



**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

June 11, 2018, 8:00 a.m.

Council Room, 505 Capen Hall

**Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Robert Brady

Mike Brown

Michael Cropp

Jonathan Dandes

Scott Friedman

Pamela Heilman

June W. Hoeflich

**Other participants:**

Charles F. Zukoski, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Rod Grabowski, Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

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

**Attendees:**

Mark Alnutt, Director of Athletics

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

Jason Diffenderfer, Senior Associate Vice President for Advancement

Philip Glick, Faculty Senate Chair

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President of Research and Economic Development

Robert Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Kathleen Heckman, Assoc. Vice President for Operations, Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and Initiatives

Cynthia Khoo-Robinson, Associate Vice President for Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director of Presidential Communications

Domenic Licata, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UB IT

Scott Weber, Vice President for Student Life

Sue Wuetcher, News Content Manager, UBNOW

Max Kalnitz, UB Spectrum

## **Opening business**

### ***Call to order***

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Chairman Jacobs spoke to the Council about the recent passing of several friends including Marcy Dandes, Edmond “Doc” Gicewicz, and Reginald Newman. Mrs. Dandes was a kind and generous person who committed much of her time and energy to the community and her family. Dr. Gicewicz and Mr. Newman, both former council members, brought deep knowledge, experience, and leadership to the Council. Chairman Jacobs expressed his condolences, on behalf of the Council, to each family.

### ***Approval of minutes***

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting. The motion was made by Dr. Cropp, seconded by Ms. Heilman, and the minutes were approved without correction.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

### ***Report of the Chairman***

Chairman Jacobs stated there were four naming resolutions to be considered by the UB Council.

### ***Consideration of naming resolutions***

The first resolution called for the Council’s approval to name the Dr. Romesh K. and Mrs. Neelam Kohli Medical Student Scholarship Fund in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Ms. Hoeflich, and was approved unanimously.

The second resolution called for approval to name the Moog Professor of Innovation in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich, seconded by Mr. Brady, and was approved unanimously.

The third resolution called for approval to name the Mario and Donna Rocci Chair and the Mario and Donna Rocci Scholarship in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Ms. Hoeflich, and was approved unanimously.

The fourth resolution called for approval to name the Rosenthal Family Fund in the School of Dental Medicine. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Dr. Cropp, seconded by Ms. Heilman, and was approved unanimously.

Chairman Jacobs then congratulated Mr. Brown on his reelection as student representative to the UB Council and asked him to update the Council with his report.

### ***Report of the Student Representative***

Mr. Brown began his report by discussing two issues of concern that remain major challenges for students not only at UB, but across the country. These issues are food insecurity and mental health.

Mr. Brown stated many students often lack the financial resources for food and find themselves skipping meals. Mr. Brown noted an off campus food pantry is hosted at a nearby church, however, many students are either unaware of it or unable to travel to it. Mr. Brown added that many students would like to see an on-campus food pantry.

In the area of mental health, Mr. Brown stated depression and anxiety are among the most common mental health disorders for students. Mr. Brown stated students would like to see increased accessibility, capacity, and outreach for mental health counseling care on campus.

### ***University Briefings: Report of the President***

Provost Zukoski stated he will present the president's report as President Tripathi was unable to attend the Council meeting due to inclement weather preventing him from traveling to Buffalo.

Provost Zukoski began by congratulating Mr. Brown on his reelection and also introduced Mark Alnutt, who was named the new Director of Athletics at UB in March. Provost Zukoski then asked Vice President Grabowski to update the Council on the Boldly Buffalo campaign.

### ***University Briefings: Presentation by Vice Provost for University Advancement***

Vice President Grabowski began his report with a historical perspective of giving at UB pointing out that philanthropy increases during university campaigns and sets a new standard in terms of minimal annual giving. Honorary Co-Chairs for this new campaign are Chairman Jacobs and his wife, Margaret, and Campaign Co-Chairs are Dan and Gail Alexander. When the campaign was publicly announced in late April, UB had already reached \$450 million toward a goal of \$650 million representing approximately 70% of the overall goal. Approximately 80% of the gifts given for the campaign have come from individuals. Nearly 61,000 donors have made a total of 160,000 gifts to the campaign and more than 100 of those donors have pledged gifts of at least \$1 million. The public phase of the campaign kicked off on April 27. There will be regional kickoffs in WNY, New York City, and Washington, D.C. as well as additional regional events and dinners from California to Florida that will continue until the goal is reached.

Provost Zukoski continued his report by highlighting recent faculty achievements. This includes five UB faculty members who were appointed to the ranks of SUNY Distinguished Professor. Stelios Andreadis, Steven J. Fliesler, Andrew Whitaker, and Zhen Yan were named SUNY Distinguished Professors. Christopher Cohan was named a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. Since 2007, 56 UB faculty have been named full SUNY Distinguished Professors, the most of any SUNY campus during that time.

During commencement season, UB conferred approximately 8,200 degrees including 4,700 undergraduate and 3,500 graduate and professional degrees. UB also conferred SUNY Honorary Degrees to three alumni, Robert Peter Gale, Gordon Amidon, and Margaret Wong. There were three President's Medal recipients as well, Michael Cain, Laura Hubbard, and Cristanne Miller.

In May, the new building for the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences won the Award for Public Architecture in the category of new construction from the American Institute of Architects, New York State. UB is also gearing up for the start of Phase 3 of the Heart of the

Campus project which includes the construction of the One World Cafe. Provost Zukoski asked Vice Provost Hammill to present an update to the Council on the project.

### ***University Briefings: Presentation by Vice Provost for Graduate Education***

Dr. Hammill stated One World Cafe is designed to help fill the growing dining needs on campus due to enrollment growth. It is also meant to serve as a gateway to the North Campus and to promote UB's standing as a world-class international university that prioritizes educating students and global citizenship. One World Café will have five dining stations each with a different type of international cuisine and have at least 500 seats with up to 650-700 seats possible. The café will be built between Norton and Capen Halls. The project is still in the design phase, but could start construction in the fall with a completion date during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Answering a question regarding food insecurity, Vice Provost Hammill stated Campus Dining does a good job of not wasting food while meeting the needs on campus. Provost Zukoski also indicated that food insecurity is being studied by the university and Vice President Weber added that a task force has been formed to exam the issue further at UB.

Provost Zukoski continued his report addressing several areas that university administrators are following closely. This includes the Higher Education Act reauthorization. The PROSPER Act would reform the Higher Education Act of 1965. As it is proposed currently, it would cut \$15 billion in federal aid for college students over the next decade and jeopardize access for students who are most in need.

The Provost also discussed the Excelsior Scholarship program. UB has approximately 1,550 Excelsior Scholars. More are expected to enroll in the coming academic year. UB is also tracking student debt at the university and how it compares nationally. UB's default rate is at 3.2%, compared to 11.5% nationally indicating student capacity to cover any debt taken on during their time at UB and that UB students are getting a good return on their investment. About 60 percent of UB undergraduates took out loans (data for 2017 graduates) which is a little below the national average. The average debt load for UB undergraduate students is \$25,383, compared to the average national student loan debt of \$30,100.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Brady and seconded by Ms. Heilman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Minutes to be approved at the October 1, 2018 meeting of the UB Council.