



**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

December 13, 2021, 8:00 a.m.

Meeting held via video conference

**Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Julie Bargnesi

Brianna Bennett

Michael Cropp

Jonathan A. Dandes

Scott E. Freidman

Brenda W. McDuffie

**Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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

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

Rodney Grabowski, Vice President for University Advancement

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

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

## **Opening business**

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

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

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

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

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

Chairman Jacobs asked Vice President Brian Hamluk to present details to the Council about a proposed resolution regarding revisions to UB's Student Code of Conduct. Vice President Hamluk stated the changes include: adjusted language to reflect non-binary terms; standard language to be consistent with University Discrimination and Harassment policy; an additional 'emergency removal' definition per Title IX regulations; and updated involuntary leave of absence policy linking to the full university policy. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the changes to the Student Code of Conduct. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Dr. Cropp and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, 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 six proposed naming resolutions.

The first resolution is for the naming of the Karen and Lester Gerhardt Dining Room in One World Café. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Dr. Cropp and seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The second resolution is for the naming of the Brinkworth Family Locker Room. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Mr. Dandes and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The third resolution is for the naming of the Edward J. Kikta Jr. Innovation Professorship. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Dr. Cropp and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The fourth resolution is for the naming of the Richard C. Osborne Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Fund in Business and Engineering and the Richard C. Osborne Student Scholarship in Business and Engineering. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The fifth resolution is for the naming of the Roberta A. and George E. Stevens Experiential Learning Fund. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Dr. Cropp

and seconded by Mr. Dandes and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

The sixth resolution is for the naming of the Dr. Kristina M. Johnson and Veronica Meinhard STEM Scholarship and the Teresa A. Miller Professorship in Law. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie and seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Upon approval by the Council, the Kitka, Osborne, Stevens and STEM/Miller 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 congratulating Mr. Dandes on his reappointment to the UB Council. Tripathi also informed the Council of SUNY Chancellor Malatras resigning from his position effective January 14, 2022.

President Tripathi also reported that UB enjoyed both a highly successful return to campus, and a highly productive semester overall while remaining vigilant to the threat of COVID-19 by following the university's health and safety protocols.

Tripathi informed the Council on the recent appointment of five UB faculty to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. These faculty members include Dr. Quanxi Jia and Dr. Mark Swihart from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Dr. Marianthi Markatou from the School of Public Health and Health Professions; Dr. Janet Morrow from the College of Arts and Sciences; and Dean Robert Shibley from the School of Architecture and Planning.

UB also celebrated the life of former UB law professor Teresa Miller. Miller was UB's first vice provost for equity and inclusion and went on to become SUNY's Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer. As referenced in the resolutions passed by the Council earlier in this meeting, both the Professor Teresa A. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund and Teresa A. Miller Professorship in Law have been established in her honor.

In October, Dr. Allison Brashear was announced as UB's next vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Tripathi invited dean Brashear to speak to the Council.

Dr. Brashear thanked Dr. Tripathi for the opportunity to speak and stated she has met many university leaders in her first week on campus who are passionate about growing research and education, and that, alongside with regional health systems, the school is looking to integrate research in everything it does.

President Tripathi also described to the Council the potential impact of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act – also known as USICA, which has been passed in the U.S. Senate and awaits approval in the U.S. House of Representatives. If enacted, this legislation would bolster U.S. manufacturing, remedy supply chain issues, and advance the next generation of cutting edge technology research. USICA prioritizes 10 areas of research including artificial intelligence, genomics, disaster prevention and cyber-security. Tripathi stated UB's research is very strong in nearly all of these areas. UB's Office of Research

and Economic Development is currently working with faculty leaders to develop 8 research groups that align with USICA's priorities so UB can be positioned to compete successfully for these major research investments.

President Tripathi then invited School of Engineering and Applied Sciences dean, Kemper Lewis, to speak to the Council about the school's growth over the past decade and its need for a new engineering building.

