



University at Buffalo  
Faculty Senate  
University Shared Governance  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2025  
Zoom

Attendance: see attached attendance.

## Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:02pm

## Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate Executive Committee [FSEC 1\\_28\\_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 12\\_10\\_24 Meeting Minutes](#) was approved [21 yay, 0 nay, 1 abstain].
- [FSEC Chair Report 1\\_28\\_25](#) was accepted.
- [Resolution recommending changes in the recognition of teaching activities](#) from the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee was approved by [12/22 yay, 0/22 nay, 0/22 abstained] to move resolution forward to Faculty Senate for a First Reading.
- [Resolution to Amend the University at Buffalo Name Change Policy](#) from the Equity and Diversity Standing Committee was approved 11/22 yay, 0/22 nay, 1/22 abstain to move resolution forward to Faculty Senate for a First Reading.

## Other Items

### I. SECRETARY REPORT

- Each academic unit and the University libraries will receive an email from the FS Elections Committee specifying the number of Senate seats that the unit is entitled to for the upcoming academic year, with the request that those units provide the senatorial information by March 1st.
- The Elections Committee will also request that each unit provides the allotted Faculty Senate Executive Committee rep for that unit with a request for the information to be provided by April 1st.
- The Elections Committee will meet February 3 to discuss the 2025 reapportionment with a timeline of the process provided at the next FSEC meeting.

- Emanuela, Gionfriddo, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry requested to join the Budget Priorities Committee. Dr. Gionfriddo's information was provided to EC for approval. Motion to appointment Dr. Gionfriddo to the Budget Priorities Committee was unanimously approved.

## II. PROVOST REPORT

- **Executive Orders Impact on UB.** President Tripathi and Provost Weber are working with SUNY Counsel and Campus Counsel to understand the implications of the impact of the new administration's Executive Orders on campus research, pedagogy, and operations. Information will be provided when it becomes available.
- **HWI-UB.** Hauptman-Woodward Research Institute (HWI) officially joined UB on January 2. This builds on the existing strength in structural biology research and will enable new collaborations and educational opportunities to accelerate research advances.
  - Jason Benedict, Associate Professor of Chemistry will serve as the Interim Director of UB-HWI.
  - Dr. Benedict is looking forward to working with faculty across UB to ensure a smooth transition and to facilitate the work of the institute.

### Faculty Awards

- **Dr. Margarita Dubocovich**, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). The award is the nation's highest honor for science, mathematics and engineering mentors. Link to story: [White House Honors Dubocovich With Award - Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences - University at Buffalo](#)
- National Institutes of Health awarded UB the Clinical Translation Science Institute over \$28 million over seven years to build to improve health outcomes and address health disparities throughout Western New York. PI for this grant is Dr. Timothy Murphy, SUNY Distinguished Professor. Link to story: [NIH awards UB \\$28.4 million to build on strong foundation improving health outcomes, addressing disparities through translational science](#)
- **Dr. Katie Stalker**, Associate Professor of Social Work, is a principal investigator of a new \$3.6 million grant from the Department of Education in partnerships with Erie1 BOCES to increase the number of highly trained school-based social workers in rural communities.
- The Department of Energy awarded \$3 million to **Dr. Miao Yu**, a SUNY Empire Innovation Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering to develop new membrane technologies that reduce the amount of energy, solvents, and other steps required to produce common products.
- The faculty of UB's Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program, led by principal investor **Dr. Alexandra Oprea**, assistant professor of Philosophy, has received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to examine how inclusive immigration practices in a rust belt city like Buffalo affect democracy and democratic norms.

**College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search.** The search committee recently held the first round interviews. Candidates will be at UB the early part of February. Provost encourages all to take time to engage with the finalists through the open forums held for each of candidate and to provide relevant feedback throughout the available survey tool that will become distributed.

**UB Bulls.** UB Bulls football team capped the season this year with a bowl win defeating Liberty 26-7 to win the 2024 Bahamas Bowl, the fourth straight bowl win and the second of the modern era.

## **Questions and Comments**

### **EC Committee Member**

**Q1:** What does it mean that all federal funding is being held up now from NIH and NSF? And are there going to be conditions with this funding, do you expect?

*All college administrators, including those at UB are working to determine the impact of the shift in federal funding from the new administration's Executive Orders. There have been lawsuits that have been filed nationally to maintain funding. There will be more to come, and the campus will be kept well informed once there is more clarity.*

**Comment:** Hope the candidates for the Dean position will get a chance to have open conversations with the faculty to discuss faculty concerns.

