



University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2024
305 Capen Hall—Silverman Library

Attendance: see attached attendance.

Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:05pm

Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate Executive Committee [11 12 24 Agenda](#) was made by the Faculty Senate Chair. Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded; EC unanimously approved the agenda.

Actionable Items

- [10 29 24 FSEC Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [Chair Report 11 12 24](#) was accepted.
- SUNY Senator Phil Glick and Faculty Senator Barbara Prinari will assist with organizing Shared Governance Day scheduled for March 4, 2025.
- The Teaching and Learning Standing Committee will continue to compile information on teaching awards across the University.
- [11 19 24 Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda](#) was unanimously approved.

Other Items

I. CHAIR REPORT

- **Standing Committee Name Change Update**
 - Parliamentarian Patrick Long is now the Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Faculty Senate Chair provided a request to the Bylaws Committee to consider approval of the name change for the Committee on Tenure, Promotions, and Privileges to the Committee on Appointments, Promotion, Tenure, and Privileges.
- **UB Policy Updates**
 - **Policies for Camping, Assembling, and Posting [Time, Place, and Manner policies].** Revised policies have been posted on UB Policy website: [Updated Time, Place and Manner Policies](#).
 - **Mutual Aid Policy.** Mutual Aid Policy Working Group met this week to complete review and recommendations of the draft policy. The draft will be sent by the Chair of the Working Group to President Tripathi this week for review.

- **SUNY RFP for AI Department, Centers, and Institutes**

- UB Provost Scott Weber will submit proposal this November to obtain funds to develop an AI Department at UB.

Questions and Comments:

- SUNY Senator and Budget Priorities Committee Chair Phil Glick requested thoughts from President Tripathi regarding federal money that was promised to New York and UB prior to the current election and what might happen with the reconciliation of the budget.
 - Chair Laychock will follow-up with President Tripathi and report back to EC.
- Faculty Senators shared recent events at UB involving students in the Global Gender Studies Department (GGSD) and Muslim Student Association (MSA). A group of 8 students with MAGA political affiliations targeted the two groups. Students from the GGSD were blocked from their classroom and students in the MSA were targeted during a scheduled meeting.
 - Faculty Senators shared concerns for these events and would like to learn from the administration what measures will be taken to investigate the situation and to prevent future instances of harassment.

II. PRESENTATION BY DR. GRAHAM HAMMILL, VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF GRADUATE SCHOOL ON SUNY RFP RE: AI DEPTS, CENTERS, INSTITUTES

- SUNY issued a request for proposals to the PhD-granting institutions—UB, Stony Brook, Albany, Binghamton, Upstate and Downstate Medical requesting proposals to develop either an institute, a center, or a department in AI. There seems to be a strong preference for a department or an entity that can deliver education.
 - Part of the governor's broader agenda, ensuring that New York State is a leader in AI and that higher education plays a significant role in guiding the future of AI.
 - Three components to formation of an AI Department: Proposal, Vision, and Governance.
 - **Proposal:** The proposal is offering funding for three years. Proposals have to ask for at least for \$500,000 and can ask for up to \$2 million.
 - One submission per institution. Provost Weber is taking the lead on the submission. The RFP was issued **October 25th**, and the proposals are due **November 25th**. **Funding decision provided mid-December.**
 - UB proposing a department that would be shared between Engineering and the College.
 - **Vision:** Department would have graduate programs, master's program, PhD program that would combine AI technical, technological competencies with competencies in areas such as information integrity, social analysis, history of technology. AI technological competencies will be delivered by Engineering Department.
 - At the undergraduate level, the AI Department would partner with existing departments to develop bachelor's degree programs that would integrate AI and competencies with existing areas of disciplinary expertise.
 - AI+ model, for example, AI plus English, History, Public Health, etc. The faculty in the AI Department would deliver a core curriculum that would have some technological competencies around AI and some competencies in the areas such as social analysis, history of technology that would go into the social analysis and understanding of the impact of generative AI.
 - In terms of the faculty in the department, there will be opportunities for current faculty at UB to have joint appointments in the new department or to move their lines over to the new department, more to be determined, if funded. There will also be faculty hiring, specifics also to be determined, if funded.
 - **Governance:** Once proposal decision is made, the administrative leads would bring together interested faculty to work on developing their curriculum. The Faculty Senate will also be engaged to begin the review process and make recommendations about the Department.

- Dr. Hammill has begun speaking with Dr. Diane Christian who chairs the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee to give that Committee the opportunity to prepare on addressing the specifics of the curriculum.
- The involvement of the Faculty Senate does not follow the usual structure due to short turnaround time for proposal submission. This variance has been noted by administration and steps will be taken to involve the Faculty Senate on curricular and budgetary standards.
- This is currently in the proposal stage and there are many areas that need to be addressed if funded.