Dean Lewis began his report stating the plan for new building capitalize on the school's enormous growth and foundation of research. The school's enrollment for 2021 is more than 7,000 students, 253 full-time faculty, annual research expenditures exceed \$82 million, 36,000 alumni around the world and more than 15,000 in New York State. School has seen a 60% growth in undergraduate enrollment and 110% growth in graduate enrollment over 10 years. The school is also impacting local entrepreneurship with 10 recent startup companies using the school's intellectual property and as many as 54 startups involving current and former engineering students. Dean Lewis continued stating that the need for a new engineering building focuses on three areas: the student experience, STEM Workforce Development, and Diversity and Inclusion.

Currently, the school is in the process of examining best practices when considering the construction of a new building. Dean Lewis concluded his report stated the school's mission to create a new building that will become the home for all students interested in engineering and computer science. A home that welcomes and supports students at every step of their education and invites them to gather, collaborate and work together.

Dr. Cropp inquired if the School of Architecture and Planning is involved in the planning and design of a new building. Dean Lewis confirmed that a member of the architecture school is a member of the planning committee for the building.

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

Ms. Bennett began her report stating the university did a tremendous job preparing the campus for the return of students. Ms. Bennett also spoke about a diversity course that is now embedded in the undergraduate general curriculum. Ms. Bennett also expressed the concern of students regarding the scheduled closing in January of the CVS store in the UB Commons. Ms. Bennett continued her report stating students are also concerned about the job market when they graduate.

Regarding the closing of CVS, Vice President Hamluk stated UB is communicating with the company regarding student needs, as well as working with UB Campus Dining and Shops to determine if they can cover any gaps that may arise regarding the needs of students when the store closes.

#### ***University Briefings: Report from the Provost***

Provost Weber began his report with an update on several administrative leadership changes. These include the retirement announcement, effective January 5, 2022, of Joseph Zambon, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. Professor of Oral Biology Stefan Ruhl, has been appointed as Interim Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, effective January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Additionally, dean Marsha Lewis of the School of Nursing and Dean Paul Tesluk of the School of Management have also announced they will be stepping down from their roles as dean at the end of this academic year. Search committees for both dean positions will be launched this spring, and UB plans to have new leadership determined by the end of the Spring 2022 semester.

Provost Weber also detailed five new degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. These include: a Master of Arts in Art & Design for Social Impact; a Master of Science in Criminology; a

Bachelor and Master of Arts in Global Affairs; and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE). Additionally, several UB faculty recently received significant federal grants for their research including: Ying Xu, Research Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a \$3.9 million National Institute on Aging grant to examine the role of phosphodiesterase (PDE) enzymes in cognition and behavior, paving the way for future drug development of enzyme inhibitors as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease; UB nursing professors Amy Hequembourg and Jennifer Livingston have received a \$2.5 million National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism grant to explore how to address disparities in alcohol and drug abuse among LGBTQ+ youth; and Jason Briner, Professor of Geology, is Principal Investigator on a \$1.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation to enable scientists from different branches of ice-sheet research will work together to improve modeling of the response of ice sheets to climate change.

Several UB faculty have also recently received national or international recognition for their excellence including: Irus Braverman, Professor and William J. Magavern Faculty Scholar of Law, received a highly prestigious National Humanities Center Fellowship in support of her forthcoming book project, "Settling Nature: The Biopolitics of Conservation in Palestine/Israel"; Steven Schwaartzberg, chair of the Department of Surgery, was inducted into the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, a high honor that recognizes individuals who have dedicated their careers to surgical education; and Janet Yang, Professor of Communication, received the Society for Risk Analysis Chauncey Starr Award in recognition of outstanding achievement related to risk analysis and exceptional promise for continued contributions to risk analysis.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Dandes, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Bargnesi, Ms. McDuffie, Mr. Friedman, Dr. Cropp and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 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 March 28, 2022 meeting of the UB Council.*