

 **University at Buffalo**
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2025
Jeanett Martin Room | 567 Capen Hall

Attendance: see attached attendance.

Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:03pm

Agenda Approved

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

Actionable Items

- [FSEC 2-22-25 Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [FSEC Chair Report 2-25-25](#) was accepted.
- Budget Priorities Committee will present at the annual ARPP meeting on March 3, 2025, summarizing the results of the Budget Priorities Faculty Survey to provide input to UB administration on usage of discretionary funds.

Other Items

I. PROVOST REPORT

- On 2/14/25, a Dear Colleague letter was sent by the Department of Education.
 - The letter addressed the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and directs all K through 12 and higher-ed institutions to abolish all DEI programs and activities, which the federal administration has determined to violate civil rights laws.
 - Institutions that fail to comply face potential loss of federal funding--research funding and student aid funds. Potential student aid loss of \$400 million.
 - The federal administration gave 2 weeks [until 2/28] to comply.
 - 2/21/25-- a federal judge in Maryland, issued a partial injunction; SUNY and UB administration waiting for further direction from the courts.
- The NY Attorney General, Governor of NY, and SUNY Chancellor are working together to inform (SUNY campus) Presidents to provide direction to campuses to make decisions regarding next steps with requirements made in the Dear Colleague letters.
 - In preparation, UB is looking at websites, offices, and scholarships that could be impacted by the requirements made in the Dear Colleague letter to develop a plan for court outcomes.

Questions and Comments

Q: Will there be a budget on campus by July 1st? Is there an anticipation of funding from the state to SUNY to UB?

Response: There will be a budget by July 1st. Governor Hochul has requested funding from the State for SUNY. This request has not been approved yet and the requested funds will not be included in the July 1st budget unless approved by the State. Federal funding is also a budgetary area that is not solidified; and the UB administration has to wait to learn the status of federal funding.

II. CHAIR REPORT

Questions and Comments:

Q: Does the Bylaws have provisions for Senators who would like to serve a third term without taking a term break?

Response: The Bylaws do not allow for an emergency extension of term. The Faculty Senate can, in the event of exigency, change the rules for that situation, but it should be an area that is dealt with in the Bylaws.

III. UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE PLENARY MEETING 1/16-17

- On February 7-9, the SUNY faculty Senate joined with CUNY to host a conference in Albany called [Public Good U.](#)
 - The SUNY and CUNY chancellors and various distinguished speakers discussed how to make the case for the value of the work of public higher education; faculty at SUNY and CUNY engaged in work of benefit to the public, made presentations.
 - **Topics included how** SUNY and CUNY are together coordinating efforts to educate incarcerated people to help them finish their degrees and find employment after they are released.
 - **Winter Plenary Session:**
 - Reports from the Winter Plenary session can be found here: [Plenary Documents](#)

Highlights:

- University Faculty Senate President Keith Landau reported on his work, including a project to develop AI tutors that might assist student teaching and learning.
- SUNY has recruited a new Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Julie Hartley-Moore. Dr. Hartley-Moore comes from the Utah Higher Ed system.
- The Chancellor reported gains in enrollment across the SUNY system.
- ACE [Advancing Completion through Engagement]—a new tool to retain students and help them graduate.
 - Involves counseling and individual attention to students who are at risk.

- The Chancellor made note of the [PRODiG](#) program where campuses are allowed to recruit postdocs as long as they have a guarantee there's a tenured track position available for the Fellow at the university.
- The Chancellor outlined the issues the SUNY system is focusing on related to the presidential transition.
- SUNY hopes for the new state budget to learn funds that will be provided to SUNY by NYS.
- An election will be held this spring for someone to succeed Keith Landa as the University Faculty Senate President and Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.
- **Faculty Recognition.** Increase the opportunities for faculty recognition across the SUNY system.
- **Academic Review Process.** Develop an academic program review process to enhance what's existing and create additional initiatives to improve or identify ways that academic programs can improve or enhance what is being delivered to students.
- **AI.**
 - Eight SUNY institutions are creating either departments of AI and Society or AI Centers or AI Institutes.
 - **AI tutor** --help student learning in an online environment.
 - **SUNY GPT**—an AI engine.
 - Effective Fall 2026, an **AI competency** will be added to the information literacy general education competency that is in place.
 - The Board of Trustees has issued a more consistent policy process for any campus that wants to issue a degree posthumously.
- Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Enrollment Management gave a presentation about SUNY's current enrollment. There has been a lot of emphasis and work towards transfer students and improving the transfer pipeline.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Was there any discussion with the AI initiatives? Did anybody raise a concern about AI generally because it seems that the students' use of AI has negatively impacted learning from the perspective of some faculty.

This is a good question for Keith Landa. He is the current President of the University Faculty Senate and the head of the Teaching and Learning Center there. He is also involved the task forces that focus on AI use by faculty. There are also issues with cheating and the impact of AI on the environment, which may also be addressed by an AI task force.

At UB, the Center for Advanced Learning on Teaching has an AI fellowship to assist with understanding what the students are doing and how to positively use AI in the classroom.

IV. BUDGET PRIORITIES COMMITTEE-ARPP BUDGET PRIORITIES 2025

- The Budget Priorities Committee will present at the Annual Resource Planning Program (ARPP) meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025. Their presentation will provide input to the UB administration on how to allocate discretionary funds effectively, incorporating faculty input, via survey [*Faculty Budget Priorities Survey*] results, on the best ways to utilize these available funds.
- Ranked Order of Budgetary Priorities from Faculty Budget Priorities Survey:
 1. Faculty Hiring, Retention, and Recognition
 2. Academic programs
 3. Academic and Student Support
 4. Enrollment/Retention Strategies
 5. Faculty, Staff, and Student Diversity
 6. Communications and Advancement
- Open ended responses have been analyzed and assigned to budgetary categories to present at ARPP meeting.

Question and Comments:

Q1: Is it possible to condense the open-ended question responses to two areas that faculty emphasized in their responses to inform the ARPP presentation.

The plan is to emphasize a small number of budgetary priorities using the responses from the survey responses.

Q2: Is the BPC providing information on the budgetary priorities accumulated from the surveys or they asking to fund specific initiatives [for example requesting more funds for TA support]?

Both will be done. Prioritizing the budgetary categories and analyzing open-ended responses to determine patterns with areas of budgetary needs/requests.

Notes: *Senate Committee Organization, Staffing, and Reporting* tabled for next FSEC meeting scheduled for 3/11/25.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:35p

TPF

