

Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – UNAPPROVED

November 2, 2023 (in-person, 330 Student Union, business conducted)

Convener: Don Erb

Officers Present: Don Erb (Chair), Virginia Stever (Vice Chair), Tony Waleszczak (Secretary)

Executive Members / Senators Present: listed by last name alphabetically, (* alternate)

Ball, Bartelo, Behun, Beverlin, Bodack, Brodka, Byerly Coram, Cannon-Zelasko, Cason, Cott, Cunningham, Davis, DePonceau*, Erb (Chair) Ferguson, Gaeddert, Galgovich, Griswold, Harzewski, Howard, Jankowski, Jarzab, Komendat, Kulwicki, Lombardo, Mariglia, Milizia, Miller, Murphy, Pawlowski, Pizzutelli, Poole (Parliamentarian) Rexinger-Kuhn, Roetzer, Saran, Schlehr*, Skeans, Silis, Slater, Snyder, Stever (Vice Chair) Stumm, Szrama, Testa, Valentine, Waleszczak (Secretary) Washington, Zander

Executive Members / Senators Absent: listed by last name alphabetically (*sent alternate)

Bratta, Cooper, Emminger, Gault Wilson, Harris, Hardaway, Howard, Jenney, Jungbluth*, Keough, Krzemien (excused), Lam (excused), Matthews, Murphy, Ott, Richardson, Savoy (excused), Stockslader (excused), Taughrin*, Vick, Walker-Whiteside, Wallace, Wilson (excused)

Members/Guests: listed alphabetically by last name

Bruce Acker, Linda English, Hugh Jarvis, Ken Kern, Chris Langlois, Doug Levere, Lindsay Masters, Alexander Powers, Dawson Riemon, Kathy Roach, Eileen Sirianni, Brett Sirzman, Heather Wimar

Parliamentarian: Rachel Poole

Staff: Jessica Naish

Recorder: No recording made

Meeting called to order by Don Erb at 2:03 p.m.

Quorum reached: 43 members/senators and 3 officers present.

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

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

PRESENTATION OF AGENDA – Don Erb

- Presentation of the day's agenda
- No discussion ensued.

- **Motion to adopt Agenda: Jankowski (Saran). Passed.**

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(s) – Don Erb

- Reviewing the minutes for the past meeting 9/28/23, as well as minutes from 4/27/23
- Erb explained the need to do this as we did not have quorum at our first meeting.
- Erb called for a ratification vote of the votes taken on 9/28/23.
 - **Cannon-Zelasko (Bodack). Passed**
- **Motion to approve Minutes from September 28, 2023: Harzewski (Bodack). Passed.**

FEATURED SPEAKER – President Satish Tripathi

- Erb introduced President Tripathi
- Tripathi outlined three areas of focus for the University and UB continues to rise, in part due to its staff.
- Tripathi is being recognized for Business First award, but this is because of the University.
- Research Enterprise: active awards up 8% and sponsored research up 16%; 22-23 expenditures up to \$232 million. Tripathi also highlighted the \$20 million NSF grant for the National AI Institute for Exceptional Education -there are only 2 AI institutes in NYS and 20 in the United States
- Tripathi talked about the historic level of faculty hiring, UB's largest since 1970, bringing in 154 new faculty.
- Student Success: Tripathi spoke about declining enrollment, but UB's enrollment is holding steady, the goal is ~2/3 undergraduates and 1/3 graduate/professional. Currently, we are at 30,380 students representing 100 countries and 48 states and DC. Gains in retention, the goal is to be at 90%, we are almost there, in 2022, we were at 84.5%. The goal is also to make gains in the graduate rate as well.
- Infrastructure: building and classroom upgrades are ongoing, there is still a lot to go, but we are making progress. Tripathi talked about the new SEAS building to be used for student interaction, it will be named after Agrusa who recently donated a large amount of money for the building.
- The Buffalo Billion campaign exceeded \$1 billion in July although the campaign is still active for a bit longer.
- Rankings: UB is in the top 30 for international enrollment in the last 20 years. Tripathi was named a co-chair for US-India relations by the AAU. UB is #2 flagship university for Pell-eligible enrollment -we have more Pell students enrolled than all the Ivy League schools together! UB is #8 nationally for economic diversity. Tripathi thanked the staff and highlighted the following national school rankings: School of Public Health #32; SEAS #30; Social Work #10; Dental #9; School of Pharmacy #14; Nursing #23
- Questions for President Tripathi ensued: grant and grant infrastructure; moving IT to the downtown Gateway building; with more faculty, will more staff follow; what's the next campaign goal; relationship with the university and local companies for international student job placement.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Don Erb

