

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

Oct. 27, 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 (sent Faren Gault Wilson), Jaclyn Bodack, Ed Brodka, Jennifer Chazen, Jessica Byerly Coram, Sean Cunningham, Mark Ferguson, Vince Harzewski, Janiece Jankowski, Chris (CJ) Keough, Carl Lam, Tim Matthews, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Susan Ott, Adam Pawlowski, Marlo Roetzer, Melinda Saran, Janet Schrum, Daniel Schweitzer, Eileen Sirianni, Tony Waleszczak, Ashley Cannon-Zelasko.

Senators Absent: Kathie Bartelo, Summer Cruz, Courtney Doxback, Lynn Emminger, Rita Ferri, AJ Franklin, Allen Gaeddert, Lauren Galgovich, Kathryn Griswold, Hugh Jarvis, Zachary Jenney, Jeremy Jungbluth, Kimberly Krzemien, Doug Levere, Lisa Patterson, Pam Rose, Beth Slater, Ryan Sparer, Virginia Stever, Fred Stoss, Krystal Testa, Jennifer Vick, Allen Williams, Maria Wilson, Michael Yates, Lisa Zander.

Guests: Jeffery Amplement, Planning Project Manager from the NFTA

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: Catherine Donnelly

Meeting called to order by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:05 p.m.

Quorum reached: 25 senators and 3 officers present.

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

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

PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to adopt Agenda: Tony Waleszczak (Sherene Milizia) Passed**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from Sept. 22: Janiece Jankowski (Marlo Roetzer) Passed.**

GUEST SPEAKER

- Jeffery Amplement, Planning Project Manager from the NFTA, shared the current update on the proposed expansion of the Metro system to North Campus. Called the Buffalo-Amherst-Tonawanda Corridor Transit Expansion project, the purpose is to server existing and future travel demands,



provide high-quality transit service and improve service for transit-dependent populations. UB students are considered to be transit-dependent customers.

- There are currently two build alternatives that are being evaluated for environmental and economic impact. Both would originate at the South Campus where the rapid train system current ends. The first is a bus rapid transit (BRT) along with a light-rail transit (LRT). (Maps are available in the PPT in the meeting folder).
- The rapid transit is now being proposed to expand down Niagara Falls Boulevard through UB and towards the 990. The original concept for this was proposed in the 1960s when the NFTA proposed a 43-mile network, including a rail system to Amherst.
- A draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is being developed now and will be released when complete for public comment. This should take place this winter. Then a final statement will be developed by next summer. Initial scoping meetings generated 82 comments from agencies, organizations, residents and other organizations. A summary of statements can be viewed at www.nftaMetroTransitExpansion.com.
- The hope is for a plan to be accepted and moved into the production phase. Want to be operational by 2030.
- In the Q&A, Jeffery said that future plans are being scoped to extend the Metro towards the southtowns.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- Attended the UB Council meeting – the meeting was brief with an overview of how impactful faculty hiring will perhaps move the needle on UB's top 25 rank aspirations. Provost Weber discussed the recent success of the minority faculty recruitment efforts. The governor's budget has given UB an additional \$12 million dollars to pay the salary of hopefully high-end faculty researchers. The council meeting also highlighted Dr. Aga and her success with the ReNew program.
- I also attended the President's senior leadership retreat on behalf of our PSS members. Day one of the retreat was focused on what should it mean to be a flagship institution.
- It was announced that with covid relief funds and such – and strong enrollment compared to other colleges – that UB is in some of their strongest financial situations ever. Graduate enrollment is really strong at masters and PhD levels compared to similar flagship schools. We are small in terms of undergrads and that is tuition revenue. UB is working plans to get more students to apply – more students offered to enroll (stronger yield) but also a stronger selectivity ratio.
- SUNY is going to offer a free application for two weeks and other incentives including advertising the tuition programs for NYS residents.
- Thank you to Mark Ferguson for helping with the PSS Listservs.
- **Motion to accept report: Melinda Saran (Chris Keough) Passed.**

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Awards Committee: No update.
- Budget Advisory Committee: Has met and approved monies for a domestic violence awareness event and food for the Hispanic Heritage Council event.
- Constitution and Bylaws: No update.
- Election Committee: Run-off election complete. Please get ready for officer elections in January.
- Inclusion and Diversity:
 - o Partnered with the Department of Indigenous Studies for a celebration event.
 - o Hosted two accessible pathways tours (9/7 and 9/15) around the North Campus. Thanks to Stefan Kothe lead the tours.
 - o Hosting a baby needs drive for the Hispanic Heritage Council. Thank you to all who brought items to the meeting.
 - o Hosted a domestic violence event.
- Marketing and Communication: No update.
- Recreation and Wellness Committee: Kayaks are done for the season due to the water temperature.
- Retirees Committee: Will cohost a UUP benefits seminar on Dec. 8. Also planning Zoom workshop with Mark Ferguson and a library representative.
- Staff Development / Welcome Committee: Planning a January event about lessons learned from the pandemic.
- Sustainable Living Committee: The e-recycling and Blue Table event had over 200 drop-offs and 650 food items. Thanks to all.
- **Motion to accept report: Susan Ott (Dan Schweitzer) Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- Election run-offs made Lisa Zander the Area 1 alternate to the EC, Melinda Saran was named to the EC for Area 2 and Tony Waleszczak was named as their alternate. Thank you to all!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Kudos to all receiving a chancellors award this afternoon. Still hoping to celebrate them all!

NEW BUSINESS

- The PSS is keeping tabs on the bus accident near Greiner. An employee was hit by a Stampede bus near the circle near Greiner. UB Security is aware of the traffic issues there. Perhaps a light is needed?



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- Faculty Senate working on a proposal to change the calendar to create a holiday around Indigenous People's Day. RJ Multari shared some concerns about advising days, test grades and how best to help students decide if need winter classes etc. There are 8 possible calendars and some start much earlier in August. Wondering if this will impact retention. Hoping for earlier grades to help advisors assist their students.
- SUNY-wide Faculty Senate Plenary discussed the search for a new chancellor, a resolution to support the citizens of Iran, and a discussion about what happens if community colleges offer lifetime credit to their students, how will those credits transfer to the universities.
- Thank you to Marlo and Dan for offering to co-chair the Adopt-A-Family initiative again this year. Watch for details too.

Motion to Adjourn: 4:25 p.m.

Attendance available through the PSS office. No official recording was made of this live meeting.

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Professional Staff Senate

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