



University at Buffalo Council

Meeting minutes

June 3, 2019, 8:00 a.m.

The Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

Members present:

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Mike Brown (on the phone)

Michael Cropp

Scott Friedman

June W. Hoeflich

Jonathan Dandes

Other participants:

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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

Attendees:

Mark Alnutt, Director of Athletics

Mike Andrei, Public Affairs Specialist, University Communications

Ann Bisantz, Dean of Undergraduate Education

Michael Cain, VP for Health Sciences & Dean, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Jacob Brown, Student, Political Science

Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President

John DellaContrada, Interim Vice President for University Communications

Johnny Garcia, Student Union Operations & Events Manager

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President of Research and Economic Development

Rod Grabowski, Vice President for University Advancement

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

Jim Holstun, Department of English

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential Events and Initiatives

James Jarvis, SUNY Counsel

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Domenic Licata, Chair, Professional Staff Senate

Jim O'Donnell, Dean, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Willis McCumber, Student

Macy McDonald, Student

Kate McKenna, University Communication

Mike Montoro, Student

Ariana Nash, Student

Eileen Sherman, Deputy to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Despina Stratigakos, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence

Tanveen Vohra, UB Spectrum

Jacklyn Walters, UB Spectrum

Maria Wallace, Director, Student Unions

Scott Weber, Vice President for Student Life

Sue Wuetcher, Editor, UBNOW

Opening business

Call to order

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Cropp, and seconded by Mr. Friedman. Voting yes to approve the minutes without correction were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose.

Topics for discussion or action

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Jacobs stated there were four resolutions to be considered by the UB Council. Mr. Jacobs called for a motion to approve a resolution calling for the removal of the name “John and Editha Kapoor Hall” from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences building. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Mr. Friedman. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose. The resolution must now go to SUNY for final approval at the Board of Trustees meeting in June.

The second resolution called for the Council’s approval of the naming of the “Keller Family Foyer” within the Murchie Family Fieldhouse. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Ms. Hoeflich. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose.

The third resolution called for the Council’s approval of the naming of the “Murphy Family Seminar Room” within the Clinical and Translational Research Center. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Ms. Hoeflich and seconded by Mr. Friedman. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose.

The fourth resolution called for the Council’s recommendation and approval of Dr. L. Nelson Hopkins for selection as the 2019 University at Buffalo Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medalist. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion of approval. The motion was made by Dr. Cropp and seconded by Mr. Friedman. Voting yes to approve the resolution were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose.

Chairman Jacobs took a moment to recognize outgoing student representative Mike Brown and thanked him for his two years of dedicated service to the Council and as an advocate for UB’s students.

Report of the Student Representative

Mr. Brown began his report by introducing the newly elected student representative to the UB Council, Mr. Michael Montoro. Mr. Montoro is a PhD candidate in Math and a presidential fellow. Mr. Brown’s second term of service as student representative ends at the end of June. He expressed that the past two years have provided him with remarkable opportunities to learn while advocating on behalf of his fellow students. Mr. Brown listed several issues he has been advocating for that also continue to be important to the UB student body, including mental health and wellness, inclusive representation on campus and in the classroom, graduate stipends, an enforceable UB Breathe Free policy, student transit passes and other issues.

