1. Welcome

Ann Marie Landel welcomed everyone saying we are very excited to have you all join us at Todays 40th Year Anniversary Celebration of the Professional Staff Senate! We’d like to start off by giving you some time network with one another and enjoy appetizers and refreshments, look at the various committee posters surrounding the room, these show the various committees; what they do and what the goals for the future are, and we have a presentation up front showing photos of past events held by PSS, including the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

We have The Jon Lehning Trio here today who will be entertaining us as we enjoy and meet others.

Anniversary celebrations are always something to look forward to. They celebrate the continuation of a commitment. The 40th anniversary of PSS is a great milestone and the symbol achievement for 40th is the precious gem, Ruby. Rubies are thought to possess an eternal flame which is a symbol that we are very alive and strong after 40 years together.

The Professional Staff Senate has been together for 40 years at our great University. We come together today to celebrate our longevity and look forward to the future with years of continued commitment!

Recognitions were offered:
1. Ann Marie thanked President Satish Tripathi, a huge supporter of PSS and the 2500 professionals who make up the organization. She appreciates all he has done to continue to support our organization. President Tripathi planned on being here, however due to unplanned meeting he is unable to be here today.
2. Thank you to a new member of the UB family - our new provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Charles “Chip” Zukoski for his support for our celebration. Chip will be speaking later in the program.
3. A thank you to the sponsors who helped make this celebration possible. Two of our sponsors represent the Financial Advisors of the University. They help us with managing our investments and help us plan for a secure future. They are Met Life and ING financial, Three Pillars catering for putting together such a nice venue for our event, the department of Biological Sciences from the College of Arts and Sciences, The Center for Urban Studies and the School of Architecture and Planning for their kind offering of support.
4. Thanks also go to the Anniversary planning committee which was formed to organize and plan this event. These folks brought inspiration to the table; they felt that this was the perfect time to start off the academic year with a celebration. Please help me in thanking: Matt Deck, Laura Barnum, Donna Czaja, Joe Helfer, Jeff Kujuwa, Christina Liang, and Jay Friedman.

**History of PSS and How it affects the life of a professional:**

PSS began as an organization in 1972, the background actually began in 1969. The state university professionals Association (SUPA) was organized to represent non-teaching professionals throughout the SUNY system. During its first 2 years, the organization was active in developing grievance procedures and examining employment conditions and interacting with the SUNY contract negotiating team. On June 1, 1972, however the members of SUNY Buffalo Chapter of SUPA voted to establish the Professional Staff Senate (PSS) which would in effect take over all functions of SUPA on a local level. The “new” PSS ratified a Constitution that summer, stating its purpose and function; “PSS shall seek an active role for the professional staff in the governance of the university; shall provide advice and counsel in administrative matters and shall assist in the development of administrative policies and procedures:... as stated in the Constitution. Forty years later, PSS still maintains and follows the Constitution.

Today we are 2500 professional employees working in all entities throughout three vibrant campuses. We are actively involved in the University, SUNY and the state of New York governance through our support for UB2020 and other initiatives.

PSS works closely with the UB administration towards common goals, we serve on key university committees and support the academic mission. We partner with Human Resources and seek additional strategic partnerships with others such as the Faculty Senate, Alumni, Organizational Development and Training, TCIE, Career Planning and more.

We are strong advocates for the interests of professional staff. We continue to promote employee engagement through professional development, leadership development, cultural learning initiatives and as well as policy implementation and reform. We provide forums for networking opportunities through monthly general membership meeting, Area meetings, Committee meetings and hosted events. We are involved and active with important committees.

**Some milestones along the past 40 years include:**

- PSS sat at the table with the IT Transformation process
- Participated in round table discussions regarding making UB a Great Places to Work
- Brought awareness to staff about Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Offered a Wellness Fair which provided health and wellness resources to all professionals, students and faculty
• Recognized concerns of the community by having UB Regional Institute inform us about our neighborhood needs. With that, PSS felt they could provide Support to the community by holding a professional clothing drive and Book Drives, so that adults can have a professional outfit to wear and children have a book in their home to read.