*There will be open forums. The Dean candidates also get a chance to meet with the chairs as a group, and get a chance to talk to a wide cross section of stakeholders.*

### **III. CHAIR REPORT**

#### **Questions and Comments:**

Comment from EC Members indicating that the Budget Priorities Committee should also be involved in the planning stages of the new AI Department because the funding from SUNY is term limited and there needs to be a clear idea of how the university is planning on sustaining this department once the SUNY funding runs out or ends.

Comment from RC Member requesting that all resolutions from 2023-2024 be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

#### **IV. E. WEINRAUB LAJOIE [VICE PROVOST FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES] AND C. HOLLISTER [LIBRARIAN AND HEAD OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION]**

- Provided a report on publication costs and contracts with the library.
- Changes in technology and the way information is shared has changed the scholarly publishing model, which impacts publication access and authorship.
- Publishers are pushing library towards big deal publishing packages, which impacts the library budget.

#### **Shifting Publisher Model Results in Article (or Author) Processing Charges [APCs].**

- The scholarly journal publishers and particularly large commercial operations have appropriated a considerable segment of the open access movement. This has been accomplished by shifting from a subscription-based business model to an author pay or an author processing charges model.
  - Publishers levy funds to make author papers accessible via open access and those charges range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 can be as high as \$12,000.
  - APCs have been profitable for publishers, especially for those in the commercial sector.

- This explains why many journals are moving to hybrid or to fully open access models and why some publishers such as Wiley are reported to be pressuring their editors to accept more papers open access.
- To counter the challenges rather of the APC the library has been experimenting with a variety of open access licensing and publishing agreements that try to bring together institutional access to scholarly materials and includes the cost of open access publishing services.
  - These are generally referred to as **transformative publishing agreements**. There are several types of these agreements, but the most common that are known as *read and publish* or *subscribe to open*.
    - *Read and publish agreements* provide institutional affiliated access to a negotiated amount of a publisher's scholarly journal content.
    - They also permit an institutionally affiliated author to publish open access in the journal with no associated author processing charges. To subscribe to open model requires a sufficient community of institutional subscribers to offset the cost of publishing.
    - This model is often applied to individual journal titles, but it can also be used to include a publisher's partial or their full catalog. So once the required number of subscribers is achieved, the targeted journal titles are made fully open access.
    - Provides global access. Access is not limited to subscribing members and associated author processing charge waivers may or may not be limited to institutional subscribers. More often than not, that will depend on whether the publisher is a for profit or a non-for-profit entity.
- Open access licensing and publishing agreements are relatively new and to date the libraries have cautiously entered into such agreements with a small number of university presses, professional associations and scholarly societies.
  - Cost remains a concern for such agreements and the option of a subvention fund to offset faculty costs is not sustainable.
- University libraries continue to use data to determine the necessity of certain agreements. Data reviews potential agreements that have the greatest potential for UB authors.
- Current University Libraries open access agreements: [Article Processing Charges](#)

### **Questions and Comments:**

- EC member commented on subvention fund and the usage of such a fund for new faculty. This fund is not sustainable and cannot be fully funded based on metrics of need. *Other options provided included having article processing charges included in startup packages for tenure-track faculty, utilize grants to pay fees, include funds in department budget.*
- EC member commented on the long-term financial impact of the shift from subscription based to open access, where it is possible that as the shift continues, there will be more funds available for transformative agreements to occur. Subscription costs will decrease, leaving funds for transformative agreements. *The shift from subscription to transformative agreements will not result in the availability of funds for more transformative agreements. Publishers will continue to shift payment models/requirements, which will continue to make publication costs rise.*

## V. Teaching and Learning

### Questions and Comments:

- Executive Committee members shared that the Teaching and Learning Committee should consider having a subcommittee within the standing committee to allow for more flexibility with the structure of the proposed Faculty Awards Committee. The Chair and Secretary of the Teaching and Learning committee shared that the work of the proposed faculty Awards Committee would require more time and structure than a subcommittee could provide.

VI. Update on IT Committee Activities tabled for next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:36p

TPF

Name (original name)	Email	Join time	Leave time
Jessica Naish	jlnaish@buffalo.edu	1/28/2025 14:51	1/28/2025 16:36
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Suzanne Laychock		1/28/2025 14:55	1/28/2025 16:36
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Barbara Prinari		1/28/2025 14:58	1/28/2025 16:36
Jake Carlson		1/28/2025 14:58	1/28/2025 15:58
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JW		1/28/2025 15:55	1/28/2025 16:05
JW		1/28/2025 16:06	1/28/2025 16:36