University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Draft
8 September 2026
Jeannette Martin Room and via Zoom

Minutes Approved: 9/22/2026

Attendance: see attached attendance record.

Opening Business

Call to Order

Chair called meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Motion to approve FSEC Agenda 8 Sept 2026 was made and seconded.

Actionable Items

- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without objection and without correction. The Chair announced that draft minutes will henceforth be posted to SharePoint well in advance of the meeting at which they are discussed, so that corrections may be sent to the Chair or the Secretary beforehand.
- Provost Report was accepted.
- Chair's Report was accepted.
- Serdar Gozpinar was appointed to the Information Technology Committee, without objection, having served previously and been omitted from the roster in error.
- FSEC authorized the Chair, without objection, to invite the alternate to the resigning University Faculty Senator to represent UB at the SUNY University Faculty Senate fall plenary, subject to confirmation by the Chair of the Professional Staff Senate.
- FSEC agreed by consensus to hold Shared Governance Day this academic year, on the first Tuesday of March, and to form a planning committee.
- Faculty Senate 15 September 2026 Meeting Agenda was approved without objection, with three amendments: the Vice President for Research and Economic Development confirmed as a presenter; the Provost to be invited to present on enrollment, working with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education to include retention and graduation rates; and correction of a misspelled name.

Other Business

I. Provost Report

- UB welcomed its 16th president. The Provost met many new faculty members at orientation in August.

- Overall enrollment has held steady for roughly five years at 30,400 to 30,600 students. A record first-year class of more than 5,400 students from 40 states is projected, along with a record number of honors students. Just over 40% of students are Pell eligible, among the higher proportions in AAU public universities.
- Master's enrollment is declining sharply, with engineering affected most severely, followed by management, public health, and pharmacy. Contributing factors include federal re-evaluation of OPT and CPT, difficulty obtaining visa appointments and approvals, and a chilled climate for international students. Doctoral enrollment is comparatively more resilient, and online master's enrollment is growing.
- Undergraduate retention remains a challenge relative to goals. The group charged last year on the future of the UB curriculum will report periodically. The Provost offered to deliver to the Senate or FSEC the presentations on student success, retention, and enrollment prepared for the President.
- Summer faculty honors were recognized: Katerina Cordes, named a Fellow of the American Society of Nutrition; a team led by Amit Goyal, a 2026 R&D 100 Award and Special Recognition Corporate Social Responsibility Award; Paris Wicker, a 2026 National Academy of Education Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship; and Fulbright Scholar Awards to Ravine Araney, Supriya Ahmad, and Paul Banus.

Questions and Answers

- Students changing visa status generally must reapply, which is one reason many units admit directly to the PhD. Duration-of-status rules may cap doctoral study at four years, with unclear consequences for programs that typically run longer.
- The Provost declined to speculate on the effect of the next presidential election, noting that current restrictions would not reverse quickly and that the university should plan on the present environment continuing.
- Federal advocacy runs primarily through SUNY, with the four university centers helping to lead it. A liaison in the President's office can arrange connections for faculty, and SUNY has worked with the New York State Attorney General and attorneys general in 22 to 23 other states to litigate grant terminations.
- On extending light rail to the North Campus: state funding was secured for the environmental impact statements, MOUs with the NFTA are in place, and North Campus planning is organized around known station locations. The capital funding required is federal in scale and unlikely at present.
- North Campus faculty parking was raised on behalf of a School of Management colleague. The Provost acknowledged that parking is tight, will share the concern with the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and noted that faculty pay only the cost of a tag, which limits the university's ability to build structured parking. It was noted from the floor that parking is a contractual matter between UUP and the university, though the Senate could choose to advocate.
- The new federal guidance on Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is that it is only allowed if CPT is required for the student's degree program. Applications for CPT from international students in programs that do not require it are no longer being approved, and International Education advising staff are meeting with affected students individually.
- On tenure and promotion under the changed federal grant environment, the Provost noted that some faculty are already shifting research areas and that these conversations belong primarily at the department and school level.