In April, the student body mourned the passing of fellow student Sebastian Serafin Bazan. Mr. Brown stated that this tragedy emphasizes the need for everyone in the UB community to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Mr. Brown also discussed the decision to dissolve Sub Board I (SBI). Mr. Brown cited New York State Education Law, Article 8, Section 356 which specifies that university councils have the power to review all major plans and make recommendations as appropriate. Mr. Brown stated that for 49 years, SBI has provided services to students, such as legal consultations, a safety shuttle, the student-run WRUB radio and a student run ticket office. The Faculty Student Association (FSA) will now serve as the new fiscal agent and services provided by SBI will be eliminated. Mr. Brown reports that some students do not agree with this decision. The plan for this transition is to take place by July 1. Mr. Brown cited SUNY fiscal guidelines which he quoted as “the fiscal agents for student government must be one of the following independent entities which includes’ -quote- ‘other contractually recognized campus affiliated organizations.” Mr. Brown stated SBI meets this requirement. Mr. Brown also disagreed with the university concern that SBI is not authorized by UB to administer agency accounts and the equity of fees collected. Mr. Brown stated many students have utilized SBI services. In 2017-2018, students took 13,000 rides on the SBI shuttle. The SBI off-campus housing database was visited more than 47,000 times in the past year, and 1,133 students used SBI legal services in the past year. Mr. Brown recommended that the university abandon the plan to dissolve SBI.

University Briefings: Report of the President

President Satish Tripathi began his report by offering his congratulations to Mike Brown on his graduation and expressed his appreciation for his two years of dedicated service to the UB. He also congratulated Michael Montoro on his election as the new student representative.

President Tripathi informed the Council that during commencement exercises, UB had the pleasure of conferring SUNY Honorary Degrees upon four outstanding UB alumni: Dr. Donald Pinkel, the founding director and CEO of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; The Honorable Julio Fuentes, a judge on the Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals; Rear Admiral Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, retired director of the Navy Nurse Corps; and Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology for the Department of India. UB also recently learned that Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has accepted UB’s invitation to receive a SUNY Honorary Degree in Law. Justice Ginsburg will visit UB this August to receive the degree, which will be presented by Chancellor Johnson. While at UB, Justice Ginsburg will spend time teaching our law students. Her visit represents an incredible opportunity for the next generation of lawyers and legal scholars to learn from: a renowned jurist; an influential advocate for gender equality and women’s rights; and one of the most influential legal voices of our time.

UB’s faculty continue to bring great visibility to UB through their groundbreaking scholarship, research and creative activities. This spring, UB learned that 3 faculty members had been named SUNY Distinguished Professors. They are Anthony Campagnari, senior associate dean for research and education; and professor of microbiology, immunology and medicine in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Gary Giovino, professor of community health and health behavior, and associate dean for faculty affairs in the School of Public Health and Health Professions; and John Richard, UB Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry.

President Tripathi then asked Provost Charles Zukoski to provide his report to the Council.

University Briefings: Report of the Provost

Provost Zukoski stated UB celebrated 17 official commencement ceremonies and numerous recognition events across the university this spring. This year, UB awarded approximately 9,300 degrees – an

approximately 6% increase from last year – including nearly 5,600 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional degrees. Many students continue to pursue majors in Business Administration, Psychology, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, and Computer Science.

Numerous UB students are winning prestigious national scholarships and awards. Among their many achievements this year students received: 7 Fulbright Awards, 2 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships, 2 Critical Language Scholarships, 4 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, Microsoft Research Ada Lovelace Fellowship, and a Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress Fellowship.

Faculty members continue to receive national and international recognition as well. In the fall, Kunle Odunsi, UB Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Deputy Director of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Provost Zukoski also announced that Evviva Weinraub was recently named the new Vice Provost for University Libraries, following a national search. She will join UB August 1 from Northwestern University, where she serves as Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technologies.

Provost Zukoski also informed the Council that Liesl Folks, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences will be stepping down this summer to become Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of Arizona. Dean Folks has led the school through a period of tremendous growth change, including the addition of more than 75 faculty and 2,700 students and substantially increased faculty awards and accelerated external research funding. Provost Zukoski stated he will be appointing an interim dean in the coming weeks while UB conducts a search for the next SEAS dean.

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn to executive session pursuant to New York State Public Officers' Law to discuss pending litigation involving an individual. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes and seconded by Ms. Hoeflich. Voting yes to approve adjournment to executive session were Mr. Brown, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, Ms. Hoeflich, and Mr. Dandes. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:22 a.m.

Minutes approved at the September 9, 2019 UB Council meeting.