



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Zoom

Attendance: See attached attendance.

Call to Order

- The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

- Faculty Senate [FS Meeting 3-25-25 Agenda](#) was unanimously approved.

Actionable Items

- [FS 2-18-25 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [FS Chair Report 3-25-25](#) was accepted.
- Second reading of the [Creation of New Ad Hoc FS Awards Committee Resolution](#) from the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee was completed. Resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate: 63/67 (yea), 2/67 (nay), and 2/67 (abstain). Committee's final name: *Ad Hoc Committee on Awards and Faculty Recognition*.
- Second reading of the [Designation of Last Name Resolution](#) from the Equity and Diversity Standing Committee was completed.
 - The FS suggested an amendment to add the phrase “non-alphabetic characters” to the presented resolution to be more inclusive. The addition of the phrase was approved by the FS: 35/71(yea), 24/71 (nay), 11/71 (abstain).
 - With the addition of the phrase “non-alphabetic characters” in applicable areas, the resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate: 48/69 (yea), 15/69 (nay), 6/69 (abstain).
- Second reading of [Title VI Questions to President Resolution](#) from the Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee was completed. Faculty Senate approved resolution with the following vote: 60/67(yea), 1/67(nay), 6/67(abstain)
- First reading of [Bylaws Revision: Definition of Voting Faculty Resolution](#) from Bylaws Committee. Second reading will occur at next Faculty Senate meeting on April 15, 2025.
- First reading of [Resolution to Establish New Department of AI and Society](#) from the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee. Second reading will occur at next Faculty Senate meeting on April 15, 2025.

Other Items

I. PRESIDENT REPORT

- President Tripathi provided updates on federal landscape changes affecting higher education, including research, academic freedom, and DEI policies. He emphasized UB's commitment to working with UB Counsel, SUNY Counsel, and SUNY leadership to address these challenges.
- Discussed Governor Hochul's proposed budget, which includes \$114 million in operating funding and \$550 million for critical maintenance upgrades.

II. DESIGNATION OF LAST NAME RESOLUTION FROM THE DIVERSITY AND EQUITY COMMITTEE

- Diversity and Equity committee member presenting the resolution, Shauna Zorich, shared that the UB Policy Review Group (PRG) is reviewing a similar policy and wanted guidance from FS on whether to continue with resolution. The difference between the current FS resolution and the policy presented by the PRG is the FS resolution has the inclusion of “chosen last name or the use of special characters” and the policy of the PRG does not.
- The FS shared that the process to approve the resolution should continue and differences between the policy and the FS resolution will be addressed when the UB policy has finished the PRG review process.
- The FS suggested the addition of the phrase “non-alphabetic characters” to the presented resolution to be more inclusive. The addition of the phrase was approved by the FS: 35/71(yea), 24/71 (nay), 11/71 (abstain). The resolution was approved with the addition of the phrase “non-alphabetic characters” in applicable areas within the resolution by the FS: 48/69 (yea), 15/69 (nay), 6/69 (abstain).

III. ESTABLISH NEW DEPARTMENT OF AI & SOCIETY RESOLUTION FROM ACADEMIC PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE.

- Issues raised during presentation:
 - **Process Transparency and Participation**
 - Some departments feel excluded. The explanation offered was timing: departments that already had curricula ready were prioritized due to SUNY funding deadlines.
 - Other departments were invited to participate but needed more time to decide how they wanted to be involved.
 - Others voiced concerns about the speed of the development of the department. The explanation offered was the time limits placed on the funding for the development of the department.
 - **Course Ownership and Departmental Control**
 - There was initial confusion about the new AI-related math courses being categorized under CS, with credit going to that department, despite them being math-oriented.

- CAS Policy and Curriculum Committees had already flagged this and emphasized that math courses should be taught by the math department.
- In response, the courses are being renamed and reclassified to clarify they are not meant to fulfill core disciplinary math requirements.
- These courses will not substitute for accredited math requirements in CSE or engineering majors and will not count toward SUNY GER or UB curriculum core requirements.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:13 p.m.

TPF