# **Minutes of the Executive Committee – APPROVED**

## **October 14, 2021 (in-person, business conducted)**

**Convener**: Tim Tryjankowski

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

**Executive Members Present**: Brianna Bennett, Ed Brodka, Jessica Coram, Chris Keough, Carl Lam, Tim Matthews, RJ Multari, Melinda Saran, Eileen Sirianni and Krystal Testa.

**Absent**: Ray Dannehoffer, Lynn Emminger, Andrew Fogelsonger, Janiece Jankowski, Hugh Jarvis, Marlo Roetzer, Fred Stoss,

**Members/Guests**: Peter DiNunzio

**Parliamentarian:** Rachel Poole (Absent, Excused)

**Staff:** Jessica Naish

**Recorder**: Catherine Donnelly

**Meeting** **called to order** by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:06 p.m.

**Quorum** **reached**: 10 members and 3 officers present.

***Supporting documents in Box.com folder in*** [***Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Executive Committee Meetings/10-14-2021***](https://buffalo.box.com/s/nijhezyfzz54fqpnlltme5i5s9lgrfnl)

## ****PRESENTATION OF AGENDA –**** Tim Tryjankowski

* **Motion to adopt Agenda: Jessica Coram (Chris Keough). Passed.**

## ****REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(s) –**** Tim Tryjankowski

* Minutes available in Box folder.
* **Motion to approve Minutes from Sept. 9, 2021: Ed Brodka (Melinda Saran). Passed.**

## ****CHAIR’S REPORT –**** Tim Tryjankowski

* **Let the record show that we are back hosting an in****-person meeting for the first time after the Covid-19 pandemic. We are grateful and cautiously resuming these meetings in person with today's gathering. Thank you all.**
* **All EC members are asked to function as our representative body and to please respond to calls for information. As a result of my most recent requestion for nominations, Stacy Snyder will be on the College of Arts and Sciences Review Committee. She was recommended by Senator Chris Keough. Remember to use the** **listserv for your area if you want to connect with your constituents.**
* **We want to limit the number of emails we send so please utilize the newsletter (first of the month) and the midmonth minder (15th of the month).**
* **Our guest speakers are coming into focus for the year. In October we're going hear from Ryan McPherson in Sustainability. Also, Gina Prescott who is leading this charge with the Afghan refugee fundraising. Please share suggestions for future meetings. I’ll ask anyone and was pleasantly surprised when Dr. Gale Burnstein joined us last year.** 
  + **One special notice, we have invited Ron Raccuia, who is the executive vice president at Pegula Sports Entertainment for the Buffalo Bills and the lead on the new stadium project, to come in the New Year.**
  + **Mark Coldren will come to our January or February meeting to discuss the telecommuting agreement, process, the approvals and the rejections. I've heard some good and a lot of bad through the process.**
* **I would like to call in the Professional Development Subcommittees to begin to plan the spring welcome breakfast with President Tripathi when they can.**
* **We are just a few days away from announcing our own celebration for the 2020/2021 SUNY Chancellor Award winners for professional service.**
* **I attended the SUNY –wide Faculty Senate Plenary. UB has four senators and then Fred Stoss and I represent UVA's campus governance leaders. I ver impressed by the chancellor. RJ Multari will share an update later on this event.**
* **Thank you for everyone who volunteered for the child care and elder care special joint committee with the Faculty Senate. The chancellor is aware of these issues and is working with the governor to write a federal grant to bring some stimulus funds to SUNY.**
* **The faculty Senate is conducting a call out right now for their own election, their secretary position held by Jesse Alexander, is up for an election. .**
* **I attended the president's State of the Union. Sustainability was a focus and so we would like to casually mention that people working from home one day a week would really help that initiative. Also, our Drive to 25 resolution fits into future endeavors.**
* **I want to propose a food truck amnesty program to the Provost. It's my understanding that you can only have the UB food trucks on campus, I would propose an amnesty program for other restaurants should be able to come on campus at least this year while that construction is going on and the lines are so long.**
* **I have been asked to sit on the subcommittee of** **the President's Council on Race. I'm on the Hiring Awards and Recognition Subcommittee. We're looking closely at the Chancellor Awards and other awards on campus and create new awards if needed. And if there's not enough, maybe we need to create some internal or look to national organizations for other awards. We also want to increase recognition of important awards on campus.**
* **EC members should pick up their pins for the 50th year.**
* **Vaccine status or testing is being monitored. Staff who are not in compliance may be asked to leave. Numbers unclear. Also, some students had visas rescinded. May have been due to vaccine status. Students will also be unenrolled for non compliance. This is an evolving issue.**
* **Motion to receive: Chris Keough (Ed Brodka). Passed.**
* **VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT – Don Erb**
  + **Welcome Peter DiNunzio to discuss a change from the Budget Advisory Committee.** 
    - **[Peter speaking] We want to improve the ability of the PSS to move forward with planning. We have traditionally kept $5,000 in reserve each year, but we propose only $1,000 to free up more monies to support initiatives. We receive an annual allotment of $23,000 and holding back a quarter of the funds seems high.**
    - **We would like to add a tier to how money can be allocated to the committees. We propose that the BAC Chair can approve a one-time expense of up to $200 (for Jessica to execute), then amounts of $201-$1,000 the committee as a whole could approve and then amonunts of $1,001 ore more would have to be approved by the Executive Committee. Currently. The committee can approve under $500. We think this will help everyone plan events. Based on the current eight requests this year, four would have been the new tier one, three would have been tier two.**
  + **If this is an acceptable change, we will ask Constitution and Bylaws to review because this will change standing orders.**
  + **We need to approve a new chair for the Marketing Communications Committee. Jeremy** Cooper is a communications technician and curriculum assessment and teach transfer teaching transformation department. He has been recommended by his committee to take over.
* **Motion to accept nomination: Jessica Coram (Ed Brodka). Passed.**
  + **No discussion, Jeremy approved unanimously.**
* Constitution Bylaws Committee Committee will be meeting in October. They will review the reorganization information and hopefully be ready to come to us soon.
* The Inclusion and Diversity committee is working on a land acknowledgment document. They also forwarded a resolution of recommendation regarding the John James Audubon portion of the parkway that runs through the campus, (full resolution included in the slides).
  + Discussion ensued about how the City of Buffalo have many streets that are also known as another name.
  + Will have to go to the Town of Amherst too. Secondary name may help create an incremental step toward progress.
* Marketing Communications working on new banners, some tweaks to the newsletter and research about a new tool. We want to keep analytics so will keep working on this.
* Retiree Committee getting started.
* Lunch Bunch continues to grow, please encourage people to join. There are still gift certificates available. The September newsletter prompted a new committee member, Joshua Schemes, and who is the assistant director of the Office of Educator Preparation.
* Sustainability Committee has a recycling and food donation event on 10/28 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.
  + [Jessica Coram raised a point in discussion] The Inclusion and Diversity Committee is collaborating with the LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Association, the Minority Staff Faculty Association and the Office of Inclusive Excellence on an event with Standing Up for Racial Justice and Black Love Resists in the Rust. The event will be an October 20 Brown Bag Conversation on Zoom. This is an example of what could be next. So I just want to encourage participation.
* **Motion to receive: Chris Keough (Tim Matthews). Passed.**
* **SECRETARY’S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly**
* **No report**

