

**DRAFT of the meeting minutes of September 15, 2025**

**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

September 15, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

**Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Jr. Chairman

Michael Cropp

Scott Friedman

Jonathan Dandes

Patrick Roche

Shaurya Jain

**Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

Kathleen Heckman, Vice President for University Advancement

Ann Bisantz, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

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

**Attendees:**

Tomas Aguirre, Dean of Students

Keith Alford, Dean of the School of Social Work

Mark Alnutt, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Chris Connor, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

John Della Contrada, Vice President for University Communications

Beth Del Genio, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and Chief of Staff to the President

Seth Gilbertson, Chief Campus Council

Katie Gorman, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Strategic Initiatives, Delaware North

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Jeffrey Grabill, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Emma Halstead, Assistant Director of University Events

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration

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

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential and University Events

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean of the Graduate School of Education

Eileen Sherman, Chief of Staff to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Kristin Stapleton, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Heath Tuttle, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Amy Veiders, Associate Director of University Events

Evvisa Weinraub Lejoie, Vice Provost for University Libraries

Seval Yildirim, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence

## **Opening business**

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

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

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

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Mr. Roche and approved unanimously by Dr. Cropp, Mr. Dandes, Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose or abstain.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

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

Chairman Jacobs began his report welcoming the new student representative to the UB Council, Mr. Shaurya Jain.

Chairman Jacobs asked Vice President Kathleen Heckman to present details to the Council about four naming resolutions under consideration.

The first resolution is for the naming of the Meherwan and Zarine Boyce Chair in Fluid Mechanics in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Dr. Cropp, seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Dandes, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose or abstain.

A second resolution is for the naming of the Honorable Henry H. Newlin, JD '75, Law Scholarship in the School of Law. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Dr. Cropp, seconded by Mr. Roche and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Dandes, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose or abstain.

A third resolution is for the naming of the Barry S. Willer, PhD, Chair in Psychiatric Research. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Dandes, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose or abstain.

A fourth resolution is for the naming of the Leonard Yee, DDS '85, Scholarship in the School of Dental Medicine. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman, seconded by Dr. Cropp and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Dandes, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose or abstain.

With the approval of the Council, all four resolutions will 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. A copy of the resolutions can be found on the [UB Council website](#).

Chairman Jacobs asked President Tripathi to give his university report.

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

President Tripathi welcomed Mr. Jain as the new student representative. Dr. Tripathi discussed a recent visit to campus by New York Governor Kathy Hochul to see the progress and impact of Empire AI. She met with UB faculty and students who are leveraging the power of Empire AI 'Alpha' to drive their

research. With the start of the academic year, UB welcomed 92 new full-time faculty, including 59 tenure-track faculty. UB also welcomed more than 5,000 new first-year students, the university's largest class ever. For the seventh year in a row, UB's overall enrollment is more than 30,000 students.

President Tripathi asked Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Ann Bisantz and Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Brian Hamluk to present on UB's undergraduate academic life and student life and how these two enterprises work together to provide our students with a transformative education

***University Briefings: Presentation by Ann Bisantz and Brian Hamluk***

Dr. Bisantz began her report by discussing the academic life of undergraduate students at UB and gave brief demographic information about its student body, including that 30% are first generation students, more than 50% receive financial aid, and more than 33% are eligible for Pell grants. UB offers more than 150 undergraduate degree programs and more than 85 combined undergraduate/graduate degrees. Dr. Bisantz also described UB's curricular innovations in AI, including seven inaugural undergraduate degrees offered as a partnership between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Bisantz highlighted several programs and services offered by UB to support students throughout their academic careers at UB including the UB Seminar, peer mentoring, the Experiential Learning Network, and Early Alert Program, among others.

Dr. Hamluk began his report by discussing how UB supports the student experience outside of the classroom. Dr. Hamluk stated there are several critical factors that Student Life considers regarding the student experience. This includes a sense of belonging, a commitment to student well-being, creating opportunities, as well as spaces for students, and assisting in a student's career ambitions. Student Life has partnered with University Advancement to help connect students with alumni, faculty and staff for mentoring opportunities. There is also a focus on student mental health and providing the services, staff and facilities to meet this need. Student life has also increased staffing and programs that provide students with more opportunities to participate in community service. UB has created more student-centric living and learning spaces such as One World Café and The Landing. UB is also focused on preparing students for a career after UB by partnering with employers to create more internships and experiential learning opportunities as well as targeted job placements.

President Tripathi then asked Provost Weber to update the Council on the changing federal landscape and the impact on US higher education and UB.

***University Briefings: Presentation by Scott Weber***

Provost Weber stated UB have had approximately 60 grants cancelled or impacted, a third of which have been reinstated following challenges. The total institutional loss is estimated at around \$18 million. This represents 6% of UB's 2023-24 federal research funding expenditures of \$285 million. UB offers bridge funding to help counter grant losses. Last semester, UB launched two funding programs: UB COMPLETE, which provides funding to address needs following grant cancellations; and UB LAUNCH, which supports research transitions to federal priority areas. To date, 11 terminated awards and 16 research project transitions have received funding through these opportunities.

UB has seen a decline of international graduate enrollment in select master's programs, due to visa processing delays, challenges securing visa appointments, and U.S. labor market corrections, particularly in the tech sector. Fall 2025 international enrollment is 4,075 compared to 5,046 in Fall 2024. These enrollment declines have largely affected STEM master's programs.

UB is in the process of building the innovative Department of AI and Society, which builds on UB's strengths in AI and socially relevant research and education. This fall the AI and Society department

began offering unique, innovative degree programs that combine the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence with traditional academic disciplines. New AI PLUS degree programs include: geospatial analysis with the Department of Geography; language and intercultural competence with the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures; language technology with the Department of Linguistics; logic and ontology with the Department of Philosophy; policy analysis with the Department of Political Science; quantitative economics with the Department of Economics; and, responsible communication with the Department of Communication; UB estimates that more than 300 students will be enrolled in these degree programs by 2030. These new programs will prepare students for a labor market where knowledge of AI and the ability to use AI responsibly is increasingly expected. The department will eventually be housed in the state-funded AI and Society Building on Lee Road that is currently in planning.

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

President Tripathi continued his report with an update on recent faculty and student awards. Six faculty members received prestigious Fulbright Scholar Awards, four UB faculty have received awards from the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Program, three nursing faculty have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Nursing, a UB Law faculty member has been elected a member of the prestigious American Law Institute. Six students also won Fulbright Awards. Students have also received prestigious national honors such as a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation, the Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology Fellowship, and one of the first-ever recipients of the new American College of Clinical Pharmacology Grant Program.

The Graduate School of Education will be moving from Baldy Hall on the North Campus to the newly renovated Foster Hall on the South Campus. The move is expected to be completed by the end of the fall semester with classes being held in Foster Hall beginning in the spring semester. Construction gets underway this semester on Russell L. Agrusa Hall, a new, student-focused, engineering building.

President Tripathi concluded his report by inviting Council members to his annual State of the University address being held on September 26, 2025.

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

Mr. Jain began his report by introducing himself and said his focus is to make sure student voices are heard and align with UB's broader mission. Mr. Jain highlighted several recent campus events including Fall Fest and a home win by the UB football team. Mr. Jain would like to see more frequent and targeted networking opportunities for students, particularly around career readiness. Mr. Jain also addressed the issue of parking on campus and would like to see the development of a more accurate real-time parking app.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting to executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dandes and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Mr. Jain, Mr. Dandres, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

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

*Minutes to be approved at the December 15, 2025, meeting of the UB Council*