



University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2025
Zoom

Attendance: see attached attendance.

Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:00pm

Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate Executive Committee [FSEC 2 11 25 Agenda](#) was made by the Faculty Senate Chair. Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded; EC unanimously approved the agenda.

Actionable Items

- [FSEC 1 28 25 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- Provost will provide to the EC policies for UB faculty and staff when contacting legislators.
- [FSEC Chair Report 2 11 25](#) was accepted.
- [Title VI Resolution](#) from the Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee was approved, 20 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstained to move forward to the next Faculty Senate's meeting [2/18/25] for a First Reading.
- [Draft Mutual Aid memo](#) from the Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee:
 - was amended by the EC 17 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain
 - was endorsed by the EC as amended 16 yay, 1 nay, 0 abstain and EC approved to move the amended memo forward to present at the next Faculty Senate meeting [2/18/25] for the FS to vote to endorse.
- Michelle Visser from IT committee will contact the Chair of the IT Committee to learn the following to inform the EC:
 - Is there a You Tube subscription available for faculty for ad-free videos when the videos are used during instruction?
 - When will the Top Hat subscription becomes available to faculty?

Other Items

I. SECRETARY REPORT

- **Reapportionment** schedule has been determined by the Elections Committee:
 - September—obtain faculty information from the Office of Institutional Analysis.
 - October—review documents from the OIA to ensure appropriate faculty designations to calculate the allotment factor.
 - November—determine allotment for each unit.

- January 15—inform each unit their allotted senator(s) and Executive Committee representative(s)
- **SUNY Senator position:**
 - The SUNY Senator position will be vacated by Kristin Stapleton as her term will end June 30, 2025.
 - The elections for the position will begin the week of March 3 with the Faculty Senate (FS) and Professional Staff Senate (PSS) working together to fill the position, as required by the FS and PSS bylaws.
 - Kristin Stapleton has made herself available to answer any questions regarding the position.

Question and Comments:

Comment regarding the issue of the required changes in the Bylaws due to the fact that according to the current version of the Bylaws, the teaching faculty and the clinical faculty who do not have more than a one-year appointment are not considered Voting Faculty. This was not an issue in the past because typically clinical and teaching faculty had three-year appointments, but now this year a significant number of teaching faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and other departments have been given one-year contracts. This is an issue that needs to be addressed as ^{soon as possible} possible to allow teaching faculty who only have a one-year appointment to vote and participate in in the proceedings of the Senate.

Response: This issue has been presented to Patrick Long, the Chair of the Bylaws Committee to address prior to the reapportionment process. Patrick has confirmed receipt of the issue and will work with the Bylaws Committee to address this issue.

II. PROVOST REPORT

- **Impact of Executive Orders (EO) on UB Research and Budget:**
 - Executive Orders have begun to arrive to UB Administration at a consistent pace causing concern in the University community.
 - Most recent was from the Director of NIH **reducing Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR).**
 - The current federal rate is 60% and has been **dropped to 15%.**
 - In response, the **New York Attorney General** joined 21 other states filing a lawsuit challenging the directive. The states were successful in **securing a temporary restraining order.**
 - **Impact of cost cut on campus budget:** about \$7 million reduction for the remaining five months of the 2025 fiscal year and a projected \$18 million reduction annually.
 - This is an issue if other governmental agencies [EPA, Department of Education, Department of Energy, etc.] decrease their ICR to the same rate as the NIH.
 - Two grants cancelled because the grants did not align with federal orders and directives related to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

- **University Plan with Current Federal Administration Changes:**
 - SUNY has requested to work with legislators and courts to address EO rather than have individual universities work with officials.
 - UB Counsel is working with (SUNY) General Counsel to ensure the impact of these actions are fully understood by state and federal officials.
 - SUNY has requested that UB communications be in concert with SUNY communications due to the frenetic pace of EOs, interpretations, and court challenges. Therefore, it takes time to receive input from SUNY on status of an EO or court outcome, impacting the pace of communication from UB Administration.
 - UB Administration is working with SUNY Administration to provide the most accurate information in a timely manner.

