

 **University at Buffalo**  
**Faculty Senate**  
University Shared Governance  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
April 8, 2025  
Jeanette Martin Room | 567 Capen Hall

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 4-8-25 Agenda](#) 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 3-11-25 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- ! [FS Chair Report 4-8-25](#) was accepted.
- ! At the next FS meeting on April 15, 20225, FSEC member will request an amendment to the [Resolution Regarding the Formation of a Department of AI & Society](#) to remove the statement regarding the reporting structure of the proposed department for more discussion on the administrative roles of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (SEAS).
  - o! Current statement: THEREFORE, be it resolved that a new Department of AI and Society, shared by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and *reporting to SEAS*, be established.
  - o! Statement that will be proposed: THEREFORE, be it resolved that a new Department of AI and Society, shared by the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) be established.
- ! [Budget Priorities Committee—ARPP Final Budget Priorities](#) presented. Top 3 priorities as determined by Committee to present to Provost Weber for ARPP meeting: (1) Faculty Hiring, Retention and Recognition (2) Academic and Student Support and (3) Academic Programs.
- ! [Resolution re: Stop-the-Clock](#) from the Tenure, Promotions and Privileges (TPP) Committee was presented. FSEC voted (15 yea, 1 nay, 0 abstain) to return the resolution to TPP Committee to modify resolution to better reflect the intent of the resolution—raising awareness of the options available to faculty without pressuring faculty to act.
- ! FSEC voted unanimously to: (1) create a (Standing Committee) Appointments Subcommittee of the FSEC and (2) appoint members of the Appointments Subcommittee: Peter Saboda, Sabrina Schwartz, and Aditya Vedantam with Kristin Stapleton, FS Chair-Elect and Turquessa Francis, FS Secretary as ex-officio members.
- ! Faculty Senate Agenda for 4-15-25 was amended to move Continuing Business prior to Featured Speaker to allow adequate time to present and discuss the establishment of the AI & Society Department. Amended agenda approved.

## Other Items

### I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### **University Leadership Addressing Immigration Concerns for International Community**

- ! The university acknowledges the distress felt by international students, faculty, and staff due to recent immigration enforcement changes.
- ! An email was sent to international students detailing available resources, including counseling, financial and legal assistance.
- ! Advising services and communications have been adapted to better support international students.
- ! Faculty and staff were also kept informed of the situation and resources that are available.

#### **Nationwide Impact and University Response**

- ! This is a national issue: international students at various universities are receiving notices to leave the U.S., often due to minor infractions like traffic violations, linked to a cross-referencing of visa and criminal databases.
- ! At the university, 13 individuals were affected.
- ! The university is proactively identifying affected students through database checks and offering individual outreach and support.
- ! Students are being told to leave the country "immediately," though the exact timeline is unclear.

#### **Ongoing Support and Legal Complexities**

- ! The university is helping impacted students continue or complete their studies when possible, sometimes through tailored academic accommodations.
- ! Some students have already left; others are considering legal action or applying for reinstatement, though this process is risky and often biased, as it's overseen by the same authorities who terminated their status.

#### **Faculty and Border Concerns**

- ! No faculty have been affected yet through this enforcement mechanism, but many, including Canadian citizens, are fearful about crossing borders.
- ! The university is doing its best to guide faculty and staff, despite the uncertainty of the current immigration climate.

#### **H-1B and Visa Processing Issues**

- ! The Faculty Senate and Academic Freedoms Subcommittee raised concerns about delays in H-1B visa processing.
- ! The administration is aware of a few affected cases and continues to monitor the situation closely, providing support as needed.

### II. BUDGET PRIORITIES COMMITTEE—ARPP BUDGET PRIORITIES FINAL

#### **Key needs with each Budget Priority**

- 1.! **Faculty Hiring, Retention, and Recognition** – Highest priority.
  - o! Key needs: consistent bridge funding policies, top-tier faculty and grad student recruitment/retention, improved IRB and sponsored project services, and better administrative support for research.
- 2.! **Academic and Student Support**
  - o! Key needs: more PhD student support (including 48 funding lines and tuition assistance), improved departmental-level staff support, support for experiential learning, and access to software and open access publishing resources.
- 3.! **Academic Programs**
  - o! Key needs: more funding for teaching and research assistantships, administrative support for research and academic functions, and overall research infrastructure improvement.

### **III. FSEC APPOINTMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE**

#### **Standing Committee Chairs Confirmed by FS Chair-Elect**

Academic Planning and Assessment: Diane Christian

Budget Priorities: Philip Glick

Bylaws: Patrick Long

Elections: Turquessa Francis

Information Technology: Jessica Kruger

Library: Frank Scannapieco

Teaching and Learning: Ceci Martinez Leon

Tenure, Promotion, and Privileges: Robert Bies

#### **Standing Committees Awaiting Confirmation of Chairs:**

Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Academic Policies and Grading

Equity and Diversity

Research and Creative Activities

Ad-hoc Faculty Awards and Recognition

#### **Proposed Structure of Standing Committee membership:**

- ! Form a new *Appointments Subcommittee* of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- ! A call for volunteers will be emailed to all Voting Faculty to confirm interest in joining a committee.
- ! The Appointments Subcommittee will collaborate with the FS chair-elect, secretary, and committee chairs to review applications and make committee membership recommendations.
- ! Final appointments of chairs and members will be confirmed by the full Executive Committee at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting; and an appointment letter will be provided to confirmed chairs and committee members following the FSEC confirmations.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:39p

**TPF**





