General Membership Meeting  
Minutes of March 24, 2011

Convener: Janiece Jankowski, Chair

Recorder: Kathleen M. Kielar, Secretary

Agenda:
1. Approval of the minutes of February 24, 201 – Minutes approved
2. Report of the Chair
3. Report of the Vice Chair – Ann Marie Landel
4. Discussion with Ryan McPherson, Associate Vice President for Government & Community Relations, who will provide us with a governmental affairs and Albany update. (PowerPoint slides are attached at the end of these minutes).
5. Peter Bush, Director of our South Campus Instrument Center for Restorative Dentistry, will join us for a discussion about what occurs in this corner of the world.
6. Old/New Business
7. Adjournment

Minutes:
1. Approval of the minutes of February 24, 201 – Minutes approved
2. Report of the Chair
   a. Janiece told the group that the SUNY faculty senate has brought forward a request for each to support a resolution for a rational tuition plan. Janiece brought this resolution to the Policy and Governance committee. The Policy and Governance committee voted to support the resolution because it was so easy to digest. This resolution will then be brought to the Executive Senate meeting on April 7th for a vote.
   b. We are preparing an Executive Summary for the Officer in Charge, Satish Trapathi. We would like to get on his agenda to let him know where PSS has been and where it is going. We are trying to make sure we are working with the administration to be as proactive as we can with agendas in common. We do not move on this until he officially becomes the next President.
3. **Report of the Vice Chair – Ann Marie Landel**
   
a. The Staff Development Committee is hosting a series of brown bag seminars. Yesterday there was brown bag luncheon on Resume Writing Basics hosted by Ed Brodka, Career Services. The second brown bag seminar is on interviewing and will be held on April 12 and April 13th. Please check out the PSS website for times and places for these events. RSVP required.

b. April 6th, there is a Diversity brown bag luncheon with Dr. Raechele Pope of the Educational Leadership and Policy department. Dr. Pope's research interests and publications fall under the general rubric of multicultural education. Her research examines the components of a multicultural environment and the necessary, concrete strategies, competencies, and practices to create and maintain such campus environments. Specifically she has focused on multicultural organization development in higher education, multicultural competence for student affairs administrators, and psychosocial development of college students of color.

c. We just closed our deadline for the Outstanding Service Award Program. That committee will be working on selecting the recipient of these awards over the next couple of weeks.

d. The mentoring committee reported that over the last couple of months they have done some focus groups and some surveys. Next we are calling for best practices within your department for new employees. We would like to see these materials. Please send them to Nancy Battaglia, nb24@buffalo.edu.

4. **Discussion with Ryan McPherson**, Associate Vice President for Government & Community Relations, who will provide us with a governmental affairs and Albany update. (PowerPoint slides are attached at the end of these minutes).

Ryan is very optimistic that the UB2020 legislation will pass this year. He talked about the challenges. Our budget has been cut 27%. In other words, we have been cut $80 million dollars. That means that at one time we were 1/3 state funded. Now we are 1/4 state funded. We do not see this situation improving.

We need to look for other creative sources of revenue. We have tried to put no cost, high impact solutions on the table. The Bill that has cleared the Senate can be broken down into three areas – tuition; efficiency; and partnerships. For tuition this is pretty straightforward. Whether it is the Chancellor’s 5 year rational tuition plan or what is contained in the Senate Bill, both are acceptable and non-competing. Both components have a tuition plan that is responsible, predictable, and fair. What we mean by responsible is that those that need assistance have no tuition increase. About 20% of the revenue that gets collected from the new tuition will be plowed-back into need based aid. Roughly about 1/3 of our student body makes $60,000 or less. Those students will not be affected by a tuition increase. They will get the tuition increase, but they will get aid that will cover the increase. This model is used by the majority of AAU’s. High tuition, high aid model has been working well across these universities.
Tuition would be predictable because it has caps. There will be no more than a $375 increase per semester as a max. We do not have to increase tuition that much or at all.

Fair – tuition will stay on campus. In our legislation there is no sweeps that can occur. Revenue that is generated in athletics, dorms, etc. now goes through the NYS legislature. We want it to stay on campus. Tuition will also stay on campus rather than go to some funding that doesn’t apply to the University system. The money is used to produce a better academic environment.