• We also do fun things, such as bring staff together at Summer potluck BBQ luncheons and Annual Plant Exchanges
• Show support to our sports teams by teaming up with UB Athletics and offering discount ticket sales and gathering together at a tailgate party.
• Offer bus tours of the downtown Buffalo Niagara medical campus where it encourages and educate staff to get out of their office and learn about the new buildings.
• PSS has joined the Faculty Senate, the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate and the UB Council in supporting the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA).
• PSS connects with 2500 staff thru a listserv called PSS Connect and thru our newly designed web site.
• PSS surveyed staff about their satisfaction regarding events, and concerns on campus.
• PSS offers a mentoring program to staff as well as several Diversity events which concentrate on exploring diversity and self-awareness on campus.

• We work hard to provide Professional growth and development opportunities, such as brown bag lunches, and every two years a full day staff development and learning conference.
• PSS trys to focus on how we can improve the way we conduct business by partnering with other departments, specifically the Office of Organizational Development and Training.
• PSS is working on creating a Continuous Improvement committee which will promote improving processes within departments to become more effective and efficient.

PSS is a bit of a rarity in the SUNY system. Along with Binghamton, UB is one of only two institutions within SUNY that has a governing body of professional staff members that is separate from its Faculty Senate. It’s an organization committed to better acquainting university professionals to the university at large. We take pride in our great organization and the things we offer.

**Vice Chair Updates - Our Vice chair, Laura Barnum** will share the committee updates with you:

**September 18th** - Sustainability Expo - Greener Shade of Blue and You – this is the 4th annual sustainability event offered by PSS and UB Green office. It’s a free event where vendors will offer ways for you to “green” your home and your work environment. The event is designed to raise awareness of environmental stewardship. Faculty, Staff and Students are all encouraged to come to this event!

**October 9th** - The Diversity Committee is offering a Lunch and Learn Brown Bag Workshop with Athena Mutua – from noon – 1pm - 107 Capen Hall( Honors college conference room). Athena will update us on the status of the Commission on Academic Excellence and Equity Report as well as what is going on with the Implementation team.
October 11th - Welcome Reception – where employees hired within the past year get together to learn about the organization, the committee work and how they can adjust to working at UB. It presents opportunities to connect with a Buddy and help them with acclimating them to the campus.

October 18th - General Membership meeting – UB Athletics will be attending and will update us on the latest information in their area.

October 20th – UB Bulls Football Homecoming & PSS Tailgate party – PSS will have their 2nd annual Tailgate event – we will have a tent located near the stadium and are asking people to bring a dish to pass. UB Athletics is offering a ticket discount for $14 a ticket where special seating arrangements have been made for the group to sit together. Please check the pss website for details and to rsvp.

November 15th - Annual Diversity Festive Pot Luck Luncheon – Topic “We are all connected”. Bring a dish to pass for this luncheon and learn about how “connected” we all are.

November 29th - General Membership Meeting – President Tripathi will be our special guest

January 31st, 2013 – General Membership Meeting – Ryan McPherson will be our special guest

June 6th, 2013 – PSS Awards Ceremony Luncheon where we honor the Chancellors awardees, Professional Staff Excellence award and PSS Professional Staff Excellence Award.

June – Plant Exchange and Annual BBQ Pot Luck picnic

Recognizing special guests from SUNY attending todays celebration.

- We have the President of the University Faculty Senate – Ken O’Brien
- We have University Faculty Senate - Senators – Adly Fam, Peter Nickerson, Jennifer Gottdiener & Ezra Zubrow
- We Also have past PSS officers – if you could please stand and be recognized – Larry Labinski - chair Kathleen Kielar, Michele Poitras, James Louis Ramsey, Catherine Dohn, Janiece Jankowski, Stacy Johnson, Bil Wachob, Walter Kunz, William, aka Bill, Coles, Pamela Rose & Anna Kedzierski
- We have our Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate – William Baumer
- We have the chair of the Faculty Senate - Ezra Zubrow
- We also have our Union governance Leaders – Tom Tucker, Angie Zitto and Ray Dannenhoffer and Ezra Zubrow

We invited a few officers to come up and provide some reflections on what PSS has done for them over the past years.

