

**DRAFT of the meeting minutes of June 3, 2024**

**University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

June 3, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

**Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Julie Bargnesi

Jonathan Dandes

Scott Friedman

Brenda McDuffie

Patrick Roche

Alika Turton (Zoom)

**Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Kathleen Heckman, Interim Vice President for University Advancement

A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Attendees:**

Tomas Aguirre, Dean of Students

Marcelo Araujo, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Allison Brashear, Vice President of Health Sciences and Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Todd Brown, Dean of the School of Law

Chris Connor, Interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

Jerod Dahlgren, University Communications

Beth Del Genio, Vice President for Government and Community Relations and Chief of Staff to the President

Ann Bisantz, Dean of Undergraduate Education

Venu Govindaraju, Vice President for Research and Economic Development

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School

Laura Hubbard, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Jocelyn Jakubus, Director of Presidential and University Events

James Jarvis, Chief Campus Counsel

Allison Korta, Assistant Director of Presidential Events

Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean of the Graduate School of Education

Nojin Kawk, Vice Provost for International Education

Dan LaDelfa, Assistant Director for Presidential Communications

Suzanne Laychock, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Kemper Lewis, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Eileen Sherman, Chief of Staff to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Seval Yildirim, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence

Annette Wysocki, Dean of the School of Nursing

## **Opening business**

### ***Call to order***

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

### ***Approval of minutes***

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Ms. McDuffie and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Ms. Turton, Mr. Dandes, Ms. McDuffie, Ms. Bargnesi, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

## **Topics for discussion or action**

### ***Report of the Chairman***

Chairman Jacobs began his report by asking Kathleen Heckman, the interim vice president for advancement, to present details to the Council about a naming resolution under consideration.

The resolution is for the Canty Family Conference Room in the Clinical and Translational Research Center. SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine John Canty and his wife Ann Marie Canty are active supporters and donors to the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. A UB graduate, Dr. Canty is an accomplished translational cardiology researcher and educator. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Ms. McDuffie, seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Ms. Turton, Mr. Dandes, Ms. McDuffie, Ms. Bargnesi, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. A copy of the resolution can be found on the [UB Council website](#).

Chairman Jacobs then recognized and congratulated President Tripathi on recently being named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Chairman Jacobs then asked President Tripathi to give his university report.

### ***University Briefings: Report of the President***

President Tripathi began his report by congratulating Ms. Turton on being re-elected as the Student Representative to the UB Council. Commencement programs wrapped up in May. UB held 18 degree conferral ceremonies and five recognition ceremonies. UB awarded 10,152 undergraduate and graduate degrees. Among the most popular majors include computer sciences, psychology, communications, social work, medicine, business administration, and data sciences and applications. UB honored alumnus, Dr. James Marks, with a SUNY Honorary Degree. Dr. Marks is a pioneer in public health and health equity who served as the assistant surgeon general and director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention, and he later served as the executive vice president at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. UB faculty members Deborah Chung, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Venu Govindaraju, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, received President's Medals at School of Engineering and Applied Sciences commencement ceremonies. SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology will receive his President's Medal at a later date.

Several UB faculty have recently received national recognition for their scholarly excellence. Seven UB researchers were elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Nine UB faculty were promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor. And the permanent memorial design selected by NY Governor Kathy Hochul honoring the victims of the May 14<sup>th</sup> mass shooting in Buffalo was created by a UB architecture faculty member. UB students also continue to receive

recognition for their excellence. Two UB students and two alumni recently received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship program scholarships. Six UB students and alumni received Fulbright Awards.

In May, UB hosted a delegation from the University of the West Indies, as well as Jamaica's ambassador to the U.S. During the visit, UB signed a memorandum of understanding with UWI to help achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The MOU will foster collaborations between faculty and students, encourage research and study abroad opportunities, and create a new shared graduate program in sustainable development. President Tripathi also shared that the Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute is joining UB.

