Convener: Janiece Kiedrowski, Chair

Recorder: Kathleen M. Kielar, Secretary

Agenda:
1. Approval of the minutes of Sept. 10, 2009
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the Vice Chair
4. Budget conversation with Sean Sullivan, Associate Vice President for Academic Planning and Budget
5. New Business: discussion of committee reorganization
6. Old business
7. Adjournment

Minutes:

1. Minutes from the September 10th meeting were approved.

2. Report from the Chair

   Greener Shade of Blue – October 20th, 2009, the University at Buffalo (UB) will host the first Greener Shade of Blue and You Day at the Center for the Arts on UB’s North Campus from 10 am -2 pm. This event is designed to raise awareness about environmental stewardship, particularly how individuals can "green" their homes and reduce their personal environmental footprint. Vendors will be on hand for University community members to visit for ideas and solutions to making their communities more sustainable, including ways to finance “green” projects.

   Janiece talked about a discussion that occurred at the Faculty Senate Executive meeting with Barb Ricotta – a discussion on alcoholism on campus. They provide a lot of programming and intervention to help students make other choices other than using alcohol. Their on-going weekend events are even better attended this year, and are filled to capacity. They use the Student Union Friday and Saturday night and are running out of room. More information can be found in the Reporter.

3. Report from the Vice Chair
Ann Marie Landel informed the group that the Policy and Governance committee talked about reorganization of the structure of the PSS Committees. Committee members were provided with a flow chart to assist with the conversation. Policy and Governance is looking at reorganizing the committees to make us more efficient. We are looking at grouping committees that have overlapping responsibilities.

Janiece explained the reason why we are looking at because many of these committees are duplicating work that is now being undertaken by Human Resources. Instead, we are encouraging a different view that will allow us to better focus our efforts, partner with groups on campus, as well as give us the flexibility to take on tasks that are relevant to the Professional Staff Senate. Janiece then went over the charges of the committees and demonstrated the similarity between the charges of many of these committees with the areas of human resource, such as wellness, quality of worklife, staff development and training. Ann Marie answered the question by Cherie Williams if all the groups combined one big group with an offshoot such as the website. If not currently necessary, they will be put on hiatus or dissolved.

After discussion, the flow chart will be modified and further discussion will occur with the Policy and Governance Meeting as well as the Executive Committee before the final proposal goes to the general membership.

4. **Budget Conversation with Sean Sullivan**

Sean Sullivan joined the Executive meeting to talk about the budget situation. The state now has finished passing out the cuts for 09-10 budget. The net cut was 4 million dollars because of the tuition increase. These cuts were passed out in 2 ways; a nominal 1% reduction across the board to all units was passed out; the second – position savings plan where 1/3 of the annual salary value of a position that turns over would be extracted from the unit budget for just the fiscal fund basis (versus a reoccurring basis) and sent back to the center to be used to pay the bills. This would be recaptured on an ongoing basis as people retire, leave employment, etc. The.

Of additional concern is the loss of $6 million in value to our endowment.

Last week the state university business officers were handed a letter saying that the 3 billion dollar NYS budget deficit, we can expect a mid-year cut. SUNY’s portion of that is 100 million dollars. On a pro-rated share to UB...that would be a 15 million dollar cut we would have to undergo. UB has the problem of the growing reserve balances in the form of the IFR reserves. They’ve been growing because we’ve been saving for UB2020, and well as the moratoriums we’ve put
in place. This has gotten the attention of the legislature and they want an explanation of these balances, which are the most in the SUNY system. We have the highest amount because we’ve been disciplined and prudent in our thinking. Should they take this money, we would take a 25 million dollar cut instead of a 15 million dollar cut…in mid year! There will be no tuition increase to offset these cuts.

The Department of the Budget is also saying that there will be no additional state appropriations for pay increases. During mid-year we may have to take another 25 million dollar cut. So, essentially, it’s possible we will have to cut between 0 and 30 million dollars in the next 18 months. This will definitely put UB in a place that we are having very different discussions.

Tuition policy is critical to this. We can’t raise it mid-year. The new SUNY chancellor does not want to raise tuition to bail out Albany. She wants a reasonable and rational tuition policy.

Gift contributions are also down 50% this year.

When asked about a hard hiring freeze, Sean indicate there would not be a hard hiring freeze at UB, because we must continue to do the things we need to do.

VP’s and academic departments have been asked to relook at where their primary focus would be, their core/critical operations, if budget cuts continue.

Sean cautioned that although his report appears bleak, we are at the beginning of budget discussions.

When questioned about the master plan, Sean indicated a few things. The master plan continues to go forward. Capen will be the first building to be considered. If we have time we should attend the master plan presentation on October 27th for further information. Have Bob Shibley attend a meeting to provide us an update.

5. Meeting adjourned
2009 Professional Staff Senate
Executive Committee Attendance

Date of Meeting: October 1, 2009

Area I:
Present  Mathew Deck
Present  Rebecca Goodman
Absent  Fred Covelli

Guests:
Laura Yates
Sean Sullivan

Area II:
Excused  Dave Ballard
Present  Letitia Thomas
Absent  Eilene Fleischmann

Area III:
Absent  Randy Borst
Present  Amy Wilson
Absent  Dan Ryan

Area IV:
Present  Laura Pruski
Present  Cherie Williams
Present  Anne Marie Swartz

Area V:
Present  Amanda Brown
Absent  James Jarvis
Absent  Laura Barnum

Officers:
Present  Janicee Kiedrowski
Present  Ann Marie Landel
Present  Kathleen M. Kieler

SUNY Senators:
Excused  David Ballard
Excused  William Coles
Absent  Henry Durand