Walter Kunz, Chair 1975–76

Walter thanked the professionals for the invitation. Remembered Allen Kunz and other past PSS Chairs. Rumors were there was an American Express card the Allen said he had to put all expenses on. Walter joked that he never had that particular perk.

Walter joined staff in Dec 1961, the following Sept UB became part of the state system. He came to UB working as a staff, it was like joining a large family. UB was a small university and growing and dynamic. The local paper had articles in it every day. Our football team was
division 1. Buddy Ryan was NFL coach and we had the #1 defense at the time. Walter enjoyed being staff at UB. In 1975 he was elected and UB was in turmoil. Lots of protests were going on at the time. PSS was a place where you could make changes and do so in an orderly manner. PSS was instrumental in establishing the affirmative action office. As a staff member you were put on committees and given opportunities. He served on the faculty senate executive committee at that time. The exec committee of the faculty senate spent a lot of time and had a voice with the direction of academic matters of the university.

Governance is an important thing in the university. Trustees felt that the faculty and staff should play a role with the governance along with students. It’s a great thing to have a role in the governance. It helped him get a rise in his professional development.

He expressed great happiness meeting PSS staff. He sees PSS in a more sophisticated group today.

Pam talked about her reflections of PSS. Pam was a secretary when President Greiner was in office. Pam talks to many new staff and expresses her support for them to join the senate. It makes a huge impact on people. The officers met regularly with the president. One month there was a crisis in her department during the meeting time. She could not make the meeting. Then the next time she went to the President’s meeting he asked her what was so important that she couldn’t make his meeting. She apologized that

When you do get involved with the senate, thru committees, it proves to be very valuable to connect to professionals and talk about jobs. It provides a platform to improve skills but also relationships with people and work as a team.

**Bill Coles, Chair 1998–2003**
Bill is recently retired and has come back to join us at today’s celebration. He was around campus and a grad student for Allen Kunz in 1972. At that time he was a NTP, non-teaching professional. PSS is a unique organization. Binghamton has a similar organization to UB. UB is a great university which allows us to establish this governance. Being a member of a university organization is a privilege. We can participate with the decision making and policy making. It’s great because it gives professional staff to discuss ideas and share information and get out of our offices and interacting with other professionals. We are very decentralized and we need to get out of our offices. PSS is a wonderful opportunity for people to interact. He encourages people to take advantages of it. IT’s been a great opportunity for him. He’s loved working for the university.

**Janiece Jankowski, Chair 2007–11**
Janiece said that it’s been a pleasure to be a part of PSS. She said that Bill Coles encouraged her to get involved as a committee chair, then vice chair than chair. Bill said continually that she could do it and she did! She got to set an agenda for the direction of the senate and provides an opportunity for growth. As time changes, we operate differently. When she was chair, we worked on committee work. Today we are standardizing the way we communicate and try to become more efficient.
It was a pleasure to work with the administrators; the biggest concern was the budget. Regarding committees, she helped establish the UB sustainability committee. The idea of the committee came out of an idea by Leslie McCain. Now we are in the 4th year of offering the Sustainability Fair. The Mentoring committee is growing and working on rolling out a new program. We’re looking for mentors and protégés for this year’s program! We have a Facebook presence. We supported PHIAA as well as the NYSUNY 2020, worked on the recycled paper initiative. She is passionate for the senate. It is our and YOUR senate. She encourages people to follow their passion and creativity and sign up for a committee. She is proud of the senate!

