

 **University at Buffalo**  
**Faculty Senate**  
University Shared Governance  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 11, 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 3-25-25 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 2-25-25 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- ! [FS Chair Report 3-11-25](#) 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.
- ! [Resolution for Bylaws change re: Voting Faculty](#) from the Bylaws Committee was presented to the EC. Addition of two friendly amendments were proposed and unanimously approved by EC members:
  - 1.! To capture that the change in the language of the Bylaws is temporary: *This Faculty Senate resolution will sunset at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 academic year.*
  - 2.! To capture that the language will be further assessed for a permanent change to the Bylaws: *Be it further resolved that the Senate charges the Bylaws Committee with a thorough review of the definition of Voting Faculty during the 25-26 academic year.*
- ! With the addition of the two friendly amendments, the resolution unanimously approved by Executive Committee to move forward to Faculty Senate meeting on 3/25/25 for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- ! [Resolution proposing new Department of AI and Society](#) from the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee was unanimously approved by Executive Committee to move forward to Faculty Senate meeting on 3/25/25 for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. [Presentation](#) completed and accepted by EC.
- ! [Faculty Senate Agenda for March 25, 2025](#) was unanimously approved.

## Other Items

### I. SECRETARY'S REPORT

- o! Faculty Senate and Professional Staff Senate are working together as required by the Bylaws to complete an election for the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) Senator position. The call for nominations began 3/11/25 and will close 3/21/25. An election will be held 3/24-4/4/25. The results will be announced the week of April 7.
- o! Dr. Jennifer Livingston, Chair of the Research and Creative (R and C) Activities Standing Committee would like to nominate Dr. Bhaskar Das to the Research and Creative Activities Committee.
  - o! Dr. Das is the division head of the Drug and Biotherapeutic Discovery Department and a Professor of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UB.
  - o! Dr. Das is a productive scientist. At this time, the R and C Committee do not have any members from the Pharmacy School and the committee would like representation from this School. Dr. Livingston and the R and C Committee members believe that he will contribute significantly to the R&C Committee and UB Faculty Senate.
- o! Motion to appointment Dr. Das to the Research and Creative Activities Committee was unanimously approved by Executive Committee.

### II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- ! Provided remarks on the changes in the federal policy and funding and the impact on the UB community.
  - o! Appreciates the uncertainty and concerns of UB community on federal executive orders.
  - o! President continues to work with the UB General Counsel, SUNY Counsel to gain clarity on the federal actions and their implications on UB.

### Questions and Comments

**Comments were requested on the universities that received letters regarding Title VI complaints that were made against these universities. Three of the universities listed were SUNY institutions.**

*Response: The President acknowledged that he was aware that universities received letters based on complaints made against the universities listed. However, he does not have any further information on why the institutions received the letters and if any more SUNY institutions will be added.*

### III. SENATE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION, STAFFING, AND REPORTING

- ! Kristin Stapleton, Faculty Senate Chair Elect, would like to restructure the Standing Committees prior to the end of the spring semester to begin work in the fall semester.
  - o! Dr. Stapleton will reach out to each committee chair to confirm each chair's intention to continue in the chair role in the upcoming academic year.
  - o! The following timeline will be implemented:
    - ! By the end of April:

- ! Standing Committee (SC) chairs secured (those continuing and new).
- ! Faculty call for applicants for committee membership with faculty providing a paragraph for review.
- ! SC chair and SC Appointment subcommittee to review applicants with decisions made by chair and subcommittee on which faculty will be appropriate based on the application process.
  - ! By May, each standing committee membership will be complete, and charges will be provided to start work in the fall.
- ! Dr. Stapleton proposed this structure to EC and request feedback on whether there would be objections to this updated structure. No objections were noted.

### **Questions and Comments:**

There was a comment to investigate methods on increasing accountability of committee chairs, whether it is by participation in the FS meetings or regular reports to the EC in terms of presentations.

## **IV. RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE FS BYLAWS RE: VOTING FACULTY**

- ! There was an urgent issue regarding the Bylaws of the Voting Faculty that required action by the Faculty Senate.
- ! Many clinical faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences who were on three-year contracts have received instead one-year contracts. The reason for this change is not specifically known to the Bylaws Committee. Other programs may also have this change in contract structure. According to the definition of Voting Faculty under the Bylaws of the Voting Faculty, they are now not considered Voting Faculty.
- ! With the language that Voting Faculty are those who have contracts for more than one year, a group of faculty have become disenfranchised because of a change in the term period of their contracts.
- ! The solution to this disenfranchisement, was to propose the resolution presented. This resolution is meant to be a temporary solution until the committee can do a whole revision of the Bylaws, a process that will include determining from Voting Faculty how long a contract term should be to entitle one to vote as a member of the Voting Faculty.

### **Question and Comments:**

Two friendly amendments were proposed:

- 3.! To capture that the change in language of the Bylaws is temporary: *This Faculty Senate resolution will sunset at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 academic year.*
- 4.! To capture that the language will be further assessed for a permanent change to the Bylaws: *Be it further resolved that the Senate charges the Bylaws Committee with a thorough review of the definition of Voting Faculty during the 25-26 academic year.*

Both friendly amendments were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

There was a question regarding the impact of faculty impacted by the change in contract structure. EC member shared that in her department, about 10% of faculty have been impacted and she is not privy to the impact on other departments.

## **V. RESOLUTION PROPOSING NEW DEPARTMENT OF AI AND SOCIETY.**

### **Questions and Comments:**

There were questions related to job prospects for students and financial support for faculty and TAs.

*The job prospects are good for graduates with an AI degree. There is now an expectation for graduates to have knowledge of a suite of AI programs and an AI degree will be a strength in the job market.*

*Financial support has been slated for adequate faculty and support for faculty with graduate students.*

## **VI. STOP THE CLOCK FOR PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER IMPACT**

- ! Several faculty are concerned about tenure and promotion issues with the potential loss of funding in the STEM, education, and other fields. It may be beneficial if the FS called upon the administration for a universal tenure clock stoppage for a year for faculty that are dealing with these funding crises. A draft resolution is being presented to learn of faculty and administrative interest in putting forth such a resolution.

### **Comments:**

- ! The provost shared that, though supportive of the concept, this proposal may be premature. More time may be needed prior to putting forth this resolution to learn of the long-term impact of the Executive Orders on research funding for faculty.
- ! EC member shared the need to have an opt out option for faculty.
- ! It may be beneficial to have this as a policy to allow all faculty to have an option to stop the clock on their tenure process due to outcomes of Executive Orders on research efforts.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40p

**TPF**





