

Minutes of the Executive Committee – APPROVED

September 10, 2020 (virtual, held using Zoom, business conducted)

Convener: Tim Tryjankowski

Officers Present: Tim Tryjankowski (Chair), Don Erb (Vice Chair), Hugh Jarvis (Secretary)

Executive Members Present: JD Augustine, Jessica Coram, Cathy Donnelly (alternate), David Emhof, Lynn Emminger (alternate), Rita Ferri, Chris Keough, Dom Licata (ex officio without vote), Jenna Lenz, Rose Mammen, Lauren McGowan, RJ Multari, Marlo Roetzer, Mary Jo Sicurella (alternate), Krystal Testa also Mike Montoro (COAL rep)

Executive Members Absent: Bob Miletich (FS Chair)

Members/Guests:

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish, Gail Reino

Recorder: Hugh Jarvis

Meeting called to order by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:02 p.m.

Quorum reached: 9 members and 4 officers present.

**Supporting documents in Box.com folder in
Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Executive Committee Meetings**



PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to adopt agenda:** Jenna Lenz (Chris Keough). Passed.

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from May 21, 2020:** JD Augustine (Rita Ferri). Passed.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Chair made statement about importance of Black Lives Matter movement and UB being a place where everyone can thrive including underrepresented groups. He has asked our Inclusion & Diversity Cmt to come up with a proposal we can act upon this year.
- Our temporary admin assistant, Gail Reino, has now completed her temporary tenure. We have now hired Jessica Naish as our new full-time staffer. Thanks to Gail and welcome to Jessica.
- UB has record enrollment this fall, around 30,000 students on-campus and 418 freshmen in Honor's College.
- UB's COVID-19 planning committee met last week. Winter is full remote with some exceptions. Lots of talk about final course catalog for spring. Except final decisions by November in time for registration.
- Governor has required on-campus testing at check-in.
- Unexpected request from SUNY FS President Gwen Kay and chancellor, asked for PSS representation at special meeting with Chancellor. Private meeting occurred with Pres. Tripathi, Chancellor, and other VIPs. Press conference afterwards. Announced hard line with students breaking rules and partying, plus new screening methods including pool testing. Chancellor supports employees working from home at least until end of year. If numbers get too high will immediately switch to full remote but hopes we may get back to normal this spring. Was very candid and personable, and introduced himself to PSS and FS Chairs, offered any support we need. Possibility of alternative testing methods, including sewage testing from dorms.
- UB needs a policy in place for professional staff if levels get too high. Do we switch to complete remote? How does that work. Chair wants it in place, will present to the committee.
- Bunsis Report. FS Cmt was not pleased that the FS Chair tabled it, will continue the discussion.
- **Motion to receive: JD Augustine (Krystal Testa). Passed.**

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Rec & Wellness: Summer Bike Challenge has ended, will be some prizes. Student Assn is taking over boat rentals and our kayak loans Sept. 20.
- Staff Development & Engagement: "Taking Your Job Seriously" event with guest speaker planned for October with corporate sponsorship. Mentoring sub-cmt doing well, 26 mentors and 7 new protégés.
- Sustainable Living: Electronics Recycling Event scheduled for October as a safe event. Sustainable Living Fair will not be held, but working with 12 previous sponsors to set up a virtual 'TED Talks' series of speakers. A second Caught Green Handed awardee will be honored in next PSS Newsletter. Five more have been nominated.
- Discussion:
 - Rec & Wellness liaison passed on an issue, have been problems with care of kayak loan. Cmt asked if EC has additional guidelines for loaners. Vice-Chair & Chair clarified the Cmt needs to create those guidelines and present to EC for approval, but we will very likely back their preferences.
 - Former Chair asked if the kayaks will still be ours and prioritized for PSS member use. Vice-Chair replied yes, 100% they remain ours.

- Chair asked the liaison to return our preferences to the Cmt and request they prepare additional guidelines.

