

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

Sept. 23, 2021 (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, Brianna Bennett, Rachel Blane, Ed Brodka, Jennifer Chazen, Jessica Coram, Ray Danneffer, Lynn Emminger, Rita Ferri, Andrew Fogelsonger, Meredith Forrest Kulwicki, Bradley Hendricks, Janiece Jankowski, Hugh Jarvis, Chris (CJ) Keough, Kimberly Krzemien, Carl Lam, Jenna Lenz, Doug Levere, Tim Matthews, Sherene Milizia, Lisa Patterson, Marlo Roetzer, Pam Rose, Janet Schrum, Daniel Schweitzer, Eileen Sirianni, Thomas Slomka, Virginia Stever, Fred Stoss, Krystal Testa, Tony Waleszczak, Michael Yates

Senators Absent: Dom Licata, RJ Multari, Melinda Saran, Ryan Spearer, Christopher Wilson

Guests: There was no guest speaker.

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: Catherine Donnelly

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

Quorum reached: 31 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 (Jenna Lenz). Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from May 23, 2021: Rita Ferri (Eileen Siriani). Passed.**

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Tim attended several UB administration meetings and the senior leadership retreat:
 - Proof of vax now required at all large scale events where the public is also welcomed.
 - UB has a final enrollment number of 30,539 for fall 2021 – with 20,020 undergraduates.
 - There were 80 new faculty members this fall with two new deans.
- UB is working to alleviate the long lines in the food service areas. There has been a delay in processing SSN for international students but this backlog is slowly being addressed. Please share any concerns you have about this issue.
- The COACH survey is going out to UB faculty soon to review their deans and upper admin. The PSS has asked for a comparable survey tool for professional staff.
- Kudos to several teams who won major research awards.
- The list of current and future updates to campus buildings is impressive.
- Tim will represent the PSS on the President's Advisory Council on Race subcommittee focused on staff hiring, staff promotion and tenure, and staff recognition and celebration
- Boldy Buffalo is over halfway to their \$1 billion dollar goal.
- The PSS was asked to seat several professional staff members on two dean review committees.
- We also had five PSS members step forward to serve on a joint Faculty Senate-PSS committee on child and elder care service offerings across our three campuses.
- Please share your comments and experiences about the telecommuting pilot program.
- Harvard moved its \$41 billion dollar endowment from fossil fuel related investments. SUNY and UB are making strides but are not there yet.
- Tim met with Ken Suski from the Provost's Office to boost the PSS budget to increase our future event planning. More details to come.
- March 6, 2022, will be Shared Governance Day. The SUNY Chancellor and the statewide senate president will be invited to join us remotely. Please let me know if you want to help with this event.
- UB continues to work to achieve a top 25 ranking and is looking for way to boost the figures. Perhaps boosting a department or office will help. Ideas are encouraged to help move the needle.
- There is also talk about the reduced high school graduate population in the northeast. UB will be developing talking points to promote 3-5 signature programs in future marketing efforts.

Motion to receive: Carl Lam (Pam Rose). Passed.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Welcome to Fred Stoss, who is joining us this year.
- Two renewals of our sponsors! Thanks to Voya Financial and Rocket Mortgage.
- **Constitution & Bylaws Cmt** –Reviewing the possibility of a reorg for the PSS. Details to come.
- **Marketing & Communications Cmt** – Sept. newsletter had a 30% open rate. Michelle is stepping down as chair for a new role outside of UB. A proposed new chair will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval Oct. 14.
- **Lunch Bunch** - Starting to grow. Sign up with Becky Burke and get a gift towards lunch with a peer.
- **Retirees Cmt** – Jill Rexinger Kuhn will lead this new committee.
- **Sustainable Living Cmt** – Oct. 28, recycling event and Blue Table collection. Watch for the email with details. Thanks to Jim Gordon for his efforts on alternative transportation.

- **Motion to receive: Tom Slomka (Daniel Schweitzer). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- (none)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Broke participants into 10 small Zoom groups to discuss the following topics:

1. How was your return to campus this fall?
2. Are you aware of the telecommuting policy and are you planning to apply?
3. The PSS is working on a child care/elder care initiative this fall. Are there other issues we should focus on?
4. We are planning some virtual (i.e., a speaker series) and in-person events (like a corn hole league or bike ride). What kind of events would you consider attending? Any suggestions for things you'd like to do?
5. What question do you wish we asked?

Discussion took place publically after the private chats. Key points:

- Return to campus –
 - Parents of small children who can't be vaccinated still feel uncomfortable about returning to work.
 - Felt very productive working from home.
 - How should we be managing open and close scenarios as the virus closes schools etc.?
 - Some people are happier to be back in the office.
 - Appointments with team and students easier via Zoom, less scheduling issues.
- Telecommuting:
 - Some are nervous but aren't sure about applying to telecommuting policy.

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- Not sure if it helps during busy months.
- Will this be evenly applied? Should HR set parameters for job titles or classifications? Going forward this may be a union contract item.
- Will this impact recruitment of new faculty and staff who expect flexibility?
- Why is this being called a pilot if we succeeded for 18 months?
- Who will really make this decision?
- Feels like this is being discouraged around campus.
- Do we really need separate reporting for staff participating in this? If productivity is good?
- Child care/elder care initiative this fall. Are there other issues we should focus on?
 - Pandemic amplified this need. Glad to see it being discussed.
 - Shared governance issues are still a struggle. How do we improve this?
 - Mental health issues and improving access to counselors for students and staff.
- Events
 - Outside events better. Turnout likely to be poor for a crowded event right now.
 - Need a morale boost. Not sure what that could be.
 - Disc golf course by the bookstore is a fun activity to do and it's outside.
 - The biking activity sounds fun.
 - Remember the Lunch Bunch is a great way to meet your colleagues.

NEW BUSINESS

- Should our future meetings be in person or remain virtual? We will send out a survey. There may be some issues about voting that we will have to determine if a hybrid solution is chosen. Details to come.
 - Questions about this: Having time to get to meetings and can we vote by proxy?
- Bench dedication for Sarah Piriano will take place Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m.
- Next Executive Committee meeting will be Oct. 14 in person. Invitation to be sent separately.
- One schedule change, the November meeting would fall on Thanksgiving, so we will push to Dec. 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: 4:08 p.m.

Attendance and meeting audio recording available through the PSS office.