Remarks from Ken O’Brien  SUNY President of the Faculty Senate.
Ann Marie introduced Ken, he plays an important role with a university and with SUNY. Ken knows a lot about SUNY and can speak about the senate from the SUNY perspective.
Ken offers his personal sincerest congratulations for UB being a part of the PSS with two unique governance bodies. UB is a very unique campus within SUNY having this structure.
Ken comes from SUNY Brockport and he is a historian. Being that UB has been around for 40 years says that we have passed the success test with institutional longevity.
His experience at Brockport is different. Brockport recognized the importance of the faculty senate a decade ago when they changed the name from faculty senate to the College Senate. Not a minor piece. The name change recognized an institutional with historical truth. Half membership was faculty and half was professional staff. Leadership and committee membership was all inclusive. There was no set quota on who could serve. This time in history included specific times of trouble. 1981-82 when 25 professional staff and 51 faculty, 38 had continual appointment were retrenched due to huge university short falls. It forced the campus to look at how they conducted all their campus programs. The faculty and staff worked together to solve the colleges most pressing problems. They developed an understanding of how students saw how they worked together. The senate was a primary arena for the discussions where ultimately the senate crafted a strategy for the future of the university. He says it’s important to acknowledge the importance of governance, need to work across all lines that so often divide us. Our current chancellor, Nancy Zimpher, is working on shared governance, at the system level.

On behalf of all colleagues across the whole SUNY system He congratulates the University at Buffalo Professional Staff Senate.

Short break with Music.

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Presentation of Honorary chair to President Tripathi- At this time we’d like to invite our Provost – Dr Charles “Chip” Zukoski
The Professional Staff Senate would like to honor and recognize UB’s 15th President, Satish K. Tripathi, as the Honorary Chair of this 40th anniversary celebration. President Tripathi has long been a champion of the university’s professional staff and their vital role in advancing the university’s vision of academic excellence. As we celebrate this milestone in our history, the
Professional Staff Senate is delighted to present him with a plaque in grateful acknowledgment of his leadership and support.

Although President Tripathi was called away today on university business and is not able to attend, we’re delighted to have our new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Charles “Chip” Zukoski, with us today to accept this plaque on the President’s behalf. Provost Zukoski, thank you for coming today.

Provost Zukoski - Thank you! He chatted with president Tripathi and he recognized that PSS has a continuous dedication to supporting academic excellence. This is one of the things that attracted Chip to Buffalo. The sustaining and continuing growth of UB. Share a common impact of UB to the area. This has to grow on a foundation which is associated to 40 years where our organization is in place. There is a commitment to individuals to UB. He recognizes that he is coming to UB at a unique time. The past 5-10 years the university faced tremendous cuts to the budget affecting lives of many people. Under SUNY2020, UB is going thru a unique time. He would like to thank us for the 40 years where PSS provided a foundation to survive the ability to support UB.

On behalf of President Tripathi he would like to thank us for the plaque. He believes this is a great organization.

Toast

Ann Marie stood up to propose a Toast to the Professional Staff Senate for achieving 40 years at the University of Buffalo.

If everyone could please join me by raising their glass.

As we all gather today, we recognize that each one of us is an important piece of this great organization. Today is truly a great time to be a member of the University and the Professional Staff Senate. Every success we have, we have because of the commitment and dedication of everyone sitting here today and all the members of the Professional Staff Senate who could not join us. As we celebrate 40 years may we look back at our accomplishments and look forward to a bright future filled with growth, enthusiasm, and shared success. While we each have our own reasons for joining PSS, at the heart of it we come together for camaraderie, warmth and shared experiences as we work together for the betterment of our university. May we continue in the footsteps of our predecessors, do good things together while we’re here, and leave good works for those who come after us.

Cheers to the Professional Staff Senate!

More Music
Thank you all for coming! I look forward to seeing you at the October General Membership meetings as well as other events we have planned. Please check out our website for more information about what things we have planned. www.pss.buffalo.edu

Thank you,
Meeting Adjourned!