



University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2024
305 Silverman Library

Attendance: see [FSEC 9 24 24 Attendance](#)

Call to Order

Chair called meeting to order at 3:03pm

Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate Executive Committee 9/24/24 Agenda was made and seconded. All approved.

Actionable Items

- [Minutes from 9/10/24](#) were unanimously approved with 1 abstention.
- [Chair's Report 9/24/24](#) accepted.
- [New Faculty Standing Committee Members](#) that were Voting Faculty were approved.
- [SUNY University Faculty Senate Spring Plenary Resolutions](#) were presented by SUNY Senators Stapleton and Multari to Executive Committee for Endorsement. Resolutions listed passed and 1 resolution did not pass (Graduate Education Standards). EC endorsed the SUNY resolutions that passed. Both SUNY Senators supported the presentation of resolutions that passed to the Faculty Senate for endorsement.

Other Items

Provost Report

- **Tenure, Promotions and Privileges Committee.** Commended Tom Melendy, Tenure, Promotions and Privileges (TPP) Chair and the TPP Committee for Amendments to Tenure and Promotions standards to foster equity and diversity across campus. President Tripathi will promulgate the resolution, and the new standards will take into effect July 1, 2025. Provost Weber also commended the Equity and Diversity Committee for their recommendations to the updated standards. Deans and department chairs will be informed of changes.
- **Enrollment.** Growth in master's enrollment with steady undergraduate enrollment. Focused on increasing enrollment with the following student groups: transfer and international students. 30,500; robust; Greatest number of out of state students. 19K undergraduates.
 - Levers of enrollment that are being considered for Fall 2026: undergraduates; master's students; international graduates; transfers.
 - Retention rate: over 85%; wants retention rate at 90% or higher. Pandemic affected retention and there is upward movement but not to the previously highest level.

- **Departmental Visits.** Provost and President continue to work towards goal of personally meeting with all departments at the University. Both have met with 65 out of 104 departments and continue with the goal this academic year.

Questions and Comments on Provost Report

- Questions were asked regarding Provost Weber's thoughts on enrollment opportunities and limitations both domestically and internationally. There are multiple factors that can increase enrollment and there are many considerations with each factor. All viable options are being researched and considered.
- Comment from EC member regarding the need for more clarity on the budget rather than more information on the ARPP process.

Faculty Senate Standing Committee Membership

- New Faculty Standing Committee Members that were Voting Faculty were approved.
- Motion to vote on the addition of staff members as Standing Committee members was made and seconded. The Executive Committee (EC) discussed the approval of nominees that were staff and not Voting Faculty.
 - EC members noted that decisions made within the Standing Committees impacted faculty and therefore voting on Standing Committee matters should be made by Voting Faculty. Consequently, the requirement stipulated in [Faculty Senate Standing Orders](#) (6A i, ii, iii) should stand, and Standing Committees should be made up of Voting Faculty.
 - EC members discussed the value of staff input as ex-officio members and unanimously (21 yay 0 nay 1 abstention) decided to require that committee members are Voting Faculty with staff to be ex-officio status within the Standing Committees.
 - Motion to table the vote to approve the staff member nominee was made and seconded. Instructions was provided to Faculty Senate Secretary to contact staff members on Standing Committee to inform of updated ex-officio status was presented and accepted by FS Secretary.

Forthcoming Resolutions from Academic Policies and Grading Committee

- Chair requested clarity on the timeframe for presentation of resolutions for review by the EC.
- EC shared that the resolution review process does not stipulate a specific period for resolutions to be presented to the EC for review and resolutions can be presented to the EC for review as stipulated in [Standing Orders of the Executive Committee](#) (1,3,c) . The review process includes discussion and requests from EC members for updates to a resolution presented, which mitigates a compressed review period.
- Chair Laychock shared that there will be possibly two resolutions presented to the EC for review at the 10/8/24 EC meeting from the Academic Policies and Grading committee. One regarding update to the requirements for students to make the Deans' List and another to add *sabotage* to the list of academic Dishonesty Policies.

- EC agreed to review resolutions presented at next EC committee on 10/8/24.

Summaries of SUNY University Faculty Senate Spring Plenary Resolutions

AI Tools for Research (passed)—call for Chancellor to assist faculty gain access to AI tools.

SUNY Cross Campus Research Support (passed)—Encourage sharing of resources across comprehensive SUNY Campuses for research purposes. Included a call for the Chancellor to make resource information more readily available across campuses to encourage use of SUNY bought equipment across comprehensive SUNY campuses.

SUNY Research Communication Enhancement (passed)—encourage creation of research groups across campuses. Research teams from across SUNY campuses coalesce around a research area and receive funding to support their research.

Basic Needs Resource Communication statement on all syllabi (passed)—Campus support services to meet needs of student. Include references to Blue Table, housing references, and financial assistance. This would be in addition to the Student Wellness resources that are already available in syllabi.

Progress Report on the Financial Sustainability of SUNY Campuses (passed)—Request that the Chancellor produces an annual report on the financial sustainability of state operating campuses. This request is due to some state campuses functioning with deficits and the need for transparency of financial health of state campuses.

Graduate Education Standards (did not pass)—presented a plan for sharing of standards to ensure degree quality across SUNY campuses. SUNY FS felt this level of oversight would be too intrusive and campuses should manage their own assurances of quality.

Change name of Tenure, Promotions and Privileges Standing Committee

- Chair Laychock proposed that the name of the Tenure, Promotions and Privileges Committee be changed to be more inclusive of all faculty lines.
- With the faculty that are not tenure, the name of this committee may imply that the Tenure, Promotions and Privileges Standing Committee is only considering matters related to tenure track faculty and not other faculty lines.
- EC member Doerzbacher supported this proposal. Policies for non-tenure track are department/schools specific and not clear across the University.
- Dr. Granfield has a committee completing a handbook for clinical promotions. He will be invited to provide information on the progress of this handbook.
- EC member Prinari shared that clear guidelines for promotions of clinical faculty are needed.
- SUNY Senator Stapleton suggested a name change and then provide a charge to the Tenure, Promotions and Privileges Standing Committee to address this issue.
- Chair will present this proposal for further discussion at next EC meeting on 10/8/24.

Office of Curriculum and Teaching Transformation (CATT) office move from North Campus to Downtown Campus

- Executive Committee members shared concern that the CATT Office was moved to the Downtown campus. Concern was due to the (1) the move of an office that is widely used by faculty on the north campus to a campus that is further away and less accessible to faculty who primarily uses the services of the office (2) a move of a

faculty used office without consultation with UB faculty or Faculty Senate and (3) moving a faculty facing office away from faculty without faculty input.

- Chair will invite Dr. Hammill to share the process for moving CATT to the Downtown campus.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

TPF

