



## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2025

Center for Tomorrow

Attendance: see attached attendance.

### Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### Agenda Approved

- Motion to approve the [FS 9 23 25 Agenda](#) was made and seconded. FS voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

### Actionable Items

- [FS 5 13 25 Minutes](#) was presented. Request was made by senator to address a typo in document to change the title of meeting minutes from “Executive Committee” to “Faculty Senate”. Motion to approve minutes with updated title was made and seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.
- President’s Report was accepted.
- [FS 9 23 25 Chair Report](#) was accepted.
- Presentation on plans for ensuring ADA Title II Compliance: Senior Vice Provost Graham Hammill and Carol Van Zile-Tamsen, Director of the Office of Curriculum, Assessment, and Teaching Transformation (CATT). Presentation Slides: [ADA Course Materials Compliance Updates 09.16.2025](#) [Contains QR Code with faculty resources].
- Trial of Top Hat voting system was completed. Guide to Voting with Top Hat provided: [Guide to Voting with Top Hat](#)

### Other Items

#### **I. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- First report to the Faculty Senate after sharing with the UB community that he will be stepping down as President effective July 2026.

#### **Grants:**

- Federal policy changes have led to grant suspensions, terminations, and shifts in research priorities, affecting UB’s federal research portfolio.
  - Currently, approximately 60 grants have been affected by the federal policy changes.
- UB lost an estimated \$18 million (about 6% of its 2023–24 federal research funding) despite some reinstatements through appeals and judicial challenges.
- The UB Office of Research and Economic Development is supporting affected researchers, including providing bridge funding.

- UB launched two programs—**UB Complete** (to cover needs after grant cancellations) and **UB Launch** (to support transitions to new federal priorities)—which have already funded 11 terminated awards and 16 project transitions. [ [UB Bridge Funding Programs](#) ]

### **International Enrollment:**

- Federal policy changes, visa interview suspensions, and processing delays have disrupted international student recruitment and visa approvals.
- Upcoming changes *may* limit student visas to the exact program length (e.g., 2 years for master's, 4 for bachelor's), creating added challenges.
- UB's international enrollment has dropped by nearly 1,000 students, primarily in STEM master's programs, reflecting broader nationwide trends.
- UB is committed to supporting international students and maintaining its reputation as a welcoming campus.

## **II. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Communicated the role of senators in the Faculty Senate, the need for volunteers to serve on committees and larger roles in the UB community:

- Senators play a key role in linking the Faculty Senate to the broader faculty by sharing Senate work with colleagues and bringing back their concerns.
- Faculty are encouraged to recommend colleagues (or self-nominate) for service on university-wide and SUNY-wide committees and boards.
- The Senate is currently seeking a faculty representative for the Faculty Student Association Board, which oversees campus dining and shops.
  - Nominations are especially welcome from units outside of the School of Management.

## **III. PRESENTATION ON PLANS FOR ENSURING ADA TITLE II COMPLIANCE**

- In 2024, Congress updated the Americans with Disabilities Act with guidelines that impact digital teaching materials, including all digital materials that are included the learning management system, UB Learns.
- Also includes all digital teaching materials that are managed individually by faculty that are outside of UB Learns and archived materials in UB Learns that will be used in current classes.
- The *QR code* in linked PowerPoint above can be used to gain access to content about the elements of Title II ADA compliance and resources available at UB for faculty to meet compliance.

### **Key Points**

- ADA compliance involves both technical tools and simple content practices (e.g., using headings, proper color contrast, accurate link text).
- AI tools and accessibility checkers (like Ally in UB Learns) can assist, but they are not fully reliable; final checks should still be done in UB Learns.
- Content pasted directly into the Brightspace editor (rather than uploaded as files) is automatically made accessible.

- Unit-specific systems (like MedHub in the Medical School) may not have the same accessibility tools; unit liaisons are responsible for addressing those cases.
- Not all Brightspace accessibility features are available at UB due to cost; however, a university-wide reader is already in place.

## **Questions and Answers**

1. Q: Is accessibility mostly a technical issue that AI should solve?  
A: AI and tools like Ally help, but instructors still need to apply best practices (headings, contrast, links) for accessibility.
2. Q: Does Ally check accessibility of linked documents (e.g., Box files)?  
A: No, Ally only checks documents directly uploaded into UB Learns, not external links.
3. Q: Will accessibility liaisons reach out directly to faculty?  
A: Liaisons should be contacting department chairs soon; if not, faculty should submit a ticket or contact them directly.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55 p.m.