Questions and Comments:

- **Budgetary Concerns.** Faculty Senator and Budget Priorities Committee member Barbara Prinari shared concerns about the long-term budgetary implications after the formation of the AI Department. With a 3-year funding period, how would the Department's faculty lines and administrators be funded beyond the initial 3-year period?
 - *The proposal has a sustainability component that will need to be further clarified by Provost Weber. The Budget Priorities Committee will be involved in the project, if the proposal is funded.*
- **Role of Engineering and + Department clarification.** Is the new AI Department going to be in the Engineering or "+" Department?
 - *Engineering would deliver the technological competencies component of the curriculum. The "+" Department's undergraduate supports would address the needs of the students.*
- **Determining the "+" Departments in the AI+ degrees.** How is it going to be determined what the "+" is? What's the list of those "+"?
 - *At this time, the focus is on faculty who are interested or have structured use of AI in their classroom. These instructors and programs will be the beginning point for the x component.*
- **Teach Anywhere.** Is this Program still active?
 - *Convened the Teach Anywhere group to reduce the silos for faculty members to allow for easy access to different offices that support faculty instruction. However, post-COVID and with a new CIO, this initiative requires an update to its implementation. Further information should be provided in a month or two once updated information is specified.*

III. SHARED GOVERNANCE DAY PLANNING FOR 2025

- Shared Governance Day will be March 4, 2025
- Committee has been formed to organize the upcoming Shared Governance Day: SUNY Senator Phil Glick and Faculty Senator Barbara Prinari.

IV. FINAL TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER POLICIES

Questions and Comments:

- **Concerns**
 - Posting policy did not seem to take into consideration faculty members' concern that the policy impacts their ability to post informational messages for their students (class time change, conferences, etc.).
 - Lack of clarity on the enforcement of violations of policies that were finalized.
- **Committee on Academic Freedom Responsibility**
 - Largely viewed revised policies as a success.
 - The overall tone of the policies improved and strike a reasonable balance regarding the amplification.
 - In the posting policy, the chalking provision and the language requiring contact information was removed, and that was viewed as very positive.
 - The posting policy is too restrictive.

- There are broad questions about implementation and enforcement.
- **Administration Clarification on Enforcement**
 - Could the Chief of Police discuss the process when violation of policies occurs?
 - What is the role of Associate Vice President for the University Facilities with violations of the Posting policy?

V. **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION AND FS STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Teaching and Learning Committee have been compiling a list of all the teaching awards at the University, departmental, school, to have a comprehensive idea about how and who are being served by these awards and whether there are sufficient awards.
 - Faculty Senate Chair wanted to discuss with the EC whether the Teaching and Learning Committee should be involved with faculty development and recognition, or should there be a separate Faculty Senate committee on Faculty Development and Recognition?

Questions and Comments:

- Teaching and Learning EC Liaison and member shared that it seems that with a committee charged with responsibility for teaching in the University, part of that charge is being aware of and recognizing quality teaching when it becomes apparent, and the Committee members are looking at those awards that recognize quality teaching. It can be viewed as part of teaching evaluations. It could be one of the modalities by which appointment promotion and tenure committees view or can testify to quality teaching.
- Dr. Bob Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs:
 - A separate Faculty Senate Committee for faculty development and recognition is not required. There is already a structure for awarding teaching excellence at the University in Faculty Affairs Office with support of the nomination process by departments.
 - A possible role for the Faculty Senate could be sponsoring or encouraging more nomination of faculty for the available teaching awards such as the SUNY-level Distinguished Professors.
 - Another possible role would be to think about a different focus for an award such as a new faculty award or emerging scholars.

Dr. Jing Wang, FSEC member

Current concerns with teaching faculty recognition:

- Appreciates that this topic is being discussed and the Teaching and Learning Committee is compiling a robust list of teaching awards.
- Teaching efforts and hard work of teaching faculty are not valued.
- There are limited pathways for promotion for teaching faculty as many of the opportunities for advancement require applicants to be on a tenure-track line.
- The lack of promotion opportunities and recognition result in high turnover affecting student learning and departmental costs to train new faculty.
- Hopefully, the efforts of teaching faculty will be recognized for the students and departments.

Agenda items tabled due to lack of time:

- Charges to FS Committees; liaisons

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

Satish Tripathi –

PROVOST OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

A. Scott Weber –

INVITED GUESTS:

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UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP:

Robert Granfield – *PRESENT*

Graham Hammill – *PRESENT*

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OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Naish – *PRESENT*

Fred Stoss –

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