Efficiency side – the bill tries to move us out of a 1960 regulatory structure. We would like to be able to work under a set of rules and regulations that mirrors a knowledge-based economy and innovation. We would like to be regulated similar to our peers in other states. We are currently regulated under a pre-audit system, rather than a post-audit system. What that means is that every $10,000 we wish to spend, we need to have the State Comptroller sign off on it. When you put this in dollar terms we could have saved significant money and time by just moving to a post audit system.

Economies of scale – At present state entities can’t or don’t pool their resources together to buy items at a much lower price. We can’t utilize our purchasing power.

Access to Capital – NYS does not have the capital to invest in a comprehensive physical plan that we would like them to. We would like to utilize private funding to assist us in building. Right now we can’t do it.

In terms of the partnerships, the first and most important one is developing the comprehensive physical plan. We need the ability to work with our private sector colleagues to help us build different pieces. Not the construction, but the financing etc. For example, if we wanted to build something which we have no funding. The new provision would allow us to work with a developer, who would front the capital, and then lease back to us or provide certain long term payments. The best example of what we want to do is the Kaleida partnership downtown.

The third time is the charm. We feel we have better chances now. We received 98% of the vote in the Senate. This is unheard of. We have become a political issue, thus affecting whether or not people stay in office (electoral issue). We showed in the last election, that if you don’t support this, you won’t get voted back in office. The Governor has shown his support for this bill.

It has been very much appreciated the support we received by different groups internally to UB, but also externally. The Building Trades have been of considerable importance in getting this bill passed.

Please continue to engage others in this discussion and continue to put pressure on the political structure in Albany. Also, you should thank your senators. They have all done phenomenal work on our behalf. Please thank them.
Ryan than took a number of questions from the group. They included:

a. Was the $80 million dollar cut in the general budget or were they specific lines? This came from the direct state appropriation of tax payer support to the University of Buffalo. This figure includes the $18 million of what we project will be cut. So it is three years worth of direct state cuts.

b. What is your strategy to get Sheldon Silver to change his mind? A lot of people will say that what Speaker Silver wants, is what he gets. The truth is that the Speaker has been the Speaker as long as he has, is because he listens to all of his members within the Assembly. These are the 98 democratic Assembly members. We have to get 50 Assembly members to back us. Right now we have 15 who make a lot of noise, but we need more to listen to our cause. In addition, one of the key things is the Black and Puerto Rican caucus. They are very influential and we want to address their concerns. Our strategy has been to soften the Assembly. It comes down to deal making in such a diverse state of interests.

c. There are two vehicles to getting UB2020 passed. The first is to link it to the budget, the other is to have it linked through another bill. It is clear that it is not going to be linked to the budget. There are too many issues to include it with the budget.

d. How are you dealing with the politics within SUNY? When Chancellor Zimpher came into office two days prior to the UB2020 being voted in the Senate. After the session, we sat down with SUNY and asked how we can move forward. We got the green light to work with a number of SUNY institutions. We met with these institutions and expanded it in scope. We made the recommendation to the Chancellor and had her ask the Board of Trustees to endorse this legislation as the top priority. She did this. We have been very communicative with SUNY keeping them abreast of every step we’ve taken. I think they see our legislation as a means of having a conversation about higher education. The problem is there is little support from outside of Western NY for this type of legislation. We’ve been very clear that it is not our job to determine who is in or out. It’s really up to these institutions to work with their legislative representatives.

e. How does Wisconsin’s legislation affect us? It’s not that the Universities don’t want it, they very much want it. You have to do a lot to communicate to your constituents out there that have political clout. They carry a great deal of political weight. They need to understand what having a academically excellent university creates. We have helped paint that picture. I don’t think that piece has been done at other universities as much, thus the support of the legislatures is not there.

I’m going to answer this a bit differently than you think I would. The piece that wasn’t talked about in Wisconsin, was that the governor of Wisconsin put forward legislation very similar to ours, but very different in a key way. The governor wanted to make the University Wisconsin at Madison the key flagship university and create a public benefit corporation for Madison to go into. So take it outside of the state agency process and have it be a free standing institution. This is how most of the AAU institutions operate. Our legislation does almost as much as you can do while keeping it in the State agency.
It actually took it out of the system. We have tried to maintain as part of the system, but there is differentiation within the system. I don’t see anything like that coming to NY. The politics just don’t add up to something like that occurring here.

