

## Minutes of the Executive Committee – APPROVED

April 14, 2022 (Zoom, business conducted)

**Convener:** Don Erb

**Officers Present:** Don Erb (Vice Chair), Catherine Donnelly (Secretary)

**Executive Members Present:** Rachel Blane, Ed Brodka, Jessica Byerly Coram, Andrew Fogelsonger, Janiece Jankowski, Dom Licata, Tim Matthews, RJ Multari, Marlo Roetzer, Eileen Sirianni, and Krystal Testa.

**Absent/Excused:** Brianna Bennett, Ray Dannehooffer, Lynn Emminger, Hugh Jarvis, Chris Keough, Carl Lam, Melinda Saran, Fred Stoss, Tim Tryjankowski

**Members/Guests:** Kimberly Krzemien

**Parliamentarian:** *Rachel Poole (excused)*

**Staff:** *Jessica Naish (excused)*

**Recorder:** Catherine Donnelly

**Meeting called to order** by Don Erb at 3:02 p.m.

**Quorum reached:** 10 members and 2 officers present.

**Supporting documents in Box.com folder in**

[Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Executive Committee Meetings/04-14-2022](#)

### PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Don Erb

- Motion to adopt [Agenda](#): **Janiece Jankowski (Ed Brodka). Passed.**

### REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Don Erb

- Minutes available in Box folder.
- Motion to approve [Minutes from March. 10, 2022](#): **Marlo Roetzer (Krystal Testa). Passed.**

### CHAIR'S REPORT – None

### VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- *Awards Committee:* No submissions for either service award. Waiting for updates on the SUNY Chancellor Award.
- *Budget Advisory Committee:* No update.

**Office of University Shared Governance**  
**Professional Staff Senate**

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- *Constitution and Bylaws*: Reviewing annual governing documents. Proposed reorganization to be discussed later.
- *Election Committee*: Call for elections sent on April 4.
- *Inclusion and Diversity*: May is Jewish American Heritage Month. The committee is taking steps to produce a lunch and learn and details are forthcoming. May is also Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Discussions are ongoing about potential programming. The committee is also working on an accessible pathways initiative with campus partners as well as an initiative with the PSS Sustainable Living Committee lead by Derek Nichols from UB Sustainability.
- *Marketing and Communication*: No update.
- *Recreation and Wellness Committee*: Helping to promote the UB Step Challenge.
- *Retirees Committee*: Event on March 24 was well attended with over 100 participants. Committee is seeking new members and working on more topics to present.
- *Staff Development / Welcome Committee*: June 8 is the new date for the Welcome with the President. Date needed to be moved (thank you Marlo for sharing this update!)
- *Sustainable Living Committee*: Planning Lake LaSalle cleanup event on April 30 from 9-12.
- **Motion to receive: Janiece Jankowski (Eileen Sirianni). Passed.**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT – None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Need to discuss an addition to the proposed reorganization of PSS voting from five areas into departmental and decanal units. There was a concern earlier in the year that it was not clear how to seat a new EC. See all the documents in the Box folder.
  - There will be a senator for every 45 staff members for a total of 69 senators along with 25 at-large seats for a max of 94 senators.
  - Current proposal has 25 electoral areas that can still be sorted into the five traditional executive groups. So, the proposal is to seat the EC following essentially the current process of two EC members from each executive group along with one alternate.
  - Expectation is that by increasing the diversity of the senate pool to 25 departments and decanal units that the EC would be a good representative body as a result.
  - Currently seated senators will be at-large members for the transition year. There will always be 25 at large seats available.

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- Discussion occurred with some concerns about possible representation issues between smaller areas and larger ones that the concerns of the smaller groups get a bigger voice in the EC.
- Conversation suggested that the EC is like the US Senate and the PSS is like the House of Representatives. However, the EC does not make final decisions, they discuss resolutions. The full PSS vote as a body to approve or not approve the business matters. And any senator can attend the EC at any time. The meetings are not closed.
- Suggestion about using ratios to help offset certain departments changing in size over time. It was shared that keeping the EC at a manageable number was important and that improving the senator numbers is a primary goal since there are many empty seats right now.
- Another suggestion was to add another academic group to even out the number of EC representatives so that there could be three academic and three non-academic groups to pull from. There was a concern if that would be gerrymandering or not.
- Motion to move the voting changes to the full committee **Ed Brodka (Eillen Sirianni)**.

**Passed: 6-Yes, 2-No, 2-Abstain**

## NEW BUSINESS

- Don Erb shared the UB Council Meeting on March 28. The Graduate School of Education will move to Foster Hall after renovations are complete.
  - NYS Budget considering ways to close the TAP gap.
  - Defining what it means to be a flagship university.
  - Waiting for update on the joint committee on child and elder care from the Faculty Senate.
- RJ Multari shared an update from the SUNY Faculty Plenary.
  - Concern about SUNY enrollment overall. Community colleges losing students.
  - Need to be transparent with the national search for a new Chancellor. Will not repeat past mistakes in the selection process.
- Interesting discussion about who UB identifies as peer institutions and who selects us in return. Several schools that have been historically aspirational peers identify UB back as a peer like the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. More details shared in this [Chronicle of Higher Education article](#).
- Elections for Faculty Senate seat are underway.



University at Buffalo

## Professional Staff Senate

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- Committee chairs will be invited to April PSS meeting to complete budget requests for the year.
- Earth Day is April 22, please support the Office of Sustainability. Also, support the Celebration of Academic Excellence on April 26.
- Need to approve the agendas for the April 28 and May PSS general meetings. The May agenda is needed to fulfill a 15-day minimum notice to the full senate that there will be a vote on a proposed change to the Senate.

**Motion to accept the April 28 agenda: RJ Multari (Janiece Jankowski) Passed**

**Motion to accept the May 26 agenda: Janiece Jankowski (Marlo Roetzer) Passed**

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to adjourn Janiece Jankowski (RJ Multari) Passed**

**Meeting ended at 3:42 p.m.**

*Attendance sign in sheet(s) available through the PSS office.*

*Meeting audio recording available through the PSS office.*

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