

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022
Online by Zoom

Attendance: Pages 9-15

Proceedings of the meeting are uploaded onto UB Box.

The chair, Fred Stoss, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked to acknowledge with a moment of silence the 10 persons that were tragically killed this past Saturday in a tremendous act of violence against humanity. We will take a moment of silence and remember the families, the friends, the colleagues and the community that have been so tragically affected by this. The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

Agenda: The agenda for the day was approved unanimously.

Secretary's report: The report is uploaded on UBbox.

Following the results of the poll sent to the voting faculty about the day/time of the FS and FSEC meetings, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee voted at its May 11 meeting to have both Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive committee meetings on Tuesday 3-4:30pm, starting in Fall 2022. Kristin Stapleton was voted in to fill the SUNY senate seat.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Chair's report: The report is uploaded on UBbox. Between now and the beginning of the next term of the Faculty Senate, we will be busy with a number of committees that are going to be working on a number of different items that have. And I also want to take the time to thank all of you who have served as members of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the work that has been done thus far and that we will continue doing in the future.

Parliamentarian's report: no report

President's report: no report

Provost's report: no report

Featured Speaker: Satish Tripathi, President, University at Buffalo

I would like to begin by acknowledging what a somber time this has been for our university community, considering the horrific hate crime committed against our neighbors this past weekend. As I stated then, we are a scholarly community and we have both the power and the responsibility to combat hate. And to that we are deeply committed.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would also like to take this opportunity to mention UB safety and security protocols that are in place for this weekend ceremonies. As with any larger scale event, we have put in place security checkpoints for all those attending our recognition ceremonies and commencements. Everyone participating in commencement should be aware that getting entrance into the event venue might take a few extra minutes. I want to ensure that our graduates, their families and friends, and our faculty and staff feel safe enjoying these celebrations. I look forward to celebrating the events, leading up to and including commencement, with our graduates, the guests, and our university community.

I am pleased to share an update on the progress we're making as a university. As we all know, the pandemic has made the past two years quite challenging for our university community and, despite it all, we are continuing to take steps towards achieving our goals. I want to thank our faculty for all you have done to adjust, accommodate, and innovate, since the start of the pandemic to further research and creative activities, and to help our students succeed. Guided by our top 25 ambition, our faculty continue to make a positive impact through our research, clinical care, creative endeavors and educational excellence. And increasingly you are being recognized for your excellence and achievements. Over the past five years, 30 UB faculty members have been appointed to the SUNY distinguished Professor rank. Our faculty have also recently been honored as fellows of the National Academy of Inventors, the American Association of Advancement of Science, National Science Foundation CAREER recipients, Fulbright scholars, and fellows of the American Council of Learned Societies. Across the disciplines, you are conducting seminal investigations into relevant contemporary concerns. As a result, our research profile has expanded. And



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the most telling metrics about research productivity is our annual research expenditures in 2021. Our total research expenditure from federal, state, and internal sources were \$425 million. Over five years, these expenditures have risen 10%, and they are up more than 20% over the past decade. Another key metric for our impact is our faculty citations. In the past 10 years, these citations have doubled. Through our strategic planning and research, we have also achieved numerous major extramural funding goals. These include: the Clinical and Translational Science award, which was renewed in 2020 for \$21.7 million; the Women's Health Initiative, which received \$8.1 million in 2020, bringing total funding for this research to \$38 million; and \$22.5 million renewal of a National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center award, which is on top of the \$25 million award from 2013. More recently, in just the past few months, our faculty have received several prestigious grants. These include a \$10 million grant in April from the National Science Foundation to lead a team developing software to manage high performance computing infrastructure. This will position our university to become one of the nation's premier hubs of technological innovation. In March UB received a \$7.5 million award from the Department of Defense to lead an international research team that will enhance ways to ensure that semiconductor chips are authentic, and work as expected. The research is funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research through a Department of Defense highly competitive multi-disciplinary university research initiative. And in January, the US Air Force Research Lab selected our researchers to lead a \$5 million study to improve the nation's ability to track and monitor spacecrafts and space debris. This was only one of two such awards issued nationwide. Late last year, we learned that UB had received \$175,000 grant from the Andrew W Mellon foundation to support the development of a Shawnee archive and resource collection. This is on top of the \$3.1 million UB received in from the Mellon foundation to develop a new department of Indigenous Studies. The department of Indigenous Studies is just one example of the many ways our university and faculty are innovating to achieve academic excellence. Since 2018, four new departments have been created, and more than a hundred new degree programs, which includes the creation of combined degrees. As we continue to strive to achieve our top 25 ambition, the most recent ranking of our graduate school show we are on our way. In fact, more than a dozen professional schools and programs have risen in the rankings. Among these are: School of Public Health and Health



