

## Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – APPROVED

**April 27, 2023** (in-person in UB Football Room, business conducted)

**Convener:** Tim Tryjankowski

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

**Senators Present:** Kim Behun, Jaclyn Bodack, Jennifer Chazen, Sean Cunningham, Mark Ferguson, Rita Ferri, AJ Franklin, Kathryn Griswold, Vince Harzewski, Hugh Jarvis, Chris (CJ) Keough, Kimberly Krzemien, Doug Levere, Tim Matthews, Marlo Roetzer, Neil Savoy, Eileen Sirianni, Krystal Testa, Tony Waleszczak, Maria Wilson, and Lisa Zander

**Senators Absent:** John Ball, Kathie Bartelo, Charlie Baxter, Ed Brodka, Jessica Byerly Coram Kelli Cott, Summer Cruz, Courtney Doxback, Lynn Emminger, Allen Gaeddert, Lauren Galgovich, Janiece Jankowski, Zachary Jenney, Jeremy Jungbluth, Carl Lam, Mark Mariglia, Sherene Milizia, RJ Multari, Susan Ott, Lisa Patterson, Adam Pawlowski, Pam Rose, Melinda Saran Janet Schrum, Daniel Schweitzer, Beth Slater, Ryan Spearer, Virginia Stever, Fred Stoss, Jennifer Vick, Faren Gault Wilson, Michael Yates and Ashley Cannon-Zelasko

**Guests:** Mark Alnutt, Vice President and Director of Athletics, Jeremy Applegate, Assistant AD Kelli Hennesey, Nancy Kobielski, Johnny Garcia, Chris Austin, Joan Slowik, Jaime Marten Rivera

**Parliamentarian:** Rachel Poole

**Staff:** Jessica Naish

**Recorder:** No recording was made.

**Meeting called to order** by Tim Tryjankowski at 3:04 p.m.

**Quorum reached:** 21 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 (Hugh Jarvis) Passed**

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

- **Motion to approve Minutes from March 23, 2023 Neil Savoy (Chris Keough) Passed.**

### GUEST SPEAKERS

- Mark Alnutt, Vice President and Director of Athletics, shared how they are making progress around UB's facilities.

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- o Proud to be redoing the turf on the softball field so that we can host more home games.
- o Planning a new sports performance center, improvements to our academic support facilities for our student-athletes and a new video board for the stadium.
- o Will redesign basketball court to be a simple design that is easily viewable on TV and promotes the UB spirit mark and our flagship designation.
- o UB exceeds the academic progress rate and the graduation rates for the NCAA and MAC. Average GPA is 3.070
- o Athletics is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and created a Stronger Together Task Force that promoted a home game uniform badge showing hands making the “hornsup” symbol in many skin tones. ESPN showcased the patch in the fall.
- o Visit <https://ubbulls.com/> to follow all of the spring sports entering the playoffs this month.
- Q&A
  - o Could we add other sports like hockey or lacrosse? Mark said that there are no plans at this time to expand UB’s offerings.
  - o Can we use UB facilities for fun sports like pickleball? Mark recommended talking to Student Life about that issue.
  - o What is the impact of the transfer portal? We feel we have managed it well and are excited our transfer wide receiver Justin Marshall to be considered for the national football draft.

## CHAIR’S REPORT – Tim Tryjankowski

- COVID 19 is no longer a pandemic – federal action on that downgrade have trickled down to the state level – beginning with summer session enrollment SUNY will no longer require proof of vaccination for covid for enrollment. SUNY and UB will continue a marketing campaign recommending vaccination against covid – all other established, core inoculations that are federally mandated will remain as a requirement to enroll – this may ease up some of the delay in international student VISA’s and thus improve enrollments to UB.
- A SUNY wide faculty senate subcommittee is collecting feedback on a survey that will look into pandemic and post pandemic related job stress within SUNY. I was asked to share our top concerns and observations from the staffing side. I mentioned that UB did a very strong job of bringing all groups to the table for planning and policy purposes during the early – confusing and scary days of the outbreak. UB thrived during the 18 months of the shut-down period in large part to the openness to discuss – gather feedback and then proceed on creating policy for those unique times.
- The PSS is concerned about work flexibilities like responsible telecommuting and limiting the job creep that was born out of necessity. We are seeing more students, more work and no improved compensation.
- Delighted to meet Chancellor King. He “gets it”, he understands our needs and concerns to fund the campuses – keep tuition low – reward faculty and staff with fair raises – and right now his job is advocacy for more state money to SUNY. He is concerned with the Supreme Court case being heard on use of affirmative action practices in hiring and in college admissions. This case may very much alter the way we admit students to SUNY – the way we attract and hire faculty and staff to our campuses.
- There has been some new movement on the PSS resolution to potentially re-naming the section of the roadway that rings campus. Our “Audubon resolution” was featured in a Buffalo News article.



UB has given the matter to the administrative committee that looked into and eventually renamed several buildings and roads on campus – the PSS will wait for an update or a report on the matter in the weeks ahead.

- Nominations are now open to run for a PSS senator position.
- I recently sent out to surveys, one to our committee chairs and one to our outgoing executive committee senators. The survey results will be the basis for our May 11 executive committee meeting as we begin to transition to our new elected officers and to plan our calendar and our PSS budget allocations for the upcoming year. That new year runs July 2023 through June 2024.
- I wish to thank Jessica Naish – Office of Shared Governance office administrator, Cathy Donnelly – PSS secretary, Rachel Poole, PSS Parliamentarian, and Don Erb, PSS Vice Chair for the work they have done the past several years. I want to thank all the senators, the executive senators, the committee chairs and committee members – all volunteers who work and serve like this is their full-time career. UB is an amazing place to work, to learn, to enjoy.... I have been honored to work closely with so many of you in my role as Chair – truly the highlight of my 34-year career in state service.
- To the incoming officers Tony Waleszszak – secretary – Virginia Stever – Vice Chair and to Don Erb – the new Chair, I offer you encouragement and my help in any way. I know you will do even greater good for the professionals here at UB.
- **Motion to accept report: Chris Keough (Neil Savoy) Passed.**

## VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- *Awards Committee:* No update this month.
- *Budget Advisory Committee:* No update this month.
- *Constitution and Bylaws:* Bylaws are under review.
- *Election Committee:* Faculty Senate alternate seats ended March 31, 2023. Winners are Kimberly Behun, Thomas Covey, Kerry Traynor, and Laertis Ikononou. PSS senator elections are underway. Please run again or nominate your peers!
- *Inclusion and Diversity:* No update this month.
- *Marketing and Communication:* April newsletter went out 4/12. Had a glitch with mailing, working on a fix.
- *Recreation and Wellness Committee:* Great event at University Club two weeks ago. Working on classes for CPR and AED use.
- *Retirees Committee:* No update this month.
- *Staff Development:* A mid-July program on preventing burn-out is being planned.
- *Sustainable Living Committee:* Lake LaSalle cleanup is Saturday, May 6 from 9-12. Paint recycling and Hearts for the Homeless Clothing Drive will take place on May 24.

- *Welcome Committee*: June 13 new hire breakfast with the president planning is underway.
- **Motion to accept report: Hugh Jarvis (Chris Keough) Passed.**

### SECRETARY'S REPORT – Catherine Donnelly

- No report

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None (beyond updates already shared).

### NEW BUSINESS

- As part of a tour of the football facilities, PSS members were able to visit the updated locker room, see nutritional support spaces, and view where athletic trainers work with the athletes.

Motion to Adjourn: 4:05 p.m. Tour took place after the formal meeting was concluded.