




University at Buffalo

## Faculty Affairs

Office of the Provost

To: Vice Presidents  
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Deans  
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Institutional Analysis  
Business Services  
Human Resources  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
*UB Now*

From: Robert Granfield   
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Subject: AI and Society Department Creation

Date: April 29, 2025

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This is to advise you that President Satish K. Tripathi has approved the immediate department creation of **AI and Society**, a joint department of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences.

cc: Satish K. Tripathi, President  
A. Scott Weber, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## **RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FORMATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF AI & SOCIETY**

**Submitted: MARCH 10, 2025**

**From: FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC PLANNING & ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:** Committee

Chair, Diane Christian, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor

UB Distinguished Professor Paschalis Alexandridis, Chemical Engineering

Professor Jeff Good, Linguistics

Professor David Hostler, Nutrition & Exercise Science

Dr. Howard Lippes, Jacobs School of Medicine

Professor William Menasco, Mathematics

Professor Natalie Simpson, School of Management

Professor Albert Titus, Biomedical Engineering

SUNY Distinguished Professor Lois Weis, School of Education

**Date proposed to FSEC: March 11, 2025**

**Date approved by the FSEC for placement on the Faculty Senate Calendar: March 25, 2025**

**Date amended: April 11, 2025**

**Date Approved by Faculty Senate: April 15, 2025 Yea 53/61/Nay 6/61/Abs 2/61**

**Effective date: 4/29/2025**

WHEREAS Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies are playing an increasingly prominent role in Society, and there is a need to foster scholarship in the relationship between AI and Society to determine how these technologies can advance the social good while mitigating potential harms;

WHEREAS the State University of New York has committed a significant investment to advance the study of AI and Society at the University at Buffalo through the creation of a new department;

WHEREAS a new department focusing on AI and Society will advance the University at Buffalo's position as a national leader in the responsible creation and use of AI tools;

WHEREAS a new department focusing on AI and Society will allow the University at Buffalo to offer new degree programs and other training opportunities that will allow students to realize their educational goals;

WHEREAS the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Arts and Sciences have consulted with their respective faculties and determined that there is strong support for a department focusing on AI and its relationship to society;

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee met with Dean Kemper Lewis of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Dean Robin Schulze of the College of Arts and Sciences, Associate Dean Luke Ziarek of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Associate Dean Robert Adelman of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Atri Rudra of the Department of Computer Science of Engineering to probe faculty participation and position in establishing a Department of AI & Society;

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee approved the design and possibilities for nimble growth and success of a Department of AI & Society;

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate Academic Planning & Assessment Committee voted unanimously to approve formation of a Department of AI & Society;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that a new Department of AI and Society, shared by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), be established.