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Professions, 31st among the public and private universities, 19th among the public universities; School of Social Works, 21th among public and private, 10th among public; and School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, 14th in both categories. Our programs ranked in the top 25 include: Audiology, Library Information Studies, Industrial Engineering, and Nursing Anesthesia. As the result of our faculty's dedication, UB is having a profound impact on the success of our students. And, in turn, our students are being recognized nationally for their excellence, with Goldwater and Fulbright scholarships, National Science Foundation scholarships, etc. With commencement season upon us, we are confident our graduates are ready to take their place to the workforce and make meaningful contributions to society. To help prepare them to lead, we have significantly expanded our campus support system for both students and faculty entrepreneurship. As a result, more than 25,000 students have been involved in our entrepreneurship program during the last six years. More than 800 students have been hired by local companies since 2016, and more than 500 industry partners have worked with our Business and Entrepreneurship program. And more than 1700 new jobs have been created. In the space of only one year, the number of up startups tripled. As we celebrate the success of our students at this time of the year, it also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as an institution. The excellence of our faculty drives the university success and is greatly contributing to our top 25 ambition. I want to thank our faculty for all you do for our students and for UB.

M Jameson: Thank you, President Tripathi, for your words of consolation following the tragic events of Saturday. I had already thought of a question that I would ask you today, but it acquires a certain greater urgency in light of these events. Last week I saw professor Logan Green from our School of Social Work quoted in the daily roundup of faculty members in the news for their research. She pointed out that there is a lot we don't know about gun violence, because of the restriction of funding research about gun violence as a public health crisis. I think I knew this before, but it didn't yet make me as angry as it makes me now. My question for you is to know whether and how as an institution, or as a member of a broader institution, SUNY, or as a member of the AAU, UB could fight back against what is basically a corrupt and evil restriction on the pursuit of knowledge about this plague of gun

violence. Our learned societies are probably doing something, but I would be very pleased to hear your thoughts about alternatives to that.

President Tripathi: For many years, as SUNY, as well as AAU and APLU, we have written letters, multiple letters, statements. Every year we write letters to Congress and the White House. As you said rightly, how can we talk about it if we are not allowed to look at the data, to do research, and so on. Every year we send memos to our elected officials, as well as to the White House, in the last many years that I can remember. It's a very important research area that has not been allowed. And it's such a bad policy, I completely agree with you. We hear about these shootings almost every day, and we can't really do research and have data. But we'll continue to do that, and we do that both as a SUNY institution, we do it all the time as AAU institution. Unfortunately, we haven't had much luck. But we'll keep pursuing it.

L Mullen (GSEU President): I am the president of the Graduate Student Employees Union, and a PhD student in the English department. While further resources on campus are always beneficial, my question is really about financial resources, stipends predominantly. According both to MIT and the Economic Policy Institute's perspective wage calculator, a living wage for Buffalo would be around \$35,000/year. At UB, the average TA makes approximately \$20,000/year, though some to make as low as \$11,000 a year before taxes. With the living wage being \$35,000 and the average TA stipend being \$20,000, my question is: why does the University at Buffalo believe that its graduate workers deserve to make less than a living wage or, why does the University at buffalo believe that it is acceptable as a top public university in the state of New York to pay its graduate workers a pottery wage.