- **Resources to Support Faculty During this Time:**
 - Concerns for PI, especially those in the early stages of their career. PIs have been contacted.
 - Administration has asked PIs, especially if they have a current grant to reach out to the VPRS office, which is providing individual direction to PIs, especially those that are doing work related to DEI.
 - Launched a 2025 agency guidance website: [2025 Federal Agency Transition Guidance](#)

- **College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search:**
 - Finalists for the search for the next Dean are on campus this week.
 - There are four finalists. They are engaging in extensive meetings with many campus constituents.
 - There are recordings of the forums which will also be available this week on the Dean Search Website, which is on the Provost and the President site: [UB Leadership Searches](#)

Questions and Comments

Q1: There are certain guidelines that can and cannot be used as a representative from SUNY or from University of Buffalo. Would it be possible to have some of those guidelines?

Response: UUP may also have some guidelines in terms of what can be done as individual citizens as opposed to as an employee of the University. It is important to draw the distinction of how to advocate as members of the community versus members of the University of Buffalo community. Those guidelines will be provided.

Q2: Thoughts regarding CAS Dean candidates and taking a position in an ever-changing landscape?

Response: People who seek these opportunities are always generally optimistic and every university will have challenges. The candidates probably desire to be in a role where they think they can make a difference.

III. CHAIR REPORT

Questions and Comments:

Clarification requested from the parliamentarian regarding (1) rules with waiving the Second Reading of a resolution (2) whether universal support would be a reason the Second Reading could be suspended without making the argument for an emergency event and (3) Second Reading requirement when a resolution is passed to the Faculty Senate Committee from the FSEC.

Response:

- *There is a provision within the Bylaws or Standing Orders that allows the Body to amend any particular provision in the event of emergency or if the Body feels that a resolution has a shorter timeframe that will not allow for the Second Reading.*
- *At the Chair's discretion, the Body can suspend its rules for a particular motion or resolution, or for a set of resolutions if there are exigent circumstances where a goal needs to be accomplished quickly.*
- *To suspend the rules a two-thirds vote is required.*
- *Universal support without an emergency event is not a reason to suspend the rules regarding a Second Reading of a resolution.*
- *A Second Reading is required at the Faculty Senate level when a resolution comes from the FSEC. Second Reading can be waived based on points made above regarding exigent circumstances.*

IV. UPDATE ON IT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES—MICHELLE VISSER, IT COMMITTEE, EC LIAISON

Accomplishments Over the Past Year:

- Introduced the new Chief Information Officer for UB.
- A variety of policies and procedures were reviewed:
 - Microsoft quarantine [the email quarantine system]
 - Retirement of software
 - IT services required for faculty
 - Phone services at UB
- Involved in increasing communication and transparency of IT services to faculty.
- The University has acquired two different types of software available now that were recommended in the *2023 Senate IT Committee Survey*:
 - Qualtrics

- Top Hat
- Future Work:
 - Continue to test new tools for UB IT when asked
 - Monitor and suggest updates for communication to faculty about IT concerns.
- Request that faculty communicate their needs to their Faculty Senate Committee IT rep.

Questions and Comments:

Questions regarding whether there is a subscription to You Tube by UB for ad-free videos and when Top Hat subscription will be available as faculty currently has students purchase subscriptions.

Response: Dr. Visser will ask the Chair of the IT Committee for answers to these questions and will provide information to EC.

V. TITLE VI RESOLUTION FROM ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Question and Comments:

Q1: Were these questions asked of anybody in the administration, is it the Committee's thought that it's more appropriate for the Senate to ask them?

