

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

Oct. 28, 2021 (virtual, held using Zoom, business conducted)

Convener: Tim Tryjankowski

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

Senators Present: Kim Behun, Rachel Blane, Ed Brodka, Jennifer Chazen, Jessica Coram, Ray Dannehoff, Rita Ferri, Bradley Hendricks, Janiece Jankowski, Hugh Jarvis, Chris (CJ) Keough, Kimberly Krzemien, Carl Lam, Doug Levere, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Lisa Patterson, Marlo Roetzer, Pam Rose, Melinda Saran, Janet Schrum, Daniel Schweitzer, Eileen Sirianni, Virginia Stever, Fred Stoss, Krystal Testa, Tony Waleszczak, Christopher Wilson, Michael Yates

Senators Absent: Charlie Baxter, Brianna Bennett, Lynn Emminger, Andrew Fogelsonger, Meredith Forrest Kulwicki, Jenna Lenz, Dom Licata, Tim Matthews, Thomas Slomka, Ryan Spearer,

Guests: Ryan McPherson and Gina Prescott.

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: Catherine Donnelly

Meeting called to order by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:01 p.m.

Quorum reached: 29 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: Tony Waleszczak (Hugh Jarvis). Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from Sept, 23, 2021: Chris Keough (Virginia Stever) Passed.**

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Reminder to the senators to unmute and show your video when you vote.
- Tim is representing the PSS on the President's Advisory Council on Race subcommittee focused on staff hiring, staff promotion and tenure, and staff recognition and celebration. Committee is reviewing professional awards nominated for and which have been received. Working to centralize this information. Will also seek to set up guidelines to increase inclusion and diversity.
- Sponsorships are going well. Thanks to Don Erb and Nick Lane in University Advancement. Please share any ideas for new sponsors, they help supplement our budget.
- Child and elder care – our joint committee with the faculty senate is formed and they are working on a first meeting date to begin their work. SUNY Chancellor Malatros and Governor Hochul have both pledged to go after federal stimulus funds to deliver improved child and or elder care opportunities to SUNY faculty, staff and some students.
- Adopt a family or two this holiday season – last year Marlo Roetzer lead the process and is willing to do so again. Dan Schweitzer offered to help with this event.
- Tele commuting pilot program – I have asked senators to ask / solicit feedback from their areas as to how the process is going. Let's try to bring some good from that awful pandemic to our professional roles. Heard hundreds have applied for it.

Motion to receive: Chris Keough (Dan Schweitzer). Passed.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- **Budget Advisory Cmt**—Presented to the EC. Proposal for spending changes sent to Constitution & Bylaws for review.
- **Constitution & Bylaws Cmt** –Reviewing the possibility of a reorg for the PSS. Details to come.
- **Inclusion & Diversity Cmt** –Working on a land acknowledgement statement. Also, drafting a proposal to rename the Audobahn portion in the campus.
- **Marketing & Communications Cmt** – Jeremy Cooper was approved as chair by the EC. In the process of creating fresh banner.
- **Lunch Bunch** – Had 23 signups in the last month. Sign up with Becky Burke and get a gift towards lunch with a peer.
- **Retirees Cmt** – Jill Rexinger Kuhn will lead this new committee. Committee includes several recent retirees.
- **Sustainable Living Cmt** – Thank you to all who helped today with the recycling and blue table event.
- **Motion to receive: Melinda Saran (Janiece Jankowski). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- (none)

PRESENTATION

Ryan McPherson, chief sustainability officer presented.

- Kudos to all for today's recycling event!
- UB is committed to improving sustainability. Today, my focus is on collective change and what we can all do. Research around the world, and here at UB, is looking at global changes. Increasing temperatures means that our children and grandchildren will experience 6x more climate disasters unless we can improve this. Sophie Nowicki, a new faculty member, is focused on these issues and working to improve them.
- 60% of young people like our students are worried about climate change.
- The world is working towards climate neutrality. US says achieve 42% by 2030, Great Britain says 68%.
- UB is also working towards sustainability. Appreciates PSS support and data. Ongoing initiatives include:
 - More solar around campus.
 - Carbon pricing as offset programs.
 - Decreasing reliance on natural gas.
 - Increase recycling.
 - Encourage telecommuting while still supporting place-based services.
 - [Read more about the 10 in 10.](#)
- Asked all staff to [add UCapture to their browser](#) to help raise funds to offset UB costs.
- A technical glitch lost Ryan for a few minutes. Discussion ensued in the chat about how telecommuting could decrease energy usage and personal costs and there is a lot of confusion about why UB is not supporting it more.
- Fred Stoss said that he participated in a webinar with Katharine Hayhoe a Climate Scientist and that UB is hoping to get her to come to campus.
- In response to questions about promoting telecommuting, Ryan said that Mark Coldren has been supportive of it. We had a 15% reduction in climate costs during the pandemic. But issues of equity,

Office of University Shared Governance
Professional Staff Senate

543 Capen Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1601

Ph: (716) 645-2003; Fax: (716) 645-2717

pssenate@buffalo.edu

www.buffalo.edu/pss



campus needs and place-based requirements have to be a part of the discussion. Recommends a localized approach.

- Other questions:
 - Virginia Stever asked about turning off monitors. Ryan said one of the teams is looking at automated ways to save little costs that add up.
 - Janiece Jankowski asked about recycling versus garbage and sorting better on campus. Ryan agreed improvements needed. Want to improve the overall culture.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Tim reiterated the need for collecting information about the telecommuting process and what is working and what is not.
- RJ Multari shared updated from the Faculty Senate Plenary.
 - SUNY enrollment is down almost 5% across all campuses, but the four doctoral campuses are still OK
 - •Community colleges have very low enrollment.
 - •Historically SUNY has weathered this kind of low enrollment before.
 - •The Chancellor targeting 54,000+ NYS residents getting online degrees outside of the SUNY system with a new marketing campaign.
 - •A diversity competency 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.
 - Telecommuting flexibility supported.
- Gina Prescott from the School of Pharmacy
 - Helping collect items for the Afghan Refugee Initiative. Over 350 coming to Buffalo.
 - Used coats, new hats, new gloves, new scarfs are needed. Also monies for food and other needs.
 - [How to help.](#)

NEW BUSINESS

- Next Executive Committee meeting will be Nov. 11 using Zoom.
- One schedule change, the November meeting would fall on Thanksgiving, so we will push to Dec. 2. Laura Hubbard is our invited speaker.
- A telecommunity policy resolution was endorsed by the statewide faculty senate plenary and endorsed by the Executive Committee. [Read the resolution.](#)

Motion to endorse the resolution on increasing flexibility in the telecommunication policy that was previously approved by the SUNY Faculty Senate. **RJ Multari (Tony Waleszczak) Passed**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: 4:18 p.m.

Attendance and meeting audio recording available through the PSS office.