

## **University at Buffalo Council**

Meeting minutes

September 9, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

Buffalo Room, 10 Capen Hall

### **Members present:**

Jeremy M. Jacobs, Chairman

Julie Bargnesi

Michael Cropp

Jonathan Dandes

Scott Friedman

Brenda McDuffie

Patrick Roche

Alika Turton

### **Other participants:**

Satish K. Tripathi, President

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

### **Attendees:**

Craig Abbey, Vice Provost for Institutional Analysis and Planning

Tomas Aguirre, Dean of Students

Keith Alford, Dean of the School of Social Work

Marcelo Araujo, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

Todd Brown, Dean of the School of Law

Chris Connor, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

Julia Czerniak, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning

John Della Contrada, Vice President for University Communications

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

Don Erb, Chair of the Professor Staff Senate

AJ Franklin, UB Alumnus

Brian Hamluk, Vice President for Student Life

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

Stacy Knapper, Chief Executive Officer, UB Foundation

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

David Milling, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, Jacobs School

Shashwat Shah, Medical Student Polity president

Eileen Sherman, Chief of Staff to the Provost

David Shurtleff, Instructional Support Specialist, UBIT

Heath Tuttle, Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Suzanne Rosenblith, Dean of the Graduate School of Education

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 8:01 a.m.

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

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 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, Dr. Cropp, 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 President Tripathi to present details to the Council about two naming resolutions under consideration.

The first resolution is for renaming the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute building as the University at Buffalo Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute building. In May 2024, UB announced that HWI would be joining the university. The merger will leverage the capabilities of both institutions to positively impact research growth and the health and well-being of individuals for generations to come. Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to approve the resolution. 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, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

A second resolution seeks the approval of the Council to retain the named spaces within the UB-HWI building. These spaces have been named after benefactors, or in accordance with the benefactors' wishes. 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, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose.

Upon approval by the Council, the UB-HWI building renaming resolution will be forwarded to the State University of New York System Administration for final review and approval by the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees. A copy of the resolutions can be found on the [UB Council website](#).

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

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

President Tripathi began his report by providing an update to the start of the academic year. UB is also clarifying its Time, Place, and Manner policies. These three draft policies address assembling, camping on campus, and postings. The assembly policy speaks to UB's commitment to all groups to assemble on campus, but also specifies that assemblies cannot interfere with the university's ability to carry out its research and education mission. The camping on campus policy prohibits the establishment or attempt to establish or maintain a temporary or permanent camping site on university property. The posting policy ensures that recognized student organizations, university programs, departments and units that want to share information can do so.

In other university news, UB's Facilities staff has been busy over the summer ensuring that UB's campuses continue to provide the scholarly community with a state-of-the-art environment. This work

included renovations to classrooms and labs on the North and South campuses, a new student club space in the School of Law, a new entrance to Silverman Library, and major renovations—which are ongoing—to the Student Union. The Brittany Murchie Mulla Sports Performance Center was completed over the summer. A grand opening ceremony will take place on October 17. UB will also hold a groundbreaking ceremony for Russell L. Agrusa Hall—the new building for the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences—on September 17.

President Tripathi also highlighted recent research awards received by UB faculty including an National Institutes of Health (NIH) award to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to develop a therapy for antibiotic-resistant infections; the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences received an NIH grant to train early career faculty members to address health inequities in WNY; an NIH grant to the School of Engineer and Applied Sciences to advance technology to improve stem cell therapies for multiple sclerosis; and a Department of Philosophy and Department of Political Sciences grant from the John Templeton Foundation to demonstrate how diversity, disagreement and dynamism fuel open societies.

UB faculty member, Leonard Egede, chair of the Department of Medicine, was elected to the Association of American Physicians and Jacobs School dean, Allison Brashear, was named to the board of directors of the Association for American Medical Colleges. Dr. Tripathi also noted that UB had its first SUNY Distinguished Librarian appointed in the spring, Elizabeth Adelman, from the School of Law. UB also welcomed more than 160 new faculty this year. President Tripathi introduced UB's new VP/CIO, Heath Tuttle, to the Council. A search is also underway for a new dean for the College of Arts & Sciences. Dean Robin Schulze announced she is stepping down to return to her faculty role.

Over the summer, President Tripathi signed 3 new memoranda of understandings (MOUs) with universities in Asia: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology in Vietnam, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and Chung-Ang University in South Korea. Tripathi noted that the president of Chung-Ang University is a UB alumnus.

In July, UB learned that the Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse Tech Hub had been awarded \$40 million through the federal Chips and Science Act. With this funding, the Tech Hub will help transform the region into a hub for supply chain management, semiconductor innovation and manufacturing, and workforce training. With a \$9 million share of this funding, UB plays a key role in the regional tech hub, as the leader of the supply chain component.

President Tripathi invited Council members to attend his annual State of the University address. It is scheduled for October 11.

President Tripathi then asked Vice Provost Hammill to provide an update on UB's academic enterprise.

#### ***University Briefings: Presentation by Graham Hammill***

Vice Provost Hammill stated UB's enrollment remains strong at more than 30,500 students. The official numbers are tabulated in October. UB saw an increase of 9% of out of state domestic students. New academic programs include bachelor's degrees in Indigenous Studies and International Studies as well as a BA/MA in Global Affairs and Political Science. There is also a new PhD in Literacy and English Education as well as online Master's degrees in Biomedical Informatics and Pharmacometrics and Personalized Pharmacotherapy. The Jacobs School completely redesigned its curriculum. It includes earlier and enhanced clinical experiences and service learning for students.

Improved student-focused academic support includes individualized advising in academic units, student success coaches, embedded transfer counselors, and the UB TrACE Program (Advancing Completion

through Engagement for Transfer Students). The program supports Pell-eligible transfer students. UB is also expanding the entrepreneurial experience for students. In 2023-24, more than 10,000 students were served by UB's CoLab. Dr. Hammill also highlighted the WNY Sophomore Externship Experience @UB program. The 8-week summer program facilitated by UB's Co-Lab provides workplace experience for students from institutions across WNY.

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

Ms. Turton began her report by providing some background on herself. She is a fourth-year political science and communications student and has participated in leadership roles for 11 years. Ms. Turton also provided an update on the Council of Advocacy and Leadership (COAL). There are two new board members added to the group. Ms. Turton also updated the Council on the activities of several UB student groups including the School of Pharmacy Student Association, Student Bar Association, Graduate Student Association, Dental Student Association, and the Medical Student Polity. Ms. Turton has also been working on improving student outreach regarding her activities on the UB Council, as well as meeting with campus leaders.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jacobs called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Friedman, seconded by Mr. Roche and approved unanimously by Mr. Roche, Ms. Turton, Mr. Dandes, Ms. McDuffie, Ms. Bargnesi, Dr. Cropp, Mr. Friedman, and Chairman Jacobs. None voted to oppose. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

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

*Minutes approved at the December 2, 2024, semester meeting of the UB Council*