Executive Membership Meeting
Minutes of September 10, 2009
Approved

Convener: Janiece Kiedrowski, Chair
Recorder: Kathleen M. Kielar, Secretary

AGENDA
1. Approval of the minutes of June 4, 2009 meeting.
2. Report of the Chair
3. Guest: Provost Satish K. Tripathi
4. Report of the Vice Chair (Discussion of Committee Reorganization)
5. Welcome Lines Event
6. Marketing Committee
7. New Business/Old Business
8. Adjournment

MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of June 4, 2009
The minutes motioned for approval, first to approve Randy Borst, and seconded by Anne Marie Swartz. The Executive Senators unanimously approved the June 4, 2009 meeting minutes.

2. Report of the Chair
Janiece welcomed the senators and alternates to a new year of service and thanked them in advance for their generosity in time and efforts. She further gave a brief description of the expectations that Executive Senators have and what they can expect from her, as well as an overview of the scheduled speakers. Finally, she introduced the SUNY Senators; David Ballard, Bill Coles, and Henry Durand.

3. Guest Speaker: Provost Satish K. Tripathi
The Provost discussed the new freshman class coming into UB providing measurements about the quality of the Freshman class, as well the number of new faculty members the University at Buffalo has hired. 3250 new freshmen. 1750 transfer students. Goal was not to increase undergraduate enrollment but to keep it at a steady state. Students come from 33 states and 39 countries. G1/G2 ratio is 60/40. Male/female ratio 55/45. We have a little difference from the national trend because we have a large engineering school. Average SAT is 1201 and HS average is 92. 304 University honors scholarship students and for them they have an average SAT score of 1377; GPA for this group is 96.0. We have about 200 international freshmen. We also award about $4.4 million to scholarship students. 30% come from WNY, 40-45% come from metro NY, and the rest are from all over. Enrollment is up slightly for Graduates/Professionals over last year.
We have hired 58 new faculty members, which is down 100 from last year. There are about 36-37 tenure track faculty positions – again this is down from last year. At this time, there is a 50/50 male/female ratio for tenure tracked faculty positions.

Budget cuts last time were approximately 21 million dollars. This year the budget cut from the state to date is 4 million. In addition we have had losses to our endowment funds where the income is used for all the work that we do. 6-9 million is projected to be loss on endowments. We have recognized the more conservative 6 million.

Bill Coles asked about the Provost to grandfather the EOP students that did not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) this year. The Provost explained that the university did not follow the federal regulations, we would be fined heavily. Further, he explained to the group that when students aren’t meeting SAP it’s a matter of advising students appropriately.

UB is limited in the tools that others have available to them. One that we do have is the turnover of faculty and staff. It’s close to $40 million for the last 5 years. Last year the number is around $14-15 million, which is understandable given the economy and job prospects. When a position goes vacant, it has to be re-evaluated. To hire a position you need to justify it to the Provost’s office (Kat, in fact the provost said it DID NOT have to come back at a lower rank). The administration has put something in place that will “tax” a position for 4 months. By taxing 1/3 of the salary, flexibility is still available to departments. This will generate 4-5 million dollars for the central budget per year. It normally takes longer than that to fill most positions anyway.

He also noted that the State is looking at taking our IFR funds as they don’t consider it investment money as they view it as money that was generated from research. The University is fighting the state taking these funds because these funds are investment funds. The University believes this is because of the nomenclature.

Good news. The Professional schools of Management, Law, and Engineering have done very well in rankings. The retention and graduation, we’re showing that we’ve improved.

Fred Covelli asked when the financial bleeding is going to stop. The Provost offered some hope with the new SUNY Chancellor and Strategic Planning process. The first phase was a tour of the 64 campuses. This phase is completed. She then has asked for 200 campus leaders to talk about what SUNY should be doing. This group will also stop at 7 places across the state and have a discussion about a chosen topic at each site. Chancellor’s office wants to complete strategic plan by end of March.

Fred Covelli suggested that the campus tuition stays on the campus rather than go to SUNY central. The Provost stated that the hope was with the Strategic Planning process, the State would be more open to proposals like this one.

Janiece asked if the Chancellor would be supportive of UB2020 Bill by wrapping in the other research institutions. If we can push the other 6 institutions, the Provost thinks she will support it.

Matt Deck asked if we were in for another budget cut. The Provost said the chances are that there will be talks shortly.
4. Report from the Vice Chair

Welcoming Committee – reported that it is having a new employee welcoming reception on September 18, 2009 in the Jeannette Martin Room at 10:00 AM. Laura Yates invited all to attend. She said that the University has hired 67 new professional staff positions. She has only heard from 25 people at this time.

Website Committee – They continue to update the website

Diversity Committee – They are in the process of coming up with a plan to see what their mission is.

Mentoring Committee – the committee is continuing to mentor other professionals

Staff Development Committee – Will have something in May. They are working on specific things but have developed a theme “Check it Out!” They are thinking they might do tours of campus and downtown.

Quality of Worklife Committee – This committee is under review

Outstanding Service Awards Committee – No report until January or February

Wellness Committee – We are transitioning this to Human Resources.

Ann Marie talked about the desire to re-evaluate each committee and restructure the committees. Recommendations and discussions are now occurring in the Policy and Governance Committee.

5. New Business/Old Business

Cherie Williams brought up the desire to continue the book drive this year, but also commented about how labor intensive the effort was last year. She is looking for new and different ideas to make this project a little more manageable. Executive committee suggested Cherie bring it to the general membership for further involvement/volunteers for the effort.

6. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.
Area I – Health Sciences
Mathew Deck (P)
Rebecca Goodman (P)
Fred Covelli (P)

Area II - Core Campus Academic Units
Dave Ballard (P)
Letitia Thomas (P)
Eilene Fleischmann (P)

Area III – Student Support Services
Randy Borst (P)
Amy Wilson (P)
Dan Ryan (P)

Area IV – University Support Services
Laura Pruski (E)
Cherie Williams (P)
Anne Marie Swartz (P)

Area V – University Administration
Amanda Brown (P)
James Jarvis (P)
Laura Barnum (P)

Officers:
Janiece Kiedrowski (P)
Ann Marie Landel (P)
Kathleen M. Kielar (P)

SUNY Senators:
David Ballard (P)
William Coles (P)
Henry Durand (A)

A – Absent
E – Excused
P – Present

Guests:
Tirzah Evenge-Thompson