

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

Mar. 24, 2022 (virtual, held using Zoom, business conducted)

Convener: Tim Tryjankowski

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

Senators Present: Charlie Baxter, Kim Behun, Rachel Blane, Ed Brodka, Lynn Emminger, Rita Ferri, Fran Fiscus, Bradley Hendricks, Janiece Jankowski, Meredith Forrest Kulwicki, Hugh Jarvis, Chris (CJ) Keough, Kimberly Krzemien, Carl Lam, Jenna Lenz, Doug Levere, Tim Matthews, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Lisa Patterson, Marlo Roetzer, Pam Rose, Melinda Saran, Daniel Schweitzer, Eileen Sirianni, Virginia Stever, Krystal Testa,

Senators Absent: Brianna Bennett, Jessica Byerly Coram (sent Fran Fiscus as alternate), Jennifer Chazen, Ray Danneffer, Andrew Fogelsonger, Dom Licata, Janet Schrum, Ryan Spearer, Fred Stoss, Tony Waleszczak, Christopher Wilson, Michael Yates

Guests: A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: Catherine Donnelly

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

Quorum reached: 26 senators and 3 officers present.

Supporting documents in Box.com folder in

[Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Senate and General Meetings / 2022-03-24](#)

PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to adopt [Agenda](#): Virginia Stever (Jenna Lenz) Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve [Minutes from Feb. 24, 2022](#): Daniel Schweitzer (Hugh Jarvis) Passed.**

[Meeting started with the land grant acknowledgment.](#)

SPEAKER

[Speaker slides](#)

UB is focused on the Top 25 goals and is aligning investment decisions with the priorities of the institution.

A. Scott Weber: And it's really a sort of this aspirational and what does it look like again to sort of be a top 25 institution.

- We feel that we have our academic departments and programs at the forefront of discovery.

Office of University Shared Governance

Professional Staff Senate

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University at Buffalo

Professional Staff Senate

University Shared Governance

- We want our faculty to compete at the highest levels recognized for their excellence.
- We want quality students who succeed at our institution, and obviously as alumni.
- We obviously want our faculty and staff and students to be reflective of the changing demographics, this is obviously been a very large focus of ours of recent time.
- We want to warm inclusive and welcoming modern campus obviously strong friend alumni engagement.
- We think ourselves having a global impact and reach we're very proud of our international stature as President often will say UB started in 1846 that's an international university enrolling Canadians in that first class of medical students.

Recent updates have come from the [President's Advisory Council on Race](#). We have the Center for Diversity Innovation Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program and we are seeing increased diversity among our hiring process. Also VITAL, bringing historically underrepresented PhD students and postdocs from around the nation to explore build a pipeline for PhD students again. We are focused on retention efforts as well.

We are working to enhance undergraduate programs to support research and improve metrics like degree completion, retention, faculty publications etc. There are other rankings that are also very important including federal funding and quality niche programs like structural biology. Reviewing data to strategically invest in departments that will help elevate others around them.

Focusing on the budget, 2/3 comes from enrollment and the rest from philanthropy and state advocacy. The contributions of our professional staff are critical to our success in all of these areas.

- UB has a couple of dean searches going on right now, one in the School of Management and one of the School of Nursing.
- Middle States: we are getting ready to launch the self-study.
- Looking at salaries and how to manage the labor shortages, there are many positions open at UB.
- We are aware of the desire for childcare support.
- We are actively engaged with the community and one of the PACOR teams reviewed community issues.
- We are excited for the potential flexibility with being named a SUNY flagship.
- The PSS resolution to rename John James Audobon Parkway is under review by UB's naming committee.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- We will discuss the possible calendar changes later in the meeting.
- Please share any COVID concerns as this situation continues to evolve.
- Send ideas for speakers, we are working on Congressman Brian Higgins.
- Think about next year and meetings. The officers are considering some in-person in the nicer fall and spring with Zoom meetings in the winter.
- **Motion to receive the chair's report. Ed Brodka (Daniel Schweitzer) Passed.**

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VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Awards Committee reviewing applications for awards.
- The Budget Advisory Committee sent no report.
- The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is working on the redistricting proposal.
- The Inclusion and Diversity Committee sent no report.
- Marketing and Communications sent no report.
- Recreation and Wellness working on spring activities.
- Retirees Committee hosted a well-attended meeting today on Zoom. .
- Staff Development and Engagement Committee confirmed President Tripathi for June 9 event.
- Sustainable Living Committee planning a clean-up of Lake LaSalle on April 30 from 9-noon.
- **Motion to receive: Janiece Jankowski (Melinda Saran). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- Update on attendance was sent to any senator close to three absences. Please make sure your attendance is tracked correctly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- We should have an update on the tree inventory soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- Support for the Ukraine (link in newsletter).
- Graham Hammil presented a calendar update to the [Faculty Senate on March 2](#). Proposing mid-semester breaks, shorter winter session and spring ending before graduation. Please share any questions or concerns.
 - o Yes, grades would have to close earlier (per Q&A)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: 4:11 p.m.

Attendance and meeting audio recording available through the PSS office.