CAFR
~~CAFR~~ *member O'Rourke response: The view of the Committee is that asking these questions directly of administration would be overstepping. Direct conversations with administration might not get relayed in a way that would allow the Faculty Senate to appropriately exercise its oversight and governance responsibilities. The Committee believes in a structured and disciplined mechanism where the University answers questions that are designed to elicit transparency. Those questions should come from the Faculty Senate.*

Q2: Is it more appropriate to have this submitted as a memo rather than as a resolution? The FS is asking for answers to questions and not asking for a change in the policies.

Parliamentarian response: The Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate can only act through resolutions. A Committee could submit these (questions) to the Provost or to the President. But it must be done as a resolution with a vote. The FS does not have a process for a memo.

VI. DRAFT MUTUAL AID POLICY FROM ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Question and Comments:

Concern with the third argument. It might appear to some a little controversial in that if it's felt that the university police department requires external support to maintain law and order, in the sense that if this were not the case, then this could constitute a threat to public.

A friendly amendment to the resolution was approved (17 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) to amend the third argument from:

Third, the proposed Policy should be rewritten so it does not authorize the use of outside law enforcement agencies simply to "support the University Police Department (UPD) in its efforts to maintain law and order."

To:

Third, the proposed Policy should be rewritten so it does not authorize the use of outside law enforcement agencies simply to "support the University Police Department (UPD) in its efforts to maintain law and order," as a task distinct from addressing an imminent threat to public safety.

VII. UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE PLENARY MEETING (TABLED UNTIL NEXT FSEC MEETING).

VIII. FS AGENDA 2/18

- Motion was made to change the FS 2/18 Agenda to take out the reports about the University Faculty Senate plenary and to add in the Title VI resolution and the Draft Mutual Aid Policy memo to endorse under New Business. Motion was approved.
- Add Shared Governance Day to the bottom of the agenda, under the Senate Meetings section.

NOTES:

For Shared Governance Day, all senators, all executive committee members, all deans, all provosts, all vice presidents, all committee chairs are invited.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:36p

TPF

Name (original name)	Email	Join time	Leave time
Jessica Naish	jlnaish@buffalo.edu	2/11/2025 14:53	2/11/2025 16:36
lianavardi		2/11/2025 14:54	2/11/2025 16:36
Marsha Christiano		2/11/2025 14:55	2/11/2025 16:36
Turquessa Francis	tpgreen@buffalo.edu	2/11/2025 14:55	2/11/2025 16:36
pjlong		2/11/2025 14:56	2/11/2025 14:58
Michelle Visser	mbvisser@buffalo.edu	2/11/2025 14:56	2/11/2025 16:24
Anthony O'Rourke		2/11/2025 14:56	2/11/2025 16:36
Melinda Lemke, ELP, GGSS		2/11/2025 14:57	2/11/2025 16:36
Barbara Prinari		2/11/2025 14:57	2/11/2025 16:36
Randy Rasmusson		2/11/2025 14:57	2/11/2025 16:32
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A. Scott Weber, University at Buffalo		2/11/2025 14:59	2/11/2025 15:33
Kristin Stapleton	kstaple@buffalo.edu	2/11/2025 14:59	2/11/2025 16:36
Eileen Cain Sherman		2/11/2025 15:00	2/11/2025 16:36
Robert Bies		2/11/2025 15:00	2/11/2025 15:00
psobota		2/11/2025 15:00	2/11/2025 16:16
Sara Metcalf	smetcalf@buffalo.edu	2/11/2025 15:00	2/11/2025 16:35
Robert Granfield		2/11/2025 15:00	2/11/2025 16:36
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FredStoss, UBuff. Librarian		2/11/2025 15:01	2/11/2025 16:36
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Graham Hammill		2/11/2025 15:04	2/11/2025 16:04
Meg DeAngelis		2/11/2025 15:04	2/11/2025 16:36
BMurray		2/11/2025 15:05	2/11/2025 16:36
Sabrina Schwartz		2/11/2025 15:06	2/11/2025 16:13
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otmorey		2/11/2025 15:42	2/11/2025 16:36
psobota		2/11/2025 16:16	2/11/2025 16:35