



BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



**University Council Meeting
October 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person

Chair Linda Dobmeier
Mr. Robert Zak
Ms. Patricia Farrell
Mr. Kevin Horrigan
Mr. Charles Naughton
Mr. Gary Siddall
Mr. Mo Sumbundu
Ms. Michelle Cox (student representative)

EXCUSED:

Mr. Allen Grum

FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT (in person):

Interim President Bonita R. Durand
Interim Provost Amitra Wall
Interim Vice President for Management and Operations, Lisa Krieger
Interim Vice President for Finance and Controller, Jim Thor
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Wayne Brumfield
Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Jim Finnerty
Vice President for Enrollment Management, Randyll Bowen
Dean, School of the Professions, Carol DeNysschen
Chief Diversity Officer, Lisa Morrison-Fronckowiak
College Senate Chair and Head of Information Commons, E.H. Butler Library, Ken Fujiuchi
Secretary to the University Council and President's Chief of Staff, LeVar Burke
Administrative Assistant 2, President's Office, Kristine Kaminsky
Jaurdyn Johnson, WKBW/Channel 7 News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dobmeier called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

A quorum was established.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting, Mr. Mo Sumbundu motioned, and Mr. Gary Siddall seconded. The motion to approve the minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dobmeier introduced and welcomed the new University Council Student Representative, Ms. Michelle Cox. She is from Rochester, NY and is a Junior, majoring in Chemistry, with a minor in Human Biology. She is also an active member of the Muriel A. Howard Honors Program, the Educational Opportunities Program, and the SUNY Chancellor's Pre-Med Program. She is the treasurer for the United Student Government and is a member of the College Senate.

The Chair thanked President Durand for initiating the Freshman Convocation on August 23, 2024, the Academic Convocation on September 19, 2024, and the University Council members who attended. She also thanked Vice President Brumfield for his participation in organizing the freshmen class.

The Faculty Convocation was a moving experience, particularly because of the awards that were received. Chair Dobmeier thanked the University Council members who attended.

The Chair brought the council members' attention to the new committee assignments, which were discussed with Interim President Durand and the Secretary to the University Council, Mr. LeVar Burke. Any future questions should be directed to Chair Dobmeier.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Durand pointed out that there is a long, detailed report in the members' material. She asked that they read it at their leisure, and to reach out to her with any questions.

President Durand thanked all the council members who lent their support this year as Buffalo State transitioned from commencement to the revival of the academic convocations. It was mentioned that the students were very impressed with the faculty and council members in their academic regalia, and the bagpiper. It was nice to have the students witness this important event, initiating the official beginning of a new year, a new group of students, new values, and upholding the mission of Buffalo State University.

President Durand mentioned that we are moving into the second year of her three-year term. In her detailed report, there is an update on our first-year financial sustainability.

It was mentioned that our enrollment numbers for Fall 2024 are down. It is believed that this is due to the increase in Buffalo State's high school grade point average requirement. This was done with the intention to recruit students who can stay, be retained, persist and graduate. Buffalo State bore some loss this year to see higher retention and graduation in two to four years.

President Durand and Vice President Randyll Bowen will be visiting new schools and working with organizations that help students attend college throughout the state to increase student involvement. This will be done to counter the future loss of student population due to the grade point average adjustment.

President Durand provided an update on Buffalo State's Middle States' Supplemental Information Report on student success. A final answer has not been received yet, but more information will be shared once the results come back.

There will be a new section in the President's Office that is entitled, "Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement." An acronym is forthcoming. The charge of this section will be to raise the level of assessment and data analytics to the forefront of the institution as an umbrella for the campus to use. The goal is to ensure that we meet Middle State's standards, Buffalo State's strategic pillars, and SUNY's four pillars. With this section readily available, Buffalo State will be able to continuously review our progress and make any necessary adjustments.

