



University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2025
Jeanette Martin Room | 567 Capen Hall

Attendance: see attached attendance.

Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Agenda Approved

- A motion to amend the proposed [FSEC 5-6-25 Agenda](#) to change the order of New Business items was made by UFS Senator Stapleton. The amendment request was to present the UFS resolutions first and then the resolution from the Academic Planning and Assessment (AP&A) Committee. The request was made due to the connection between one of the approved UFS resolutions and the resolution being brought forth by the AP&A Committee where the approved UFS resolution would provide more clarity and support to the AP&A resolution being proposed.
- Motion to amend the agenda was seconded and approved. FSEC voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

Actionable Items

- [FSEC 4-22-25 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [FS Chair Report 5-6-25](#) was accepted.
- [FS Committee Rosters](#) unanimously approved.
- [UFS Plenary resolutions Spr 2025](#) unanimously endorsed by FSEC and approved the presentation of all resolutions to FS at the May 13 FS Meeting to review and vote for endorsement by FS.
- [Resolution: Faculty Support for a United Action Against Governmental Overreach](#) from Academic Planning and Assessment Committee was amended by adding the following text put forth by UFS Senator Stapleton: [[Amended resolution text May 6](#)]
 - Amendment was unanimously approved by FSEC.
 - Amended resolution was unanimously approved by FSEC to present at next FS Meeting on May 13, 2025 for review and vote to accept.
- Proposed [FS 5-13-25 Agenda](#) was amended and approved as amended.
 - Motion was made to amend the agenda to change the order of New Business to reflect the change that was made to the FSEC agenda as noted above. SUNY UFS resolutions will be presented first followed by the Resolution: Faculty Support for a United Action Against Governmental Overreach.
 - Amendment was also made to change the committee that will present the resolution from the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
 - Both amendments were seconded and unanimously approved.

Other Items

I. PRESIDENT REPORT

• Grants

- **NSF.** Effective May 5, 2025, all grant proposals must be submitted with indirect costs to not exceed 15%. National organizations (AAU, APLU, etc.) are legally challenging this requirement. Updates on outcomes of legal challenges will be announced as they become available.
- **NIH.** Indicated that if an institution spends money awarded by NIH, the institute is certifying that they are following guidelines for DEI. No interpretation from the government on the specifics of those guidelines.
- Bridge funding is available from the Spencer Foundation for faculty impacted by grant cancellations. These grants are for up to \$25,000 and intended to address immediate needs following a grant cancellation, such as data collection, data analysis and preparation of proposals to continue research.

Questions and Comments:

Q: Is it possible to have information about the plan for the reconfiguration of the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs?

Many of the duties of the Office will remain the same. What is being separated is the student success items, which will be placed back in undergraduate education, which was the historical home for those items in previous years. Returning to Faculty Affairs will be areas such as teaching and learning.

Comments by Provost:

- Provision of legal strategy of UB with federal changes that are being implemented. Legal action is not taken specifically by UB. Specific, legal action is taken by either SUNY or New York State, or member organizations (AAMC in terms of the medical school, APLU, AAU, etc.) and UB administration provides the UB community with updates on legal outcomes that impact the university.
- Enrollment: undergraduate enrollment is strong, graduate enrollment is challenging. International Master's enrollment will be significantly impacted the next academic year due to federal immigration changes. Schools that would be most likely impacted: Schools of Engineering and Management.

II. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE FS COMMITTEE ROSTER 2025-2026

• Committees not included in roster for FSEC approval:

- Equity and Diversity
- Ad Hoc Awards and Faculty Recognition subcommittee
 - waiting to confirm the chairs of committees
- Campus and Sustainability Committee
 - Though there was motion to create the committee five years ago, the committee was not placed in the governance documents.

Notes:

- In the Fall 2025 FSEC meeting the following needs to be addressed:
 - Discussion regarding the committees that are needed
 - Methods of recruiting committee members for fair unit representation on each committee

- The need for a clinical faculty representation in the Tenure, Promotion and Privileges committee

III. When FS Goals differ from administrative goals, what is the best process to voice these concerns and differences and affect change?

The following points were made during the discussion:

- **Faculty vs. Administration Goals** – Tensions arise when faculty senate goals, often focused on academic freedom, careers, and faculty-centered issues, differ from administration's priorities of running an efficient university.
- **Communication and Processes** – Resolutions sometimes pass through the faculty senate but are not promulgated by administration. This raises questions about the proper next steps, the role of direct communication with administrators, and how to voice unresolved concerns.
- **Role of the Senate Chair** – Past chairs have relied on frequent meetings with the provost and president to advocate informally for senate concerns. While effective at times, some faculty question whether such private discussions align with the democratic spirit of the senate.
- **Shared Governance vs. Management Authority** – Disagreements exist about the limits of shared governance. Some argue that resolutions should not be put forward if the administration will not approve them, while others contend this undermines the senate's purpose and voice.
- **Strengthening Faculty Engagement** – Increasing faculty involvement, transparency, and collective action is seen as essential to making the senate more influential. Suggestions include revisiting unapproved resolutions, reframing proposals, and ensuring faculty service is valued and recognized.
- **Unpromulgated Resolutions** – Faculty resolutions (e.g., requests for representation on committees) sometimes stall without clear explanations. Faculty suggests the administration should explain decisions when resolutions are not signed.
- **Role of the Senate Chair & Faculty Duty** – Some argue it is the faculty's duty to bring forward important resolutions even if they may not be approved, while the chair should mediate and pursue compromise with administration.
- **Defining Shared Governance** – There is uncertainty about the boundaries between faculty governance (e.g., curriculum, academics) and administrative authority (management, budget, operations). Faculty stress the need to clarify these roles to avoid inefficiency and frustration.
- **Future Direction & Faculty Involvement** – Times of institutional challenge increase the need for faculty participation in governance. Proposals include dedicated discussions or structured orientations/retreats to clarify mandates, build faculty engagement, and strengthen the senate's role.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:34 p.m.

TPF