## ****UNFINISHED BUSINESS****

Reorganization is tabled for the report from the Constitution and Governance Committee.

So we're waiting to hear back from them and we'll have a discussion after that time.

## ****NEW BUSINESS****

We are working on an event to honor the 2020 and 2021 SUNY Chancellor Award Winners. We are working on a stand to display the medallion they received. We will have nominators read a few lines and offer a toast. Details to come.

Should these meetings or the General Membership meetings be in person or on Zoom or some hybrid form (if a hybrid space was available)? Concerns about voting and representation were shared.

[Carl Lam] suggested voting after the meeting so that all attendees (in person or online) would vote at the same time.

[Jessica Coram] pointed out that gatherings of 100 or more require vaccination, which is not required for all staff at this time since surveillance testing is an option.

[Don Erb] Perhaps we can confirm voting through the authentication process. But would we have the same give and take online?

[Ed Brodka] But the breakout rooms last meeting were excellent. So engagement can happen online.

[Tim Tryjankowski] Was the spririt to get back together for these EC meetings? Or do we alternate or go hybrid. Does that support the telecommunity initiative more? We will keep GM online and try to set up the Nov. meeting as a hybrid.

[Cathy Donnelly] Maybe we can use breakouts in a GM for the area members to meet one another.

Approve agenda for 10/28 General Membership Meeting. Will discuss committee updates, hear from Ryan McPherson (Sustainabiltiy); Gina Prescott, Director of Global Outreach; Committee updates, RJ Multari (SUNY-wide Faculty Senate Plenary Update) and Marlo Roetzer (Adopt-a-Family).

* **Motion to receive: Eileen Siriani (Chris Keough) Passed.**

**SUNY Plenary Update (RJ Multari)**

* **SUNY enrollment is down 4.7% across all campuses, but the four doctoral campuses are up 0.2%.**
* **Community colleges have very low enrollment.**
* **Historically SUNY has weathered this kind of low enrollment before. But lower high school graduates are fueling this decline.**
* **The Chancellor is frustrated that 50,000+ NYS residents are getting online degrees outside of the SUNY system. A marketing campaign is underway.**
* **This Chancellor is very engaged, he talked for two hours opening and accepted all questions and joked that he was ready for the “airing of grievances” but he’s very passionate and I hope he will continue long-term.**
* **A diversity compentency will be added to the general education requirements to complete a degree. To add this, some other categories were collapsed. Everyone needs basic communication, math, science and diversity.**
* **All campuses are struggling in some way with the telecommuting agreement, and one pain point is the support of library staff who carry a faculty and professional role. The Chancellor supports telecommuting. Most issues seem to be with campus leaders. Rural campuses are also less supportive, most likely due to bandwidth issues. No consistency anywhere. SUNY Faculty Senate have voted in support of telecommunity and it’s on the agenda for negotiation in the contracts.**

**Tim will share the resolution with all to collect comments.**

* + **Discussion about telecommuting:**
    - **[Brianna Bennet] How would telecommuting of staff and faculty impact a student needing help? RJ replied that more students kept online appointments and that no one could telecommute 100% of the time, so offices could remain open.**

**One scheduling note, the November General Meeting would fall on Thanksgiving, so will be moved to Dec. 2.**

ADJOURNMENT

**President adjourned meeting at 4:26 p.m.**

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