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From the Buffalo Business First:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2017/12/19/blj-five-questions-sujata-yalamanchili.html>

## BLJ: Five questions — Sujata Yalamanchili

Dec 19, 2017, 6:00am EST

### How long is your term as council chair?

My term begins Jan. 1 and runs for two years. I've worked with School of Management Dean Paul Tesluk; outgoing DAC Chair Rich Ferranti, executive VP and COO of Rich Products Corp.; and senior staff for a few months to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

### What's the goal of the group?

To assist the dean and the School of Management by providing external perspective, advocacy and financial support for the school's programs and strategic priorities. In recent years, this included funding an MBA scholarship to help the school attract top MBA students, providing funding toward a faculty endowment, making introductions with employers for the school's Career Resource Center and providing industry perspective on key initiatives such as health care, entrepreneurship, leadership and social innovation.

### As chair, what's your focus?

My primary focus is to support the dean and the mission of the School of Management. This includes continuing the important dialogue the DAC has with the dean, advocating for the school and its priorities, and contributing financial support for the school. We have an active and highly engaged DAC. I hope we can continue to provide an avenue to harness the energy and commitment of the DAC members to best serve the school.

### With your legal background, what do you bring to the table?

Among other things, I bring the perspective of a dual-degree professional to the DAC. Over 40 percent of the School of Management's current full-time MBA program are dual-degree students (JD/MBA, MD/MBA, PharmD/MDA and so on). This is a unique strength of UB's MBA program and highlights UB's strong interdisciplinary programs. Several other members of the DAC are also dual-degree professionals. I also hope to deepen ties for the DAC within the (local) legal and business communities. As a partner at Hodgson Russ LLP, I work closely with key business leaders throughout our region. Many of them rely heavily on the School of Management to produce highly skilled business professionals. I hope to bring those business leaders into even closer contact and collaboration with the School of Management.

### The list of members is full of business heavy hitters. What does that say about the importance of this council?

The School of Management has a long tradition of educating many of the region's top business leaders. So it is proud to tap into the highest levels of the Western New York business community to populate its DAC. The DAC is unique in that it also has robust membership from outside WNY. This highlights UB's and the School of Management's reach as a major research institution whose graduates achieve success throughout the world.



COURTESY: HODGSON RUSS LLP/LUKE COPPING  
Sujata Yalamanchili, council chair, UB School of Management; partner, Hodgson Russ.

**Jane Schmitt**  
Copy Editor



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