

Minutes of the Senate – APPROVED

February 27, 2020

Convener: Tim Tryjankowski

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

Senators Present: Ashley Allen, JD Augustine, Jason Bachert, Susan Bagdasarian, Kim Behun, Rachel Blane, Kelly Cruttenden, Matt Deck, Cathy Donnelly, Rita Ferri, Fran Fiscus (alt. for Jessica Coram), Jonathan Freifeld, Jim Gordon, Janiece Jankowski, Dan Kelly, Chris Keough, Theresa Kruse, Jenna Lenz, Douglas Levere, Rose Mammen, Lauren McGowan, Jill Rexinger-Kuhn, Kathy Roach, Marlo Roetzer, Pam Rose, Melinda Saran, Mary Jo Sicurella, Eileen Sirianni, Pamela Stephens-Jackson, Cassandra Walker-Whiteside, Melissa Wood

Senators Absent: Cheryl Bailey, Kurt Baumgaertner, Charlie Baxter, Chris Cheung, Harrison Cheung, Jessica Coram (sent. alt.), Kalpesh Desai, David Emhof, Lynn Emminger, Mary Clare Fahey (sent alt.?), Anne-Marie Hantman, Gerri Kremer, Jessica Labella, Carl Lam, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Ben Poremski, Dan Ryan, Phil Ryan, Terry-Ann Smith, Glenn Taplin, Carlos Tejada, Kevin Westling,

Members/Guests: Mark Alnutt, Linda Del Bello, Ed Brodka, Giambattista Davis, Brian Kulpa, Dom Licata, Craig Mathis, Tess Morrissey, Kevin Ragland, Joe Rizzo, Dylan Steed, John Weiksnar, Jim Whitesell, Jim Whitlock,

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Gail Reino

Recorder: Hugh Jarvis

Meeting called to order by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:00 p.m.

Quorum reached: 23 senators and 3 officers present.

**Supporting documents in Box.com folder in
Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Senate and General Meetings**



PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to adopt Agenda: Jim Gordon (Sue Bagdasarian). Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from November 21, 2019: Jim Gordon (Sue Bagdasarian). Passed**

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Recent Stop the Bleed training successful, 30 attended, thanks to co-sponsors: Student Assn & Sororities & Fraternities Council.
 - Interest in more training sessions, use of defibrillators and CPR.
 - Will speak with HR about possibility of regular sessions.
 - Plans to help promote defibrillators around campus; e.g. through an app.
 - Plans to put one-handed tourniquets in defibrillator boxes.
- Thanks to Jason Parker, for long term of chairing the Website Cmt.
- Thanks to Russ Crispell, for his long service to UB, PSS and creating the Recreation & Wellness Cmt.
- Provost Search successful, PSS directly involved, Scot Weber pledges to work closely in future.
- Awards nominations have closed.
- University Shared Governance Day (March 3rd), will be regular senate meeting, joint with Faculty Senate, with speakers from five pillars of governance, rsvp needed!
- SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary (late January) – state budget and Excelsior program core topics, also focus on how universities can better adapt to new social and technological changes to make university experience more meaningful to next generation of students (possibility of workshops)
- Staff Appreciation Day under discussion, encouraged by admin, discussions with Laura Hubbard Mark Coldren, joint meeting with awards recognition
- Strive for 25 – PSS is joining this UB initiative, EC is drafting a resolution to UB Council and admin on what professional staff can do as a collective to help push UB higher in the rankings, more to follow
- **Motion to receive: Jim Gordon (Sue Bagdasarian). Passed.**

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Full committee report handed out – provided below this main document.
- Awards Cmt –application deadlines approaching for outstanding service award and outstanding service for professional staff award.
- Sustainable Living Cmt – Electronic Recycling Day (April 16) with collections for Blue Table & Hearts for the Homeless donations.
- **Motion to receive: Jim Gordon (Sue Bagdasarian). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Hugh Jarvis

- (none)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Special Cmt on Redistricting – Rachael Poole for Tony Waleszczak

- Survey was conducted of professional staff – 14% return, good response rate for staff.
 - Lots of disconnects: majority of responders did not know their representative, did not identify with their area, did not feel represented.
- Fact-finding continues.
- More in-depth presentation will come at next EC meeting.
- Depending on EC, further actions may result. If we decide to change our districting, a new cmt will carry that forward.