As far as what occurred in Wisconsin and whether it would occur here. The politics are different, and it doesn’t appear that the new governor would be in favor of the Wisconsin tactics.

5. Peter Bush, Director of our South Campus Instrument Center for Restorative Dentistry, will join us for a discussion about what occurs in this corner of the world.

Peter Bush showed us a presentation on the work that he conducts here at the University. He uses optical microscopes to analyze surfaces. Not only do we provide graduate students use of our equipment, but we also provide services to anyone within the University. As part of our service mission, we do work for the general public and industry. We have over 80 businesses that use our services. The industry partners pay between $150 - $300 an hour to use our equipment. Over the years of operation we have pulled in over $1.5 million.

He showed us a number of photos of the work that he does and explained the importance of the work. This ranged from viewing whether materials stuck to teeth or not, to the analysis of ear wax. Other slides showed things that the public brought him. He showed a medallion that he analyzed to determine if it was fake or not. It turned out to be fake.

Another service he provided to the public, was grandmother brought in some toys to be analyzed for what is in it. She had a granddaughter who was developmentally challenged. It turned out that the toys had a significant amount of lead in them. This kind of service, has been discontinued because it had the potential of bringing liability to the University.

They have helped construction/building restorative companies come up with current materials that simulate a material that was made over 100 years ago.

Finally, Peter Bush talked about the real power of his lab as it related to Flight 3407 plane crash. UB has the only dental school that has a lab dedicated to forensic dental research. His lab was instrumental in the identification of people of Flight 3407.

6. Old/New Business

7. Adjournment
Professional Staff Senate
March 24, 2011

Roadmap

• The Challenge
• The Way Forward
• The Legislation
• 3rd Time is the Charm
• Support
• Legislative Strategy
• How You Can Help
Challenge

THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Direct State Funding Has Dropped
by....

27%

Because....

$80M

Cut
We were....

One Third

state funded

Now, we are...

One Quarter

state funded
The Way Forward

The Public Policy Legislation

- Responsible, Predictable & Fair
- No net effect for 1/3 of UB Students
- Cope
- Tuition Stays on Campus
- Building Academic Quality & Better Student Experience
- AAU Peers vs. SD, AK, ID

Partnerships
Third Time is the Charm

Context

- Commission on Higher Education
- Direct Appropriation
- 2009 Stand Alone
- Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act
- UB 2020 Flexibility and Economic Growth Act
Better Chances

- Decisive Senate Victory (98% of vote)
- Electoral Issue
- Gubernatorial Support
- Pilot vs. Entire System
- Upstate vs. Downstate Issues
Legislative Strategy

How You Can Help
What We Need From You

- Talk to Colleagues, Friends, Parents, Faculty, Students and Advocate
- LTE
- Engage Interest Groups
- Thank the local delegation and encourage them that “they can not come home without this.”
# Professional Staff Senate Meeting

## Attendance

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011

### General Membership Meeting

#### Area I
- **Absent**
  - Kristine Costenzo
- **Attended**
  - Fred Covelli
  - Matt Deck
  - Tracey Gawron
  - Rebecca Goodman
  - Candy Morris
- **Absent**
  - Christine Stumm
  - Cassandra Walker-Whiteside

#### Area II
- **Attended**
  - Thomas Albrechinski
  - Donna Banach
  - Oliva Enrich
  - Ilene Fleischmann
  - Paul Hutchings
  - William McDonnell
  - Katie Menke
  - Cathleen Mooreale
  - Lawrence Osswald
  - Susan Ott
  - David Parisi
  - Sarah Piraino
  - Margie Poniatowski
  - Letitia Thomas

#### Area III
- **Absent**
  - Emily Chabala
  - H. Williams Colca, III
  - Brian Haggerty
  - Jeff Kujawa
  - Jennifer Morrison
  - Mary Pitts
  - Amy Wilson
  - Laura Wirth


### Professional Staff Senate Meeting

#### Attendance

**Area IV**

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**Area V**

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**Officers**

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**SUNY Senators**

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