President Durand mentioned that she and Mr. Burke, the Secretary to the University Council, represented the University Council at the ACT conference on September 28 and September 29, 2024. They attended the opening session and were able to hear the Chancellor's address. The Chancellor had some good advocacy points that President Durand will be sharing with the council. There was also a round table discussion about the needs of council chairs and members. One takeaway is that it is difficult to get a quorum because of open appointments. This will be an ongoing conversation. President Durand represented Chair Dobmeier. Chair Dobmeier will be contacted about this topic. SUNY is ready to help with this. Folders were provided with additional information. President Durand encouraged the council members attend the next ACT conference.

Report concluded.

Chair Dobmeier acknowledged Vice President Finnerty for holding a successful golf and pickleball event. The Bengala will be held on April 5, 2025.

Chair Dobmeier also thanked Vice President Bowen for the great articles in Business First about SUNY.

COMMITTEES

- **President’s Community Advisory Committee (Bonita R. Durand, Interim President)**
No report.
- **Naming of Buildings and Grounds (Robert Zak, Chair)**
No report.
- **Facilities (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
Please see attached.
- **Government Relations (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
No report.
- **Nominations & Presidential Advisory Committee (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
No report.
- **Budget (Robert Zak, Chair)**
No report.
- **Student Life (Charles Naughton, Chair)**
No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Durand announced that on September 11, 2024, she had her annual evaluation with the Chancellor, and it went well. She mentioned that Buffalo State is well supported by the Chancellor, and that he has helped wherever he can. It was a successful meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair called for a motion to move into Executive Session: In accordance with section 105.c and d. of the New York State Public Officers Law to discuss some topics that required confidentiality. Mr. Charles Naughton moved that the council enter executive session. Mr. Gary Siddall seconded the motion. President Durand was asked to remain. Chair Dobmeier thanked the faculty, staff and guests for attending.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Robert Zak moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Patricia Farrell seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



LeVar N. Burke, JD, MPA

Secretary to the University Council

**Facilities Committee Report to the University Council
Campus Tour, August 16, 2024**

University Council Members and Facilities Committee Members in Attendance:

1. Linda Dobmeier, Chairman
2. Charles Naughton
3. Dale Cich
4. Gary Siddall
5. Paul McDonnell

Administrators and Staff in Attendance:

1. Lisa Krieger, Interim Vice President for Management and Operations
 2. Sarah Reid, Campus Planner
 3. Amitra Wall, Provost
 4. Wayne Brumfield, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
 5. LeVar Burke, Chief of Staff
 6. Brian Wittmer, Manager of Design and Construction
 7. Kristine Kaminsky, Administrative Assistant 2
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The Facilities, Buildings, and Grounds Committee participated in the annual Buffalo State University campus tour from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 16, which was facilitated by the Office of Finance and Management. The tour provided a comprehensive overview of the campus's facilities and grounds to the committee members, including four council members.

The tour commenced with a “meet and greet” in Cleveland Hall 205. We then embarked on a general tour of the campus grounds, making stops at several notable locations and buildings. The sites visited included:

<i>Building /Site</i>	<i>Development Status</i>	<i>Type of Tour Stop</i>	<i>Building Host/ Tour Guide</i>
Ketchum Hall	Planning	Interior	Sarah Reid
Parking Lot R12-R13	Construction	Exterior of fence	Brian Wittmer
Karner Hall - University Police and Campus Operations Center	Construction	Interior – hard hat	Brian Wittmer Darlene DiCesare Carrie Pavis Mike Carl
Bengal Walk	Construction	Exterior of fence	Brian Wittmer
Parking Lot I-39/Athletic Field	Cancelled	Exterior	Brian Wittmer Lisa Krieger
Elms Hall – Academic Building	Construction	Interior – hard hat	Brian Wittmer Amitra Wall Kelly Frothingham

Our guides, Sarah Reid, Campus Planner, and Brian Wittmer, Manager of Design and Construction, provided insightful commentary throughout the tour.

The annual facilities tour is an integral part of our efforts to familiarize Council members with the campus and its facilities. Feedback from participants is always appreciated, as it helps us improve future tours and ensures we address any areas of interest that may have been missed.

The Facilities, Buildings, and Grounds Committee extends its gratitude to all who attended and contributed to the success of this year's tour. We look forward to your continued support and participation in our future activities.