II. Chair's Report

- The written Chair's Report was posted in advance on SharePoint and was not read aloud.

- The 2025-2026 annual report is posted on SharePoint, and last year's resolutions are posted with the President's responses.
- Amendments passed by the Senate were not incorporated into a resolution calling for clinical faculty promotion guidelines to be posted publicly on all unit websites, which was posted to the website and transmitted to the President for approval. A corrected copy will be sent to the President's office, and Senate processes will be tightened to prevent a recurrence.
- One of UB's four University Faculty Senators resigned. With the fall plenary imminent, the Secretary of the SUNY University Faculty Senate recommended sending the senator's alternate; FSEC did not object, and the Vice Chair of the Professional Staff Senate deferred to the PSS Chair pending review by the two parliamentarians. Precedent exists for an alternate serving out a year. Three of the four senators complete their terms this year, and a more even distribution would be desirable; elections follow later this fall.
- In response to questions, the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility policy on faculty recording remains in development, and members were asked to contact the staff assistant first when a document is missing from SharePoint.

III. Committee Membership and Liaisons

- The Chair reviewed the roster process: staggered two-year appointments, an open call to faculty, and FSEC approval of rosters at the final meeting each May. A possible second roster omission on the Committee on Appointments, Tenure, Promotion and Privileges is to be confirmed and brought back to the FSEC.
- Committee chairs may recruit additional faculty or ex officio members at any time, subject to appointment by the FSEC.
- The Committee on Equity and Diversity has no FSEC liaison, and volunteers were requested; its revised charge is posted on SharePoint. The Information Technology Committee meets at the same time as the FSEC but reports reliably.
- On IT advice, SharePoint rather than Box will be the Senate's platform going forward. A tutorial was offered to members who wanted one.

IV. Chancellor's Award Committee Nominations

- The Chair and the Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs are forming a Chancellor's Award Committee of faculty and students to assess nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in research and creative activities, service, teaching, and librarianship. A list of past recipients is posted in the SharePoint folder for this meeting, and nominations were requested within a few days.
- This responsibility passed to the Executive Committee when the Senate's nominations committee was eliminated in the 2014 restructuring.

V. Faculty Representation on University-wide Bodies

- Current Senate representatives were identified: Cindi Tysick on the Council of International Studies and Programs; Kerry Traynor and Charles Wang on the Faculty Student Association board; Melinda Lemke on the Policy Review Group; and Kari Winter with two colleagues on the University Police Advisory Committee.
- The Gen Ed Re-envisioning Committee submitted a preliminary report and plans faculty consultation through a survey; the FSEC may invite its chairs to a Senate meeting.

- The Chair is compiling a comprehensive public list of UB faculty representing the faculty on university-wide and SUNY bodies, and members will be asked to help fill gaps.

VI. Committee Structure

- The FSEC may charge committees with specific tasks and may create ad hoc committees.
- The Campus Environment and Sustainability Committee, dissolved last spring after a period of inactivity, could be revived if faculty are willing to sustain the work; the Chair offered to expedite Senate approval. Faculty serve on the chief sustainability officer's committees, which have no link to the Senate.
- The Veterans Matters Committee was created as an ad hoc committee and never established in the governance documents. The Parliamentarian advises that formal establishment would be required for it to continue.

VII. Faculty Senate Updates and Communication

- Members found the Updates useful. Distribution has been uneven, in part because FSEC members cannot post to all-faculty lists directly; units reported varying routes through dean's offices and listservs, and faculty in the School of Management and in engineering reportedly did not receive them.
- The Chair prefers that members distribute the Updates themselves, with a short preface highlighting items of local interest, so that faculty know who represents them. The next Update will be sent the following day and will include the University Police license plate reader survey and a statement on sustainability and the university's AI investments.

