General Membership Meeting
Minutes of September 23, 2010

Convener: Janiece Kiedrowski, Chair

Recorder: Kathleen M. Kielar, Secretary

Agenda:
1. Approval of the minutes of April 29, 2010
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the Vice-Chair
4. Guest Speaker: Provost Satish K. Tripathi, Ph.D.
5. Adjournment

Minutes:

1. Meeting called to order by Janiece at 3:06 PM. Janiece introduced the PSS Officers to the group in attendance.

Approval of minutes from 4/29/2010: Meeting minutes approved

2. Janiece shared some highlights about the Executive Committee meeting. She also reported on the Greener Shade of Blue and You was held earlier this week at the Union. There were lectures, free food from Campus Dining and Shops, 30 vendors, as well as other activities. She viewed the event as very successful.

Janiece attended a Faculty Senate meeting chaired by Bob Hoeing. Discussion occurred about how the Presidential Search Committee should be defined. Dr. Hoeing had written a letter on behalf of the faculty senate outlining what qualities the faculty should be looking for in the selection on a new President. As a result the last PSS Executive Committee Senators meeting, a letter from PSS was also sent outlining the professional’s interest in the search.

3. Ann Marie Landel discussed the PSS committees.
Website - refreshed the website. Updated site now includes images of senators, officers, and events.

Diversity Committee - Taste of UB event is scheduled for November 4. It will feature a pot luck lunch, music, dance and socializing. The event runs from 11:30 - 1:30 PM in 145 Student Union.
Mentoring Committee - Nancy Battaglia is the new chair. She is focusing on a buddy system, which helps new employees integrate more into the University. A mentoring system will also be continued. Finally, they will be coordinating UB skills training for individuals.

Welcoming Committee - had reception last Friday. Good turnout and lots of prizes were given out. President Simpson showed up and talked about his retirement, as well as the future of UB.

Marketing and Communications committee is meeting regularly to support all these initiatives.

Staff Development Committee will have some programs this fall. Nothing has been finalized yet. It'll be posted on website. They are close to finalizing a date and time for an Identity theft and credit counseling session. Stay tuned for more information.

Ann Marie mentioned that if you are interested in participating on a committee, let her know.

Janiece talked about Area Meetings. At the Executive PSS meeting, each area got together to decide when and how they want to meet and socialize. There will be more information to follow from each of the areas.

Janiece also talked about the line up for the fall. Our next speaker is Sean Sullivan to talk about the budget. The meeting after that is the President and Scott Nostaja. Meeting starts at 2:00 PM. Dennis Black will then be our final fall speaker.

Janiece introduced the Provost. Provost Tripathi gave a brief overview of the student body in 2010. We currently have 3,150 undergraduate students. 86% are New York State students, 8% are international students, and 6% are of out of state. 24 are residential scholars (SAT of 1583). We have 1700 transfer students. Our student population is a little less than last year. We are remaining the same in population relatively.

We have hired 58 new faculty members who start this semester. This is a good size compared to last year. On average we used to get 80-85 new faculty members. Total faculty size we have increased in 05-07. We had a slight dip --we are 10less than at peek.

Faculty projects - Lots of projects related to UB2020 continue to go on. There is lots of construction and building going on. We need to have good facilities to attract faculty and students and this continues to be a priority.

We didn't have anything unusual as far as the retention of faculty this year. Nationally the public research provosts are very concerned about faculty retention. Still will be a critical factor in the next couple of years.

Nationwide, the university is looking at where to invest and where not to. We are going through some type of budget issues and are working to achieve efficiency on campus. Many AAU institutions have tools that we don't have due to New York State restrictions. People are getting more selective and what is critical (maintain what they do well and cut what they don't do well)
UB will continue to do transformations to make us more efficient.

UB2020 - some of the questions revolved around whether UB2020 is dead. Certainly not, it is alive and well. The Chancellor said she is going to push this as well. UB2020 is all about academic excellence. With respect to the legislation the Chancellor still wants to support and push it.

IT Transformation - With the departure of Elias we were set back a bit. We are about to announce a Super node operation. We are moving along on this, but it is slow.

Budget - In the past 2 years, 59.5 million dollars have been lost. Perspective - 30% of the state general support has been lost. In spite of that and help of rest of campus, we continue to maintain momentum and stay upbeat as we offer a quality environment/education here. It has been tough and we have exhausted anything centrally held in investment.

We are looking at which programs should we be investing in and which programs should we not be investing in. If you want to look at the cuts, we have 1/3 of the cuts come from the central funding and some from the units. We have increased fees to keep standing.

The budget woes are not done. We are expecting more cuts, but we haven't heard anything official. We don't think they are completely gone and don't expect them to be gone for quite some time.

The new normal is to protect the existing knowledge, rather than getting more.

The President has decided to retire by January 15th. The Provost will not answer hypothetical questions that were sent in asking for a response.

Provost took questions from the floor:
How is the search for the VP of Research going? What are the searches going on: Dean of Architecture - candidates are coming to be interviewed. Dean McComb is stepping down. We are in process with that search. The CIO/Director of Libraries search is underway. Arts and Sciences College - explored external search, internal search, and interim. CIO's position is still being considered. John Simpson's retirement makes how these occur a bit different.

Retirements of Clerical and Professionals - 200 employees retired using UB's incentive and 100 are taking early state retirement incentive. Of these 50 are faculty and the rest are staff and professional employees. Each of the units needs to evaluate what they need to get the work done. We were predicting 220 people were going to retire so this is more than expected.

