

1) UB COVID-19 dashboard: The Chair gave an insight into the COVID19 numbers in UB with 858 cumulative cases since 8/21/20.

2) Thanksgiving testing: Any student living on campus, taking one or more on-campus classes, utilizing on-campus services, or working on campus must complete testing within 10 days of departing for break and no later than Nov. 18.

3) SUNY's reopening guidance for the spring semester: As per SUNY guidance the spring semester will begin on Feb. Faculty Senate Executive

Committee actions 10/28/2020 Spring Calendar Resolution was passed by 17-0-2 vote.

4) During the Scholarly Discourse, Professor James Campbell spoke on presidential election prediction. The following week, there was a Scholarly Discourse presentation by Professor Jason Briner on the melting Greenland icecap.

5) SUNY central has a number of awards for faculty for different activities, awards which may be helpful for promotion and tenure and faculty prestige. The information will be shared with the senators by email, as they become available.

Parliamentarian report: None

Presentation:

Data Security: SUNY Distinguished Professor, Venu Govindaraju, who is also the UB Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and the founding director of the Center for Unified Biometrics and Sensors presented the nuances of data security at UB. He spoke of the “task force on safeguarding university and faculty assets and interests.” He spoke of complete transparency, integrity, foreign disclosure and export controls. He spoke of behaviors that can harm the research enterprise. He elaborated on conflict of interest and commitment, leadership failures, distortion of the peer review process, cyber theft data and criminal grant fraud. He presented several measures that need to be considered during professional travel.

New & Old Business:

SUNY FS Resolutions: First Reading presented by Cemal Besaran.

1. Resolution regarding *‘racial equity and social justice curriculum’* suggesting the campuses to develop courses for racial equity and social justice in addition to other courses on diversity and inclusion. It also called on the campus governance bodies (Senate) to work with those developing and implementing programs, forums and workshops on equity, inclusion and diversity. It was also suggested that the undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff should be educated on the impact on systemic racism. This SUNY

resolution was taken at the 186th Plenary, October 15-17, 2020 with a vote of 45yay-4-1abstain.

2. Resolution was from the SUNY governance committee regarding the importance of '*maintaining effective shared governance practices during times of crisis*'. Taken at the 186th Plenary, October 15-17, 2020 the resolution passed 46-4-0. The resolutions asks the administration review the 5 suggestions given in the resolution and work with the FS and adapt decisions appropriate for the campus.

3. The FSEC had passed a decision after elaborate discussions, to start the Spring semester 2021 on Feb 1st, 2021 and with no 'Spring break' in between in order to contain the spread of the COVID19 virus. Mike Montero, the student representative who was present during the FSEC discussions, brought the question regarding why this decision was taken in a haste, to the floor. After discussion, it was concluded that the resolution to change the start date of Spring semester was in line with the suggestion from SUNY and a decision had been taken after robust discussions.

Executive session: None

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 4.18 pm. -

Submitted by Jessy Alexander, Secretary of the Faculty Senate,
November, 2020.