**Turquessa Francis, Ed.D., OTR/L**  
**Department of Rehabilitation Science**



University at Buffalo

# Faculty Senate

University Shared Governance

Faculty Senate Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

## SENATOR & ALTERNATE SIGN-IN ONLY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME OF ALTERNATE (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGN IN
Alexandridis	Paschalis		Present
Amato	Katharine		Present
Baizer	Joan		Present
Barber	Jay		
Barclay	Jen		Present
Barkowski	Scott		Present
Basaran	Cemal		Present
Beatty	John		
Bednarczyk	Edward		Present
Bies	Robert		Present
Biondini	Gino		Present
Bodack	Jackie		
Bowen	Elizabeth (Betsey)	Michael Lynch	Present
Campbell	Jennifer		
Carpenter	Beth		
Choi	Jun Hwan		Present
Consiglio	Joseph		Present
Danilovic	Vesna		Present
Das Bhattacharjee	Sreyasee		
Demarree	Kenneth		Present
Eckert	Svetlana		Present
Ekwunife	Obinna		Present
Fotso	Herbert		Present
Francis	Turquessa		Present
Giammatteo	John		
Glick	Phil		Present
Hannes	Isabel		Present
Harris	Julie		Present
Hicar	Mark		
Howett	Maeve		

# SENATOR & ALTERNATE SIGN-IN ONLY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME OF ALTERNATE (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGN IN
Hoxworth	Kellen		
Hunt	Kyle		Present
Hunter	Ryan		
Inglis	Stuart		Present
Jacobs	Amy		
Jacobs	Cassandra		Present
Jacobsen	Lisa Jane		Present
Kaur	Opinder		Present
Kay	Jason		Present
Keeler	Andrea		Present
Kim	Sunha		Present
Krzyzanski	Wojciech		Present
Langan	Thomas		
Laychock	Suzanne		Present
LeCuyer	Annette		Present
Lemke	Melinda		Present
Linden-Retek	Paul		
Long	Pat		
Ludwig	Alexus		Present
Magun	Rakesh		
Mardorossian	Carine		
Markelz	Andrea		Present
McCartney	Melissa		Present
McDuff	Angelyn		Present
Melendy	Thomas		Present
Mietlicki-Baase	Elizabeth		Present
Miller	Russ		
Monreal	Timothy		
Morey	Ophelia		Present
Multari	R.J.		
Murdock	Tom		
Murray	Brian		Present
Nemati	Kamran	Darrell Kaminski	Present
Nikolaev	Alexander		
Oliveira Matos	Adaias		Present
Osei-Agyemang	Eric		
Park	Yungki		
Paul	Matthew		Present
Pei	Yun		Present
Pope	Gina		Present

# SENATOR & ALTERNATE SIGN-IN ONLY

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	NAME OF ALTERNATE (PLEASE PRINT)	SIGN IN
Prinari	Barbara		
Ramesh	Ramaswamy		Present
Rawat	Munmun		
Rideout	Todd		Present
Robert	Sarah		
Roesch	Dominik		Present
Rosvally	Danielle		
Saha	Sandip		
Schwartz	Sabrina		
Scott	Jeffrey		Present
Sharma	Sonia		Present
Shibley	Robert		
Shim	Jongmin		Present
Shin	Sangwoo		
Shucard	David		
Sirica	Daniel		Present
Sobota	Peter		Present
Sochacki	Sabrina		
Srinivas	Vasudevan		Present
Stapleton	Kristin		
Su	Weifeng		Present
Suffoletto	Heidi		Present
Tenbrock	Eric		
Thevanayagam	Sabanayagam		Present
Tomaszewski	John		
Traynor	Kerry		Present
Triandos	Theodoros (Ted)		Present
Tysick	Cindi		Present
Wang	Jing		
Winston	Aisling		Present
Winter	Kari		Present
Yucalan	Doga		Present
Zachariadou	Christina		Present
Zhao	Ruogang		
Zorich	Shauna		Present
Zubovich	Gene		
Wactaawski-Wende	Jean		Present
Paquette	Elizabeth		Present
Vanzile Tamsen	Carol		Present
Connolly	Michelle		Present

Jain	Shaurya		Present
Henesy	Mary		Present
Kaour-Manleon	Monique		Present
Metcalf	Sarah		Present
Lewis	Kemper		Present
Kieler	Kathleen		Present
Shanahan	Michele		Present