

## Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

**Dec. 1, 2022** (held via Zoom, business conducted)

**Convener:** Tim Tryjankowski

**Officers Present:** Tim Tryjankowski (Chair) and Don Erb (Vice Chair)

**Senators Present:** John Ball, Kathie Bartelo, Charlie Baxter, Kim Behun, Jaclyn Bodack, Ed Brodka, Jennifer Chazen, Summer Cruz, Sean Cunningham, Courtney Doxback, Mark Ferguson, Rita Ferri, AJ Franklin, Allen Gaeddert, Lauren Galgovich, Vince Harzewski, Janiece Jankowski, Hugh Jarvis, Jeremy Jungbluth, Chris (CJ) Keough, Kimberly Krzemien, Carl Lam, Tim Matthews, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Susan Ott, Adam Pawlowski, Marlo Roetzer, Pam Rose, Melinda Saran, Janet Schrum, Daniel Schweitzer, Eileen Sirianni, Beth Slater, Virginia Stever, Fred Stoss, Krystal Testa, Jennifer Vick, Tony Waleszczak, and Ashley Cannon-Zelasko.

**Senators Absent:** Jessica Byerly Coram, Catherine Donnelly (secretary), Lynn Emminger, Kathryn Griswold, Zachary Jenney, Doug Levere, Lisa Patterson, Ryan Spearer, Allen Williams, Faren Gault Wilson, Maria Wilson, Michael Yates, and Lisa Zander.

**Guests:** Dr. Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education | Professor, International Education Administrative Operations, Department of Communication and Dr. Thomas A. Russo, Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology

**Parliamentarian:** Rachel Poole

**Staff:** Jessica Naish

**Recorder:** Zoom (note, attendance was tracked by log-in information in Zoom, please share if you were one of the unidentified call-in participants to update attendance)

**Meeting called to order** by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:00 p.m.

**Quorum reached:** 39 senators and 2 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 (Susan Ott) Passed**

### REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Tim Tryjankowski

- **Motion to approve Minutes from Oct. 27: Virginia Stever (Dan Schweitzer) Passed.**

## GUEST SPEAKER

- Dr. Nojin Kwak, Vice Provost for International Education | Professor, International Education Administrative Operations, Department of Communication spoke first.
  - o UB is on the right track for enhancing its international reputation as a welcoming university to international students. We are ranked 25<sup>th</sup> nationally and have about 4500 international students from 40 countries.
  - o We have a campus in Singapore and encourage our students to travel abroad to become global citizens.
  - o We are working to enhance faculty research support globally and improve funding.
  - o The pandemic slowed all of the exchanges but we are getting back on track.
  - o Adam Rubin, Assistant Vice Provost and Director of Education Abroad, joined the team and is helping to boost these efforts.
  - o Helping to integrate our international students onto campus is also important. We had a great food truck event, we visit state parks and do other fun activities. Appreciate the Office of Student Life for helping us plan and manage our excursions!
  - o Several new initiatives underway for the spring semester.
  - o Many of our students stay in the US after graduation, at least for the three years they are allowed to work.
- Dr. Thomas A. Russo, Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology
  - o Covid is still in Erie County.
    - Testing is down because of all the home tests. Omicron is the main variant coupled with active flu cases. However, hospitalizations have peaked. The vaccinations are helping limit serious outcomes. There are still people dying from Covid and now
    - Covid is the third cause of death behind cardiac and cancer causes. The individuals who are dying are primarily unvaccinated, under-vaccinated (not keeping up with boosters) and elderly/immunocompromised for whom vaccinations don't work as well.
    - The new "scrabble" variants do not respond to the current monoclonal antibody treatments.
    - Long Covid will continue to become a discussion point.
  - o Flu and RSV are in the county. Erie County has more flu than any other region in NYS right now. But only 15-20% of individuals are susceptible to the flu any year because we've been exposed to it our whole lives. Covid is the new virus.
  - o If you have any symptoms of flu or covid call your doctor. If you are eligible for treatment it will help you manage the disease and limit long-term effects.
  - o Was asked about human evolution. Said that certain genes that have been carried forward because of pandemics and pathogens like malaria and certain hemoglobinopathies. Still too early to tell.
  - o Masks are a sign of personal responsibility. Mask mandates are not likely to come back.

## CHAIR'S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- SUNY is still without a Chancellor and that search continues at this time. It was announced on Tuesday of this week that former SUNY Chancellor Dr Kristina Johnson who left SUNY to become the president of Ohio State University has resigned from that presidency at the request of the OSU board of trustees.
- Three schools Harvard, Berkely and YALE have all quit the US world and News ranking system claiming the system used is biased against programs meant to increase socioeconomic diversity. not how we intended to move up in the rankings – but that was another news worthy event of the week.
- We have presented all of our professional concerns on the new university academic calendar to the Faculty Senate committee on that topic. I have yet to hear a response to my note to them.
- UB football game Friday at 1 p.m. PSS has a free ticket offer. If the Bulls win they will be bowl eligible.
- This is the last PSS general membership meeting of calendar year 2022. I wish you, your work colleagues, your family and friends health and happiness this holiday season and my hope for you is a spectacular 2023!
- **Motion to accept report: Virginia Stever (Melinda Saran) Passed.**

## VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Awards Committee: No update.
- Budget Advisory Committee: Has met and approved \$300 for the Executive Committee meeting on 12/8.
- Constitution and Bylaws: Reviewing recommendations on the governing documents.
- Election Committee: Please get ready for officer elections in January. Tim cannot run again and Cathy will not seek a second term as secretary.
- Inclusion and Diversity: Planning more activities.
- Marketing and Communication: Looking for a new chair. Thank you to Jeremy Cooper for his service.
- Recreation and Wellness Committee: No update.
- Retirees Committee: Will cohost a UUP benefits seminar on Dec. 8.
- Staff Development / Welcome Committee: Planning a January event about lessons learned from the pandemic.
- Sustainable Living Committee: Tips for the holidays were emailed and are saved in the folder. A paint recycling program will take place in the spring semester.
- **Motion to accept report: Dan Schweitzer (Kim Behun) Passed.**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- No report

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Sent feedback on Faculty Senate's consideration of the calendar.
- Thank you to Marlo and Dan for managing the Adopt-A-Family initiative again this year. We have two families: Alvarez & Aliko families.
  - To Donate to the Alvarez Family Contact: Marlo Roetzer | [mkerr@buffalo.edu](mailto:mkerr@buffalo.edu)
  - To Donate to the Aliko Family Contact: Daniel Schweitzer | [djschwei@buffalo.edu](mailto:djschwei@buffalo.edu)

## NEW BUSINESS

Future meetings:

- DEC. 8: Executive Committee Meeting | Jeannette Martin Room, 567 Capen Hall
- FEB. 9: Executive Committee Meeting | Zoom
- FEB. 23: General Membership Meeting | ZOOM: Featured Guests | Laura Hubbard & Erin Moscato

Motion to Adjourn: 4:49 p.m.

A Zoom recording was made of this live meeting.