

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

Sept. 22, 2022 (held in-person, business conducted)

Convener: Tim Tryjankowski

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

Senators Present: John Ball, Charlie Baxter, Kim Behun, Jaclyn Bodack, Ed Brodka, Fran Fiscus for Jessica Byerly Coram, Summer Cruz, Sean Cunningham, Courtney Doxback, Mark Ferguson, Rita Ferri, AJ Franklin, Allen Gaeddert, Kathryn Griswold, Vince Harzewski, Janiece Jankowski, Hugh Jarvis, Zachary Jenney, Jeremy Jungbluth, Chris (CJ) Keough, Carl Lam, Doug Levere, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Adam Pawlowski, Marlo Roetzer, Melinda Saran, Janet Schrum, Eileen Sirianni, Virginia Stever, Jennifer Vick, Tony Waleszczak, Lisa Zander

Senators Absent: Kathie Bartelo, Ashley Cannon-Zelasko, Jennifer Chazen, Lynn Emminger, Lauren Galgovich, Kimberly Krzemien, Tim Matthews, Susan Ott, Lisa Patterson, Pam Rose, Daniel Schweitzer, Beth Slater, Ryan Spearer, Fred Stoss, Krystal Testa, Allen Williams, Maria Wilson, Michael Yates.

Guests: President Satish Tripathi

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: Catherine Donnelly

Meeting called to order by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:03 p.m.

Quorum reached: 33 senators and 3 officers present.

Supporting documents in Box.com folder in
Professional Staff Senate/ Meetings/ Senate and General Meetings / 2022-006-23

PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to adopt Agenda: Tony Waleszczak (Zachary Jenney) Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from June 23: Vince Harzewski (Melinda Sarah) Passed.**

GUEST SPEAKER

- President Tripathi spoke for several minutes about a variety of updates including the following. An audio recording of his presentation and the PSS meeting is available.

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- He spoke about being happy to be back on campus, able to meet with all of us in person and celebrating several fall milestones including new students and faculty on campus, meeting the new PSS members over the summer. “There are dynamic challenges on many fronts, but we continue to move forward on our strategic priorities. This is in large part due to the hard work and exceptional diligence of our professional staff. I would like to thank each of you for your ability to adapt and innovate under exceptional circumstances.”
- He called out several notable accomplishments on the campus including:
 - o The recent visit by Vice President Kamala Harris and UB’s recognition for its campus sustainability and other climate focused research.
 - o Three commencements in 13 months.
 - o A \$12.8 million grant to Gene D. Morse, to improve the quality of pharmacology data about HIV and other infectious diseases.
 - o A \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to Brian Tsuji and Mark Sutton to study mechanisms of antibiotic resistant bacteria.
 - o A \$2.9 million NSF grant to Charlotte Linguist to examine climate change on present day ecosystems in Southeast Alaska.
 - o A \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment of Humanities to Douglas Perelli conduct research about Niagara Falls Cataract House Hotel an important stop in the Underground Railroad.
- He mentioned how the demographics of our student population remains over 30,000 but that it is has skewed towards graduate students with recent challenges in the transfer student process and decreased first-year students. He is focused on retention topics and improving student success and facilities. He encourages all to visit the updated classrooms in the Natural Sciences Complex and to visit One World Café.
- He welcomed new deans (Dr. Annette Wysocki in the School of Nursing and Dr. Ananth Iyer in the School of Management) and said that future searches would commence soon for the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine and other recently opened seats. He commended Jacqueline Hollins and thanked her for accepting an interim role as the vice provost for inclusive excellence and Jason Diffenderfer for becoming the interim vice president for university advancement.
- He answered questions about the transfer portal in athletics (he thinks it is good overall, but a bit chaotic right now and no we are not switching conferences), that improving retention in undergrads is critical and that he cannot rename the Audobahn Parkway since it is a state road.

CHAIR’S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Discussed the process of being on the PSS and welcomed all the new senators to the year.
- Talked about the roles of the officers and how to bring ideas forward.
- Mentioned that we need to solidify changes to the bylaws due to the election updates.
- Acknowledged the SUNY wide committees we support.
- **Motion to accept report: Kim Behun (Virginia Stever) Passed.**

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Awards Committee: Carl Lam has been named the assistant chair.
- Budget Advisory Committee: Has met and reviewed funds for the year. The EC approved monies for a kick-off luncheon for the Department of Indigenous Studies (\$2000) and to purchase two larger kayaks for individuals over 250 pound limit (\$1398)
- Constitution and Bylaws: No update, waiting for a review by a special ad-hoc team reviewing how election changes have impacted the bylaws.
- Election Committee: No update.
- Inclusion and Diversity: There are two events in Sept. First a luncheon event with the Department of Indigenous Studies (just approved this with the BAC) on 9/29 and two accessible pathways tours (9/7 and 9/15) to learn about how to maneuver around the North Campus. Stefan Kothe lead the first tour. Some issues were found but reported. All members are encouraged to report accessibility issues to <https://www.buffalo.edu/access.html>. The committee hopes to find champions for similar tours at the South and Downtown campuses.
- Marketing and Communication: Please send info for the monthly newsletter and mid-month reminders to Jeremy Cooper.
- Recreation and Wellness Committee: They are keeping kayaks in the water as long as temps are good.
- Retirees Committee: No update.
- Staff Development / Welcome Committee: Three virtual events (What's New in Resume Building, Leveraging LinkedIn for Career Success and Getting Prepared for Your Next Interview) were well attended. Thanks to Becky Burke, who is retiring, who has championed the Lunch Bunch for a long time. Feel free to join and get a \$5 voucher towards lunch and meeting another PSS peer. The Mentor committee is seeking new mentors, please connect with Kimberly Krzemien to do that.
- Sustainable Living Committee: Oct. 6 is the next e-recycling and Blue Table event. Watch your email for details.
- **Motion to accept report: Hugh Jarvis (Chris Keough) Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- Rachel Blane resigned her position and as a result, Virginia Stever moved up in the executive committee.
- The EC approved four individuals who self-nominated as senators: Lynn Emminger, Maria Wilson, Lisa Zander and Sean Cunningham
- There is still room to join if professional staff want to search as senators.
- **Motion to accept report: Virginia Stever (Janiece Jankowski) Passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Want to have a champagne toast to honor PSS award winners. COVID stopped this for the past two years. If you want to help, please connect with the Awards committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Concern about needing new and expensive ID cards to access the new faculty and staff lounge. After much discussion, a swipe card option was installed instead.
- Welcome to the new senators !
- Schedule shared, there are still a few open speaker slots for the year, please send your suggestions.

Motion to Adjourn: 4:02 p.m.

Attendance and meeting audio recording available through the PSS office.