President Tripathi: I am going to answer in two parts. The first one is: when we raised the graduate student stipends three years ago, four years ago, we promised that we will do an evaluation every three or four years. And the Provost will be doing that again. Now the other aspect really is: we look at the AAU institutions, and we look at where we are. When we raised the stipends, we were at the very top, almost at the top AAU public. We have fallen behind, and that's what the Provost will be looking further as we go along.



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J Sechrist (GSEU): I am also with the GSEU. In June of last year, after months of public pressure, the provost announced that comprehensive and academic fees will be waived for fully funded PhD students. This was a major step forward in recognizing TAs, RAs and GAs as employees of the university, and eliminated fees as a work tax for many of us. However, there are still many graduate workers who are required to pay this work tax, including graduate assistants in non-academic departments, Architecture, Law, MBAs MFAs, etc. Do you, as President, agree that all graduate employees at UB, not just fully funded PhD students, should not have to pay fees in order to work.

President Tripathi: No, I don't. The Provost is looking at it. We did that for the PhD students, and will continue to monitor based on the resources what we can do.

J Holstun: In the most recently reported year, you dedicated \$297 million to the UB Foundation assets. It's a striking increase, about a 28% increase, in the net assets of the UB Foundation. This comes at the end of a six-year period, from 2015 to 2021, when you cut the ladder faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences by 9%, from 472 to 422. Why, in view of your desire that we make it into the top 25 of that defunct but still publishing journal US News and World Report, have you cut the ladder faculty in what is frequently thought of as the core college of the university, the College of Arts and Sciences, from 472 to 422. There have also been cuts in TAs: one of the ways you have moved up the TAship stipend from a horrific level to a merely awful level is by insisting that we cut the number of funded TAs. This also leads to the crashing of programs. I can't put this together with the astonishing increase in assets, in net assets.

President Tripathi: I don't know how you associate the Foundation money to hiring a faculty. It's an interesting equation that you have, which I don't think I can convince you that equation doesn't exist, because we have tried this before. With respect to the TAs and the teaching, this is what the Deans and the Provost are working on, providing better teaching and hiring the teaching faculty where needed, as well. It is not that I am saying "cut these many faculty". This is really something that is being managed based on the resources at the decanal level. There's not a plan here to cut down the faculty. There are investments going on, there is still faculty being hired.

Unfinished business

SUNY FS Spring Plenary Review (Cemal Basaran):

F Stoss: The resolutions are all uploaded on UBbox. They were presented at the April Faculty Senate meeting for first reading. This is our second reading, and we will vote on the acceptance of these resolutions. The only thing that we are doing here is endorsing (or not endorsing), the resolutions. They cannot be amended, because they have already been passed by the University Faculty Senate. We are just lending our agreeing or disagreeing.

Resolution 1 – SUNY Health, Wellness and Well-being

The resolution was endorsed with 86% voting yes, 5% voting no, and 9% abstaining from voting

Resolution 2 – Cost of Administration

The resolution was endorsed with 77% voting yes, 1% voting no, and 21% abstaining from voting

Resolution 3 – Presidential Search

G Gambrel: I am unclear on how the process normally works, and I was a little unclear on what the proposed changes were.

F Stoss: There haven't been any proposed changes. This resolution is calling for a subcommittee to be created to create the changes. This committee should include robust faculty representation.

The resolution was endorsed with 93% voting yes, 1% voting no, and 5% abstaining from voting

New business

None



Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Prinari, Interim Secretary of the Faculty Senate, May 19, 2022.



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Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 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 – ✓



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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 –



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Farah Percy Vandrevala – ✓

Jose Walteros – ✓

Junsong 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 – ✓



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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-Hutherson – ✓

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) –



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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:

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP:

Robert Granfield – ✓

Graham Hammill – ✓

William McDonnell –

Eileen Sherman –

Laura Hubbard - ✓

Kemper Lewis - ✓

Robin Schulze - ✓

Paul Tesluk - ✓

Craig Abbey - ✓

Dan Kelly -

Marsha Lewis - ✓

Jean Wactawski-Wende - ✓



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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 -
UB GSEU - ✓