VIII. Shared Governance Day

- Shared Governance Day was created by a former Faculty Senate Chair and a former Professional Staff Senate Chair, is held on the first Tuesday of March, brings together the five pillars of shared governance, and has run for about ten years. The Professional Staff Senate proposed a five-year interval after organizing it last year; the Chair proposed three years.
- Members argued for holding the event this year so that the new president can hear the faculty articulate what shared governance means at UB and take part herself, and for a more frequent cycle, noting that two-year Senate terms mean a longer interval would cause some members to miss it entirely.
- Two speakers were proposed: a UB alumnus who now chairs the faculty council at Duke University, suggested by the President of the SUNY University Faculty Senate, and Davarian Baldwin, author of a book on universities' relationships with the cities around them.
- Suggestions included a component on citizenship and civic education with student involvement, coordination with the spring English 105 sections on Buffalo as Place, and participation by the Music Department. Declining attendance at campus events was noted, and a hybrid format was suggested in place of last year's Zoom format.

IX. Goals and Priorities for the Year

- Work-from-home policy for professional staff has changed from five days in ten to approximately one day per week with provostial approval, and has become a morale and staffing issue. The Chair noted that the Professional Staff Senate would need to lead, most likely by resolution, which the Faculty Senate could then consider supporting.
- Artificial intelligence was raised as the most pressing problem facing academia, with calls for institutional governance policy and for a strategic committee on the future of the disciplines. Current work implements the SUNY AI policy framework, which is focused on information technology and intellectual property; the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee was identified as the body to take up broader questions. Program closures at

Syracuse, Cornell, and Buffalo State were noted, as was a new UUP contract article requiring that courses be taught by human instructors, the first such provision in the nation.

- The University Police have posted a survey on a pilot program to install license plate readers at campus entrances and exits. Members were asked to respond and to circulate it; the Chair will include it in the Faculty Senate Update and ask whether there is a deadline.
- A request was made to revisit UB Council membership, which comprises eight members appointed by the Governor and one student member elected by UB students. A prior request that the former President support amending New York State Education Law to add faculty and professional staff seats was declined, and work continues through Albany. The related resolutions are to be brought back during the year.
- Questions were raised about the AI data center being built on campus, associated with the state-funded Empire AI initiative, and about university energy policy more broadly. The Chair will share a written statement from the chief sustainability officer.
- Announcements: the President will not attend the 15 September Senate meeting; the Vice President for Research and Economic Development will speak on AI governance and policy; a reception will follow at the University Club; and a budget report is scheduled for the 20 October Senate meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Enoch Azasu,

School of Social Work
Faculty Senate Secretary

Approved by the FSEC on [date], Enoch Azasu

University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance

Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2025
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Name	Signature
Alexandridis, Paschalis	Present
Attardo Genco, Caroline	
Azasu, Enoch	Present
Basaran, Cemal	Present
Beatty, John	Present
Bies, Robert	Present
Bisantz, Amy	
Campbell, Jennifer	
Fotso, Herbert	Present
Glick, Phil	Present
Hammill, Graham	Present
Hubbard, Laura	
Jacobs, Amy	Virtual
Jain, Shaurya	Present
Joyner, Benny	Virtual
Kay, Jason	Present
Lemke, Melinda	Virtual
MacDonald, William	Present
Murshid, Shaanta	Virtual
Nemati, Kamran	
O'Connor, Laura	
Prinari, Barbara	Virtual
Ramesh, Ramaswamy	Virtual
Schwartz, Sabrina	Virtual
Sieminski, Sandra	
Smith, Brian	Virtual
Stapleton, Kristin	Present
Sternberg, Ernie	Present
Triandos, Ted	Virtual
Traynor, Kerry	Virtual
Tysick, Cindi	Present
Weber, Scott	Present
Winston, Aisling	Virtual
Winter, Kari	Present
Zorich, Shauna	Virtual
GUESTS:	
Jennifer Barclay	
Michele Poitras	
Eileen Sherman	
Jeffrey Scott	