Updating leadership changes, S. Todd Brown has been named the dean of the School of Law and Heath Tuttle has been appointed as UB's Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

Regarding the enacted New York State budget, SUNY's direct operating support for state operated campuses increased by \$114 million. SUNY received \$550 million in critical maintenance funds and \$160 million for building enhancements and new construction. Allocations to individual campuses of the funding is forthcoming. The budget also designates UB as the home of Empire AI and the North campus as the site of a new building for a state-of-the-art computer center. In April, UB hosted U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and National Science Foundation director, Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, for a visit to UB to celebrate the grand opening of UB's National AI Institute for Exceptional Education. President Tripathi thanked the Council members for their support of UB's institutional mission and goals.

President Tripathi then asked VP Hubbard to provide an update on UB's campus master plan.

***University Briefings: Presentation by Laura Hubbard***

Vice President Hubbard discussed the goals of UB's comprehensive master plan, how UB is reimagining the north campus, plans for development along Lee Road, plans to incorporate an NFTA extension line on campus, and potential sites for an Empire AI building. The master plan is about thinking long-range about the physical environment and how it serves UB's academic goals. Five areas of focus include creating a downtown campus by moving the medical school—which has taken place, revitalizing the south campus as a professional studies campus, reimagining the north campus as an undergraduate and research center, improving the campus life experience on all three campuses, and reducing deferred maintenance and addressing priority infrastructure goals.

On the north campus, the goals include strengthening the academic spine, developing Lee Road, better connecting the Ellicott Complex to the academic spine, and celebrating Lake Lasalle. UB has been strengthening the academic spine through Heart of the Campus projects such as One World Café, consolidating and modernizing libraries, renovating classrooms, and consolidating schools and the College of Arts & Sciences. UB's plans for celebrating Lake LaSalle include locating recreation activities and access to the lake, extend and enhance pedestrian and cycle access, placing student housing along the lake and improving lake amenities. UB's plans for Lee Road development include building a wellness and recreation center facility, build student housing, incorporate a light rail system, and add community facing assets. UB is also working with the NFTA on its plans to extend its rail service to UB's north campus. UB is looking at two locations for an Empire AI building, one located new UB's chilled water plant and the other located near an electrical substation on the north campus. Mr. Roche asked if the UB Foundation will be involved in development along Lee Road. Ms. Hubbard said it will depend on each project. Mr. Dandes asked if UB will be collaborating with the Town of Amherst on its development plans along Millersport Highway. Ms. Hubbard stated UB has regular meetings with the town about planning. Mr. Friedman asked about the development of the health center. Ms. Hubbard stated that, currently, recreation

facilities are shared with Athletics. A health center for the north campus is located off campus currently. Mr. Hamluk also added that Clark Hall is being transformed into a health center for the south campus. Ms. McDuffie inquired about the passenger usage of UB's Stampede bus service. Ms. Hubbard stated it is highly utilized by students.

### ***Report of the Student Representative***

Ms. Turton began her report by discussing the excitement of students who finished their spring semester and acknowledged the student members who served on the Council on Advocacy and Leadership (COAL) board for 2023-24 as well as introduce the members of the 2024-25 COAL board. Ms. Turton also reviewed the activities of various student groups including the Dental Student Association, Graduate Management Association, Graduate Student Association, Student Bar Association, School of Pharmacy Student Association, and Residence Hall Association. Ms. Turton has also been working on student outreach to appoint a new COAL Recording Secretary, completing an accessibility and transportation petition for COAL to review, expand how students receive updates from the UB Council Student Representative, work on resolutions with COAL members addressing how to improve the student experience, and preparing COAL's summer onboarding meetings. Ms. Turton expressed she is looking forward to working with members of the Council for the next academic year.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Dandes, seconded by Mr. Friedman and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Ms. Turton, Mr. Dandes, Ms. McDuffie, Ms. Bargnesi, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

A video recording of the meeting, including all presentations, can be found at this [link](#) on the UB Council website.

*Minutes to be approved at the fall 2024 semester meeting of the UB Council*