- **Motion to receive: Chris Keough (Rose Mammen). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Hugh Jarvis

- Andrew Fogelsonger has moved to Area 2 so has resigned as Area 1 alternate.
- Mary Jo Sicurella is next in line as Area 1 alternate and has agreed to serve.
- **Motion to acknowledge Andrew's resignation and to accept new EC alternate member, Mary Jo Sicurella: Cathy Donnelly (Lynn Emminger). Passed.**
- Last meeting, we encouraged EC members to do more active outreach to area senators and members. Request for feedback from those who did so.
- Discussion: JD Augustine shared feedback. Chair encouraged more of the same.
- **Motion to receive secretary's report: Chris Keough (Lynn Emminger). Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS

Virtual Meeting Rules – Rachel Poole

- Will present at start of September general meeting, seek motion of support, so can then proceed with business at the meeting. It's unusual even by Robert's Rules of Order but is in alignment with our governance documents.
- We will stress need for quorum in our regular outreach

'Drive to 25' Resolution – Tim Tryjankowski

- Still popular with admin. Tabled until October. Will share draft. Requesting comment/additions.

Redistricting Proposal Planning – Tim Tryjankowski

- Tony Waleszczak will present his report at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Living Stipend / Bunsis Report – Dom Licata

- Short overview of Living Stipend Resolution and Bunsis Report (forensic accounting of UB budget by Professor Howard Bunsis -- portions of UB budget are opaque, others are much higher than peers).
- Welcomes dialog about low wages while admin earns 23% more than peers, but we spend less than peers of regular faculty.
- Bunsis presentation has been postponed until next Friday. UUP is co-sponsor. PSS has invited Living Stipend speakers and has endorsed previous efforts by that group for equity and transparency.



- Chair notes the PSS has indeed promoted the presentation in the interests of shared governance and transparency. Encourages discussion of the resolution (below).
- Discussion:
 - Consensus, in favor.
 - Michael Montoro seconded Dom Licata's words, appreciates PSS support.
 - How do we offer support..? We can respond we support the presentation (not necessarily the findings) and know we may be cited on promotions as giving endorsement.
- **TA/GA Living Wage Resolution:**
 - *WHEREAS, the UB Professional Staff Senate has endorsed various efforts of the UB Living Stipend Movement (LSM), including supporting the right of every worker to earn a living wage; and*
 - *WHEREAS, Dr. Howard Bunsis Professor of Accounting at Eastern Michigan University, has provided independent analyses of finances at many universities, including Stony Brook University, and has recently been retained by LSM to do the same for UB; and*
 - *WHEREAS, although the UB administration has made efforts to present a view of the intricacies of and constraints on the university's budget, Dr. Bunsis' analysis of UB's finances, though publicly rejected as erroneous by the UB administration, makes substantial claims of disparity of financial priorities when compared to UB's peers; and*
 - *WHEREAS, the PSS has consistently encouraged dialog, transparency and shared governance at all levels;*
 - *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*
 - *RESOLVED, that the UB PSS supports the efforts of the LSM to present a virtual appearance of Dr. Bunsis on September 11, 2020, for the purpose of publicly discussing his recent report;*
 - *RESOLVED, that the UB PSS will assist in promoting the event through its email list(s);*
 - *RESOLVED, that the LSM may list the PSS as a supporter of the presentation.*
- **Motion to approve resolution: JD Augustine (Jenna Lenz). Passed.**
- Additional discussion:
 - Pres. Tripathi complained that the report did not have access to all information, which in itself stresses the lack of transparency.
 - Bunsis and GSA had to make multiple FOIA requests just to get the information they had.

COVID Crisis – Tim Tryjankowski

- Request for feedback on semester startup:
 - Consensus went well.
 - PPE received, including special equipment for front desks.
 - Went to remote very quickly and smoothly.
 - Move-in went very well. People wore masks, distanced. Cleaning was evident.
 - Concerns about mask wearing for library patrons. What will enforcement be handled specially by student employees. Masks are required for entry, but what about while in the building...
 - Communications handled well.
 - Intervals between classes too long. That was to allow for cleaning but is being handled differently.
 - Ongoing issues for working parents.