- Erb highlighted the two-day SUNY wide Faculty Senate meeting.
 - Three (3) resolutions were passed: 1) freeze the budget floor for Potsdam and other struggling SUNY schools; 2) SUNY campuses should be advised on the state budget prior to

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its being passed; 3) microcredentialing and developing a SUNY comprehensive system for microcredentialing (UB's RJ Multari was an author of this)

- No discussion nor questions ensued.
- **Motion to receive: Saran (Cott). Passed.**

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Virginia Stever

- Stever recapped the SUNY Chancellor Awards banquet organized by the PSS Awards Committee
- Stever detailed the PSS Budget Committee's process for requesting PSS funds to conduct events and to whom funding requests should be sent. Stever explained the process to the membership.
- Stever encouraged PSS members to run for the SUNY Faculty Senate -there are three (3) open seats, the deadline to nominate is tomorrow 11/3/23.
- We need more mentoring for new staff members. Erb added that there has been a 23% turnover at UB in the last 36 months.
- Social and Networking Committee is still doing "Lunch Bunches" there are currently 12 groups meeting.
- Stever challenged the membership to increase our viewership of the PSS month newsletter, currently it is at ~30%, the next iteration should be out tomorrow 11/3/23.
- There are 5 upcoming events, Stever shared on her slide, as well as a call for Senators to reach out to their constituents about our events.
- **Motion to receive: Galgovich (Bodack). Passed.**

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Tony Waleszczak

- Waleszczak recapped the lack of having quorum at the 9/28/23 meeting and why this had happened. The sign-in sheet has been updated to accurately reflect the current senator roster to avoid this going forward. Waleszczak also outlined the process for how quorum is calculated.
- **Motion to receive: Jankowski (Washington). Passed.**

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Governing Document Changes – Erb

- Erb quickly re-reviewed governing document changes from the 9/28/23 meeting, redlined documents were posted in Box for all to review.
- Erb called for a motion to send the proposed changes to the Constitution to a vote of the General Body.
 - **Motion to send the changes to a vote: Harzewski (Davis). Passed**
- Erb called for a second motion to accept the Standing Order changes proposed contingent on the vote to amend the Constitution and the Bylaws.



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- **Motion to accept the Standing Order changes: Szrama (Roetzer). Passed**
- Erb called for a third motion to send the changes to the Bylaws to a vote of the General Body.
- Some discussion regarding the randomness of breaking a tie. Krystal Testa, a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee spoke of the committee's rationale for the proposed changes. Parliamentarian Poole reiterated that these are not votes to adopt, but rather votes to send these changes to the General Membership for a vote.
 - **Motion to send the changes to a vote: Bodack (Jankowski). Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Call for Guest Speakers - Erb

Based on responses, Erb showed the tallies for topics and individuals for speakers at future meetings. Most popular individual was new AVP for HR Chris Delello, Erb is going to try and secure him for the Spring, Erb will be meeting with Delello in mid-December. Jacqui Hollins to talk about faculty/staff diversity was a popular choice, and Sharon Mitchell to talk about the mental health of staff. Erb asked those present with connection to assist him in connecting with Jacqui Hollins and Sharon Mitchell.

Discussion, no motion/vote needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: Jankowski. Passed. 3:18 p.m.

Attendance sign in sheet(s) available through the PSS office.

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