PRESENTATION – Mark Alnutt (AD) & Jim Whitesell (head men’s basketball coach)

Mark Alnutt

- Drive for 25, team successes bring national exposure, encourage philanthropy and recruitment
- Discussion:
 - Q/ Does such a successful year help student recruitment?
 - A/ Very much so. National attention attracts more students from farther away.
 - Q/ Any strategies to make UB and Buffalo more noticed?
 - A/ When he visits local stores, he used to see local team brands but not UB. This is changing as our brand grows and he is now seeing UB items on shelves.

Jim Whitesell

- Game day experience is great, family friendly, fun style of ball, lots of ball-sharing and 3-point shots, very competitive league
- Most of our student athletes are not from this area
- They have been on national television over 40 times, which also promotes WNY with additional video footage

** Raffle for four tickets to Bulls game and Bull Pen Club – Matt Deck won.

PRESENTATION – Brian Kulpa (Town of Amherst Supervisor)

- Amherst is largest up-state town, 126,000 people but 188,000 with commuters
- UB is key driver of economic growth
- one of biggest growth areas in NYS but at a transition due to collapsing commercial zones (Blvd Mall)
- changing their land use practice and zoning
 - Blvd Mall will be 60 acres of mixed use commercial and residential
 - Northtown Plaza will be repurposed as Amazon retail hub (Whole Foods, LL Bean,)
 - Westwood Campus will have active lifestyle services plus park and art facilities
 - Audubon Golf Club will have new athletic and recreational facilities
- Discussion:
 - Q/ What will happen north of UB Campus by 990?
 - A/ That is mostly Audubon/N Forest area. Have been lots of changes in use of office space and need for suburban campus developments. Audubon has 40% commercial vacancy despite town public facilities. Not well served by public transit.

Office of University Shared Governance
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- A/ Current and future plans include infrastructure changes fixing roads and bridges, road narrowing of Audubon into a boulevard and encourage more density, more green space, sidewalks. Encouraging more public transit.
- Q/ Concern with expansion of Metro, not seeing evidence that proposal will be competitive with other projects around country. NFTA feels there is insufficient need for additional transit options beyond UB campus – this jeopardizes the entire project.
 - A/ When NFTA decided to bring light rail out to UB, he was mayor of Williamsville. He felt LRT was not an ideal model with 3-4 car trains going 40 mph (too much volume and speed). Instead suggested single cars moving at regular traffic speeds, but the funding model only supported an LRT model. Amherst needs public transit to town public buildings on Audubon, and the lack of options means there is obviously no data to support need for transit because it has never been an option.
 - A/ Electric buses (BRT) are better solution and could replace LRT entirely. Could better integrate with existing roads, and come right into the malls. But NFTA never considered true alternatives.
- Q/ Peanut Line is abandoned rail bed owned by Town. Could provide alternate transportation route for thousands of commuters as well as recreational opportunities. What is the status of this project?
 - A/ Sounds great on paper. Seems to be funding. But is low on capital improvement project list after infrastructure improvements (e.g. sewer issues and the malls). Then wants to first build out more pedestrian opportunities on Sheridan Drive, Maple, and Hopkins.
- Q/ Both senates are very concerned with health of trees on campus. Tell us more about Town of Amherst tree programs.
 - A/ Amherst plans to plant a million trees (approx. 24 trees per acre). Town's growth has been stabilizing force but has come with loss of trees. Wants to hold onto wet lands and old growth canopy, but aggressively push for more trees. Developers must keep or replace all trees, and plant additional to meet 24/acre. If they cannot, they must pay into collective tree fund. Adjusting zoning language to support it, then will work on culture to become "tree positive" and build partnerships (e.g. Park School). Actively seeking new opportunities.
- Q/ Seeing lots of student residential development around campus. Where is that heading?
 - A/ Amherst historically ignored UB's need for high density housing. Without attention, developers have filled void where it could, not in best areas and with bad outcomes. Now it is too late to plan it effectively, but taking rest of demand load (3900 unit demand load with 10% per year growth) and adjusting zoning it so growth occurs in areas that are well-supported.
- Q/ Any chance of sidewalks along Maple Road?
 - A/ Two fold. Looking at pedestrian generators and sources: UB North Campus, Flint across Maple, Sweethome neighborhoods. First concern is to correct Maple Rd, but NFTA extension indecision is making planning currently impossible. Using AI to coordinate traffic signals and mapping traffic behavior. Model is at Flint & Maple.
 - A/ Writing grants but need UB to coordinate better access points into the campus.
 - A/ Widening Flint Rd culvert crossing although that is county road.
 - A/ Sweethome development, Amherst wanted access point on campus side but UB declined.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: 4:22 p.m.

