

University at Buffalo Council

Meeting minutes

June 13, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

Members present:

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Brianna Bennett

Michael Cropp

Jonathan A. Dandes

Scott E. Freidman

René Jones

Brenda W. McDuffie

Other participants:

Satish K. Tripathi, President

A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Rodney Grabowski, Vice President for University Advancement

Allison Brashear, Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Attendees:

Brice Bible, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

John Della Contrada, Vice President for University Communications

A.J. Franklin, UB Council Student Representative-Elect

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President of Research and Economic Development

Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Dean of the Graduate School

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and University Events

Allison Korta, Assistant Director of Presidential Events

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Kemper Lewis, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Timothy Tryjankowski, Chair of the Professional Staff Senate

Opening business

Call to order

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Topics for discussion or action

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Jacobs began his report by acknowledging and thanking student representative, Brianna Bennett, whose term expires after the June meeting, for her service to the Council. Chairman Jacobs presented Ms. Bennett with a commendation in appreciation for her service.

Chairman Jacobs then called for a motion to approve the Norton Medal resolution which names New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes as the 2022 recipient of the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Mr. Friedman, and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Chairman Jacobs asked Vice President Rodney Grabowski to present details to the Council about two proposed naming resolutions.

The first resolution is for the naming of the Silicon Nexus Group Connectomics Laboratory @ UB MDI. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Jones and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The second resolution is for the naming of the Pamela D. Heilman, JD '75, and Robert D. Heilman, MBA '75, Professor of Social Equity and Justice in the School of Law. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Mr. Jones and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Jones and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Upon approval by the Council, both naming resolutions will now be forwarded to the State University of New York System Administration for final review and approval by the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Drafts of the resolutions can be found on the [UB Council website](#).

Chairman Jacobs then asked President Tripathi to give his university report.

University Briefings: Report of the President

President Tripathi began his report by thanking Ms. Bennett for her service to the Council, and congratulated and welcomed student representative-elect, Mr. A.J. Franklin, who will serve on the Council for the 2022-23 academic year.

Dr. Tripathi updated the Council on UB's commencement season. 22 conferral and recognition ceremonies were held. UB awarded the Class of 2022 6,210 degrees including 3,835 undergraduate degrees and 2,375 were graduate degrees. Top undergraduate degrees awarded in 2022 were in business administration, psychology, mechanical engineering, computer science, and civil engineering. Top graduate degrees were in medicine, management information systems, social work, dental medicine, business administration, computer science and engineering, and engineering science. UB also awarded SUNY Honorary Degrees to Dr. Ravinder Bansal and Professor Francesco Calogero. UB's President's Medal was awarded posthumously to the late UB Professor Sargur Srihari and the Norton Medal was presented to Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes. UB also took time during commencement to pause and remember the 10 Buffalonians killed and the three wounded in the racist massacre that took place in Buffalo on May 14. The victims included UB alumna Pearl Young.

Dr. Tripathi informed the Council that the President's Advisory Council on Race released its final implementation report in June—a pathway to supporting and amplifying equity in UB's research, teaching, education, and engagement with the broader region.

Tripathi also updated the Council on recent national awards received by UB faculty as well as major research grants. UB has also created four new departments and more than 100 new degree programs since 2018. As a result, numerous UB schools, departments, and programs have risen or remain in the top 25 rankings in their fields among public institutions. UB students also continue to be recognized nationally for their excellence, recently receiving awards such as Goldwater and Fulbright scholarships, the Critical Language Scholarship, NSF Graduate Research fellowships, the Citizen Honors Award for Service, and the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship.

University Briefings: Report from the Provost

Provost Weber began his report with a further update on the President's Advisory Council on Race (PACOR) implementation effort of its recommendations. The implementation committees met throughout the fall 2021 semester and presented their initial recommendations at town halls in March 2022, which were attended by over 420 campus members. The recommendations from the PACOR implementation committee touch on every aspect of the UB community and broadly include increasing diversity among faculty, staff and students; enhancing mentoring and recognition of faculty and staff to improve retention; practicing inclusive curricula and pedagogy; enhancing student success; building a welcoming campus environment; and better supporting and recognizing community engagement and engaged research.

Provost Weber also informed the Council of two new dean appointments. Annette B. Wysocki will serve as the new dean of the School of Nursing, and Ananth V. Iyer will be the new dean of the School of Management.

Vice President of Health Sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Alison Brashear, was then asked to provide a presentation to the Council.

University Briefings: Presentation by Dean Brashear

Dr. Brashear began her presentation by sharing her vision for a strong academic school of medicine, one that partners with the community and is collaborative with the region's health care systems. UB has strong health care depth, when considering all of UB's health sciences schools and programs. To further enhance the Jacobs School's excellence, there will be an increased focus on student training, increased federally funded research, and providing a welcoming and inclusive environment.

UB is one of 60 sites nationally for the Clinical and Translational Research Award which allows UB to train and fund the next generation of researchers, and also bring research to patients through clinical trials.

UB is the only academic health center in WNY. 30% of UB's medical students in 2022 decided to perform their residencies in the Buffalo region—meaning more students are staying in WNY.

Dr. Brashear informed the Council that long COVID is likely to lead to new research and clinical program opportunities. UB is seeking NIH funded support to research treatment and care for long COVID patients.

The Jacobs School is also redesigning its medical curriculum. The Jacobs School graduated 170 students in 2022 and will graduate 180 in 2023. An increase of 40 students per year since the graduating class in 2017. The Jacobs School also graduates more than 150 undergraduates per year. The Jacobs School is dedicated to not only training more doctors, but also training a more diverse pool of health care providers. To do so, the Jacobs School will seek to enroll a more diverse student pool and provide additional scholarships to create a pathway for students.

Report of the Student Representative

Ms. Bennett expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Council and thanked the members for their support.

Mr. Friedman asked about the increase in research funding and how much of that funding is dedicated to the translational aspect of research. President Tripathi stated that most of the federal funding is not meant for translational research. There is funding through New York State's Empire Discovery Institute - Innovation Hub that is dedicated to this research. It is primarily focused on pharmaceutical research.

Mr. Dandes inquired about what the incoming freshman class looks like. Dr. Weber stated there are about 4,200 first-year students expected for fall 2022. Applications have slightly increased—more than 30,000 total. Professional schools are also stable with particular growth in master's programs such as data science and business analytics.

Adjournment

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Jones, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

A video recording of the entire meeting, including all presentations, can be found at this [link](#) on the UB Council website.

Minutes approved at the October 3, 2022 semester meeting of the UB Council