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- Accessibility issues with virtual presentations.
- Staff did wonderful job adjusting to changes despite problems with equipment.
- Additional problems with hybrid learning e.g. students having one in-person class and having to pay high fees for in residency.
- Ongoing questions about specifics of mask wearing. Employees have many opinions and are receiving many answers.
- Initial confusion from international students, issues with travel, questions about asynchronous learning over varied time zones.

SUNY FS RESOLUTION - Discussion on new SUNY Chancellor – Tim Tryjankowski

- SUNY FS concerns with the appointment of new SUNY Chancellor, lack of transparency and democratic process
- [SUNY FS Resolution: http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/fcc-ufs-sa_chancellor_vnc_proposed_resolution_8-21-20.pdf](http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/fcc-ufs-sa_chancellor_vnc_proposed_resolution_8-21-20.pdf)

Resolution: Vote of No Confidence in Politically Appointed Members of SUNY Board of Trustees

- **RATIONALE:**
- *WHEREAS the State University of New York (SUNY), like other public higher education systems across the nation, is committed to fulfilling its core academic mission, to transform students' lives and life chances, and serve the state as a foundation for democracy, platform for civic engagement, engine of economic development, pathway to the middle class, magnet for population growth and private investment, and generators of health, creativity, and innovation; and*
- *WHEREAS the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges (SUNY FCCC), the SUNY Student Assembly (SUNY SA), and the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) have advocated for following transparent and established process in searches for campus and SUNY System Administration leaders; and*
- *WHEREAS SUNY has a national reputation as a leader in the practice of shared governance, as evidenced by the SUNY Voices initiative which has sponsored conferences, edited volumes, and leadership trainings on shared governance; and*
- *WHEREAS legitimate, broad-based and transparent search processes in higher education represent a best practice in shared governance as per the AAUP Statement on Governance; and*
- *WHEREAS searches for the SUNY Chancellor over the last two decades have followed transparent and established search processes, resulting in excellent outcomes; and*
- *WHEREAS the politically appointed members of the Board of Trustees have ignored this proud history that in the past demonstrated shared governance in chancellor and presidential searches at SUNY and its campuses; and*
- *WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees approved the Resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in September of 2015 in order to grow the diversity of SUNY's system and campus leadership, as well as its faculty and staff; and*
- *WHEREAS in bypassing a transparent and inclusive national search process, the politically appointed members of the SUNY Board of Trustees have neglected to actualize the goals of the Resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and*
- *WHEREAS the current budget and health crises do not necessitate the abandonment of shared governance, in that collaboration and inclusive decision-making instead will generate the best decisions going forward; and*

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- *WHEREAS the politically appointed members of the Board of Trustees have condoned the unilateral appointment of a Chancellor, acting in a manner that disregards norms, practices and traditions in higher education;*
- *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY FCCC, SUNY SA, and SUNY UFS express no confidence in the politically appointed members of the SUNY Board of Trustees who voted in favor of the appointment of a new chancellor on August 21, 2020, given their action regarding the appointment of the 14th chancellor without conducting a search that meets standards of shared governance and effective leadership of our University System.*
- **Motion to endorse SUNY FS resolution: Dom Licata (RJ Multari). Passed with one abstention.**

Change in Constitution & By-Laws Cmt Charge – Don Erb

- Current Committee Charge: To annually review the Bylaws, Constitution, and Code of Ethics, and proposes amendments to these documents to the Executive Senate and General Membership for vote.
- Proposed Committee Charge: To annually review the Bylaws, Constitution, Code of Ethics **and Standing Orders**, and proposes amendments to these documents to the Executive **Committee** and General Membership for vote.
- **Motion to accept change in charge: Jessica Coram (Chris Keough). Passed.**

Note: Next meeting is Sept 24 general meeting with Provost Webber as guest speaker as well GSA on living stipend issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: 4:37 p.m.

Attendance sheet on Box.

Meeting audio recording available on Box.

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