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

Vice Chairman's Report (Committee Updates) 2/27/2020

Awards Committee

The PSS awards committee met Wednesday, January 29th to review the chancellor award nominations. They have updated their committee membership to include Nicole Peradotto as President's office Ex-Officio member and student Representative member Yousouf Amolegbe.

The next award deadlines are:

- The **Outstanding Service Award** recognizes services to the university and the community of noteworthy scope and depth. (application deadline 3/11/20)
- The **Outstanding Service to the Professional Staff Senate Award** recognizes outstanding service by an individual or group to the Professional Staff Senate. (application deadline 3/11/20)

Elections Committee

In December 2019 a special election was held. The Committee worked jointly with the Elections Committee of the UB Faculty Staff Senate to send a call for nominations to fill a SUNY-Wide Faculty Senate Seat vacated by Jason Benedict. An election was held and R.J. was voted as the SUNY Faculty Senator, Barbara Alevriadou will serve as Alternate SUNY Faculty Senator.

The Committee will be aggressive in resolving the need for a new voting platform, working with PSS Officers to come to resolution prior to the next election.

The next election will be for PSS Senators. The call will go out April 1, 2020

Marketing and Communications Committee

- December newsletter stats: went out on Dec 4, 2019
 - 2419 recipients
 - 27% open rate
- Projects Completed:
 - Created a flyer for "Stop the Bleed Training"
 - Created a task assignment rotation in which tasks are delegated according to the order of our list – has worked out well
 - Recreated the budget request form to make it more accessible and user-friendly
 - Reorganized our Box folder
 - Continually creating social media posts for PSS channels
- Social media performance stats:
 - Instagram: 76 followers (up by 22 since November)
 - Facebook: 142 likes, 145 follows (up by 8 since November)
- Working on:
 - Website updates to show the combination of the marketing and website committees
 - Developing a more comprehensive social media strategy for 2020

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Staff Development and Engagement Committee

The biennial conference that the committee has hosted in the past will take a new direction in a form more akin to a UB Employee Appreciation Day to be scheduled in June 2020. Highlights may include:

- An all-day activities held on-campus instead of at a conference venue off-campus, probably in the Student Union and Knox Hall similar to last year's diversity conference
- Will be free to any staff member to attend
- Incorporate recognition of PSS and Staff Chancellor awards winners
- Offer professional development, social and recreation activities

The Staff Development and Engagement Committee will be working closely with the PSS Executive Committee on this new direction.

The PSS Welcoming Subcommittee has booked the PSS New-Hire Breakfast to be on Wednesday, April 8, 8:30-10 a.m. at the Center for Tomorrow. President Tripathi will be in attendance.

Sustainable Living Committee

An Electronics Recycling Event will take place on April 16th Sponsored by The PSS from 7:30 – 1:30 in the Center for Tomorrow Lot. This will also be an opportunity for the UB Community to donate clothing, AND food to UB's Blue Table Program. Look for more information in the March Newsletter and in upcoming emails.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee unanimously approved the resolution of the Committee on Campus Environment and Sustainability regarding campus forestry which recommends that explicit policy be made and actions taken to preserve, restore and improve UB's tree stock in cooperation with the Administration, the student body and the Professional Staff Senate. The resolution was presented at the Faculty Senate Meeting on February 18th for their consideration. The Administration has already indicated a willingness to work with the Faculty to achieve goals identified in the resolution. PSS members are part of the Faculty Senate Campus Environment and Sustainability Committee.

This month, the NFTA will hold public meetings concerning the Light Rail extension's Environmental Impact Statement. We urge professional staff members to attend these public meetings. Metro rail extension has many important attributes that will contribute to the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainability for our students, staff and community at large. Watch for our announcements so you can add your support to this important project.