Any sense of the gubernatorial candidates support UB2020- we think both have some level of understanding and support for UB2020

What types of investments and what areas will be made in at the University as a result of the budget cuts? The Provost said he wasn't in the position he would decide them by himself.
There was a question if faculty members were going to be asked to increase their workload by teaching 3 classes. The Provost said that there is a departmental evaluation going on that is looking at Research, teaching and community services. We have to look at the entire workload and make sure everyone is contributing.

Reflect on the lack of Presidential Search Committee and why a PSS wasn't represented. The Provost couldn’t comment on this. What are the avenues to go through? He encouraged us to use the existing process. Which is, if we have concerns, we can write a letter.

The "new normal" - What is some of the out of the box brainstorming that is taking place to change "protecting what we have" to acquire new knowledge. In the past the majority of the funds used to come from state funds and not tuition. Now it comes from tuition dollars. The new normal is that the majority of schools are being supported by the students. It changes the fact that we need to provide better services to the students. It shows that it is much more market driven and that ranking count more. You have to create something different now. In NYS tuition dollars go back to the state. We have to think of multiple resources of money. Development efforts become critical in providing a cushion. Other revenue generating ideas include summer programs.

Value of the EOC to the University and the WNY region. EOC workforce development and high school diploma - can be the outreach to WNY for workforce development. They combined Millard Fillmore College and the EOC together. Professional development needs to be linked better to industry and business. Have been active in developing programs for the biosciences. Has room to interface with UB.

How do you structure your day as the Provost? What are your priorities? Making sure that you're able to manage the budget and do the least damage to the campus. The second part is "What is it we need to do in the environment to get excellence at the University?" The days are very structured. The only way to survive is to have some time to think. You need to have some of those meeting to get ideas and share ideas. So there is a balance between meeting and thinking time. The goals need to be clear to survive. The meetings should lead in the directions of the goals.

What is the status of WNED and WBFO - Discussions are going on. He can't say too much right now because of these discussions.

Are your colleagues looking overseas for new and innovative ideas? Yes. Other universities look at UB for answers particularly in international students.

We can't be insular and think that we can continue to do what we've always done. We have to be able to compete.

A discussion occurred on whether to recruit more international students (given the increase of international students worldwide intending to go to universities) or not. We know that the US population will remain flat, and that NYS high school students are decreasing.
Market based solutions - how to do you balance that with keeping education affordable for students?

Law school tuition - tuition rationalization - the higher cost for receiving an education by school would show accordingly by the bill that a student pays (e.g. dental school costs more than liberal arts).

Research funding - How do we compete increase our research funding given the budget cuts? We can do a lot better. We do well in single investigator grants. We do well with 2-3 faculty members applying for a grant. We really don't get in terms of 30-50 million dollar grants. We need to do that in order for us to attract and retain faculty and gain more national prominence. The large projects brings visibility and respect from our peers. We can do this by building research teams rather than silos. What needs to be done now is that infrastructures need to be put in place to get these big grants.

Janiece introduced Mara Huber and Jen Silverman to talk about the UB Scholarship Gala. There is a UB Scholarship gala coming up on November 6th - Opening Doors. Proceeds raised go towards scholarships and partnership with the Buffalo Schools. We have 6 students that are fully funded by the scholarships, they get a computer and books stipend. They participate in the academies, but also go back to the Buffalo Schools systems to do some recruiting and talk about the program. If you make a donation you can designate where you want your monies to go. They have raised $650,000 in scholarship. Over half of the debt is $29,000 for the average university student. You can participate by purchasing a ticket or you can volunteer. If you wish to volunteer, the dress is UB Creative Blue tie. Help with registration or the event, talk about the schools. You can go online to bid on the items. There is a silent auction on many items. The event is November 6, 6 - 11:00 PM at the Triple Gym Alumni Arena on the North Campus. Tickets are $200 per person. Volunteers can contact Elizabeth Siderakis at ems36@buffalo.edu or 716-881-1416 or Jen Silverman at js433@buffalo.edu.

We are working with the search committee for the president to make sure that the Professional interests are being addressed.

Meeting adjourned 4:28 PM
Professional Staff Senate Meeting
Attendance

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010

General Meeting

Attendance

Area I
Absent     Kristina Costanza
Excused    Fred Covelli
Absent     Matt Deck
Excused    Allison Garvey
Attended   Tracey Gawron
Attended   Rebecca Goodman
Absent     Candy Morris
Attended   Barbara Mulvenna
Attended   Christine Stumm
Attended   Cassandra Walker-Whiteside

Area II
Attended   Thomas Albrechcinski
Absent     Donna Banach
Attended   Oliva Emrich
Attended   Ilene Fleischmann
Attended   Phyllis Floro
Absent     Paul Hutchings
Absent     William Mcdonnell
Absent     Katie Menke
Attended   Cathleen Morreale
Attended   Lawrence Osswald
Absent     Susan Ott
Attended   David Parisi
Attended   Sarah Piraino
Attended   Margle Poniatowski
Attended   Letitia Thomas

Area III
Attended   Emily Chabala
Absent     H. Williams Coles, III
Attended   Ellen Dussourd
Attended   Brian Haggerty
Attended   Jeff Kujawa
Absent     Jennifer Morrison
Absent     Mary Pitts
Absent     Amy Wilson
Absent     Laura Wirth
# Professional Staff Senate Meeting

## Attendance

### Area IV

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### Officers

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### SUNY Senators

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