

## Minutes of the General and Senate Meeting – UNAPPROVED

September 28, 2023 (in-person, Center for Tomorrow, business conducted)

**Convener:** Don Erb

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

**Executive Members / Senators Present:** last names, listed alphabetically, include (for XXX)

Ball, Bartelo, Beverlin, Bodack, Bratta, Brodka, Cason, Cott, Cunningham, Erb (chair), Ferguson, Gaeddert, Galgovich, Griswold, Harzewski, Jarzab, Lombardo, Mariglia, Matthews, Milizia, Pawlowski, Pizzutelli, Richardson, Roetzer, Saran, Skeans, Stever (vice chair), Stockslader, Stumm, Szrama, Waleszczak (secretary), Zander

**Executive Members / Senators Absent:** last names, listed alphabetically  
(\*sent alternate)

Behun, Cannon-Zelasko, Cooper, Coram, Cruz, Davis, Doxbeck, Emminger, Gault Wilson, Hardaway, Harris, Howard, Jankowski, Jenney, Jungbluth (excused), Keough, Komendat, Krzemien (excused), Kulwicki (excused), Lam, Miller, Multari, Murphy, Ott, Rexinger Kuhn, Savoy, Sillis, Slater, Snyder, Taughrin, Testa, Valentine, Vick, Walker-Whiteside, Wallace, Washington, Wilson (excused)

**Members/Guests:** listed alphabetically

Ashley Abbott, Janice Cochran, Diane Dempsey, Cathy Donnelly, Ben Fabian (guest speaker), Hugh Jarvis, Douglas Levere, Betsy Rodriguez, Eileen Sirianni

**Parliamentarian:** Rachel Poole

**Staff:** Jessica Naish

**Recorder:** No recording made

**Meeting called to order** by Don Erb at 3:07 p.m.

**Quorum NOT reached:** 29 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: Saran (Bodack). Passed.**

## REVIEW OF PAST MINUTE(S) – Don Erb

- Review of the April 2023 minutes
- No discussion ensued

- **Motion to approve Minutes from April 27, 2023: Brodka (Cott). Passed.**

## GUEST SPEAKER – Ben Fabian, Associate Director for Student Support and Resources, Dean of Students Office, *Changes to Blue Table*

- Fabian updated organizational changes within the Division of Student Life
  - New: there are now 2 units:
    1. Dean of Students Office
      - Function: wellbeing of students and access to basic needs
    2. Student Conduct Office
  - Overview of Emergency Funds and the process for a student to apply for them.
- Blue Table
  - New to the Dean of Students Office
  - Provides students with food, because when emergencies arise, students oftentimes cut food first.
  - As of 2023 the Dean of Students now houses the Blue Table
  - There will be an Open House later this semester.
  - A new part-time staff member was just onboarded.
  - A healthy foods wish list for donors or those wishing to start a food drive benefiting Blue Table. There is a downloadable community resource tool kit (tips and tools for doing a community food drive).
- Some questions and brief discussion followed Fabian’s presentation

## CHAIR’S REPORT – Don Erb

- New officers are settling in
- September 6<sup>th</sup> AI summit, Erb invited by UB President Tripathi to attend
  - President Tripathi reported an increase in UB’s operating budget to \$232 million
  - SUNY Chancellor King talked about investment across SUNY, and how AI is a tool
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, Erb attended UB Council Meeting, President Tripathi offered updates and his focus areas for UB to get into the Top 25
  - James Jarvis updated about Affirmative Action
  - Craig Abbey updated about Middle States previsit to UB on 10/2 and 10/3/2023
    - March 2024 site visit

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- Erb encouraged all to review the University's Self-Assessment and to comment if need be
- Erb attended the Campus Governance Summit orientation in Saratoga
  - Shared governance should be involved in areas such as: budgets and vision and mission statements.
  - Some SUNY campuses get a lot of leverage, others none at all
  - No talks of SUNY campus closures, but cuts at some schools
  - SUNY Plenary in October
- No discussion ensued
  
- **Motion to receive: Milizia (Matthews). Passed.**

## VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – Virginia Stever

- Welcoming new and continuing senators
- Overview of committees and committee chairs and vice chairs (both newly approved and continuing)
  - Stever met with most committee chairs, but is continuing to do so until all are complete
  - 163 cars at today's e-Recycling Drive!
  - Recreation and Wellness Committee have a Mental Health First Aid training coming up, partnering with Compeer
- Addendum to the vice chair's report after the motion to receive:
  - Stever reported that there are Parking and Transportation townhall meetings taking place about parking and transportation on campus. Having attended, Stever reports that they are open to ideas to fix problems and looking for feedback on services.
    - The next townhall is 10/24/23
- No discussion ensued
  
- **Motion to receive: Szrama (Harzewski). Passed.**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT – Tony Waleszczak

- Report was an update, reminding Senators of the attendance policy and urged Senators to send alternates in the event they are not able to attend a meeting. Senators should also notify Waleszczak that they will not be in attendance.
- No questions nor discussion ensued
  
- **Motion to receive: Roetzer (Bodack). Passed.**

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

### Governing Documents – Don Erb

- Review of the changes from Reorganization that were previously approved for implementation.

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- Erb highlighted the reorganization and reminded senators of the previously adopted plan.
- Erb also outlined what will be coming down the line with regards to the PSS Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Orders changes, especially the definition of at-large senators and amendments to the deadlines required for items to be placed for a vote.
  - Once received from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the red-lined documents will be posted in Box for all to view and track what is being changed.

Review, no motion/vote needed

## NEW BUSINESS

### Governing Documents New Change Proposals – Don Erb

- Erb summarized the substantive changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Orders of the PSS, submitted 9/27/23
  - Gendered language (his/her) will be changed throughout to genderless “their”
- Reviewed changes to the Constitution: Articles II, IV, and VI
- Reviewed changes to the Standing Orders: Articles IX and XVII
- Reviewed changes to the Bylaws: Articles III, V, VIII, and IX

Review, no motion/vote needed

### Call for Guest Speakers 2023-24 – Don Erb

- Worksheet distributed to Senators and guests present to focus discussion on speakers and topics for the PSS 2023-24 year.
- A review of up coming meetings and scheduled guest speakers
  - President Tripathi will be our next General Membership meeting
    - No General Membership meeting in October
  - Location and time are different than typical PSS meetings for President Tripathi’s talk
    - 11/2 Student Union Room 310 at 2p
  - Highlighted other upcoming PSS events

Exercise, no motion/vote needed

### Good of the Order? – Don Erb

- Questions about the Student Union upgrades
  - Erb was able to answer with the upgrades to the building as well as staircases, the building will be under construction for several months.
  - The Tim Horton’s will remain open during most of the construction.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion to Adjourn:** Erb adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

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