



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2024

Zoom

Attendance: [FS 12_17_24 Attendance](#)

Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:05p.m.

Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate [12-17_24 FS Meeting Agenda](#) was made by the Faculty Senate Chair. Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded; FS unanimously approved the agenda.

Actionable Items

- [FS 11_19_24 minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [FS Chair Report 12_17_24](#) was accepted.
- Second reading of [Resolution to Change the Name of the Department of Geology](#) by the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee. Faculty Senate approved the name change 69 yay, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions
 - [Why the Earth Sciences Department](#)
 - [Rationale for Name Change](#)
- [University Faculty Senate Resolutions from the Fall 2024 Plenary Session](#) were endorsed by a vote of 65 endorse, 2 acknowledge, 2 abstain.

Other Items

I. SECRETARY REPORT

- Chair-elect, Kristin Stapleton, Professor in the Department of History, was announced. Dr. Stapleton's term will begin July 1, 2025.

Questions and Comments:

SUNY Senator Kristin Stapleton encouraged all the senators to send suggestions as she prepares to begin her term in July. She also extended assistance to any senators who have an interest in the SUNY Senator position, the election for which will be held March 1.

II. PRESIDENT REPORT

- **Research and Grants Updates**

- Biotechnologies received a \$2.8 million phase 2 small business innovation research grant from NIH to develop a unique vaccine approach against seasonal influenza.
 - \$3.8-million grant from the Department of Education to a faculty team in the School of Social Work to develop a fellowship program designed to increase the number of school-based social workers in rural communities.
 - School of Dental Medicine, Keith Kirkwood, Centennial Endowed Professor in Oral Biology received a \$7.3 million NIH grant to create a new microbiome research facility in the school.
 - In the Department of Chemistry, Jason Benedict is a part of a \$17 million NSF award in support of histography research.
- **Faculty Recognition**
 - 17 faculty members in the most recent 2-year cohort of SUNY Distinguished Professor rank.
 - Donald Mager for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences received the Lifetime Career Achievement Award from the International Society of Pharmacometrics.
 - Jessica Kruger, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior named a Distinguished Fellow of the Public Health Academy.
 - Daniel Smith from the School of Nursing inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of the profession's highest honors.
- **Administrative Updates**
 - UB hired the architectural firm to design the James Joyce Museum and design work for the museum is underway.
 - U.S. Senator Kristin Gillibrand visited campus in November to promote her federally funded [Cyber Service Academy Scholarship Program](#). This scholarship allows students to pursue a course of study in a cyber related field to receive tuition free education in exchange for service within the Department of Defense or the intelligence community.
 - Students are asked to work in this capacity for a minimum of one year for each year of scholarship support they receive. UB is one of the 24 New York State higher education institutions eligible to participate in this program because of our designation as a national center of academic excellence in cybersecurity.
 - **Mutual Aid Policy.** Mutual Aid Policy Committee has completed the policy and sent to President for review. Pursuant to the university policy and procedures, the draft policy will be sent to the UB Policy Review Committee whose members will initiate their process for approving the policy.

Questions and Comments:

- SUNY Senator Phil Glick:
 - Question regarding the Micron Deal: [Federal funds for Micron keep tech hub plans on track - UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences - University at Buffalo](#)
 - *The Micron deal was signed. The funding for the tech hub proposal from which UB receives major funding seems to be okay. This is a multi-year deal and the first year seems to secure.*
 - Reminder to faculty senators and administration that the Shared Governance Day will be March 4.

III. UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTIONS FROM FALL PLENARY 2024

Questions and Comments:

Regarding [Recommendation for the adoption of the Okanagan Charter for Health Promotion in Universities and Colleges](#)

- Provide an example of how this resolution would work at the campus level. What kind of impact would this resolution have?

- *This resolution would extend the focus of health and wellness at the campus level to include faculty and staff. Currently, the health and wellness focus are on the needs of students. Extending the support to faculty and staff would positively impact faculty/staff in areas such as burnout and wellness.*
- Is there a concrete proposal to implement the requirements of this resolution?
 - *This resolution is presenting to the Chancellor the need to engage with campus administrators across the 34 state operated campuses and community colleges to start putting into place professional staff and faculty health and wellness programs or amplifying programs that are already available.*

Regarding [University at Buffalo Faculty Senate's resolution to change Board of Trustees policy on term appointments](#) Endorsed by the SUNY Faculty Senate. The President of the SUNY Faculty Senate, who sits on the SUNY Board of Trustees, is going to present the resolution to the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees to enact the policy. This resolution was already endorsed by UB Faculty Senate. The resolution may not be promulgated due to the possibility of not being approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Question and Comments:

- Why would there be an issue with approval by the SUNY Board of Trustees?
 - *Further clarification provided by Bob Granfield, Professor and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs: The approval of the resolution has implications for all state employees, impacting the approval by the Board of Trustees. Similar terms, providing term contracts up to 5 years, as part of the promotion process for the lecture position, was not approved by SUNY HR because the contract as written would not be approved by the legislature. The same terms in the UB resolution will decrease the likelihood that it will be approved by the Board of Trustees.*
- Kristin Stapleton requested that Chair Laychock contact SUNY Faculty Senate President Keith Landa for an update on the status of the resolution in the approval chain.
 - *Chair Laychock agreed that she will contact Keith Landa for more information and share with the UB Faculty Senate.*
- Senators are in agreement with the resolution and feel that the option for a contract for up to five years would benefit faculty.

Notes:

- Will Green unable to attend due to conflicting meeting with Governor Hochul. This meeting will be rescheduled at a time that works for Mr. Green's schedule.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:52 p.m.

TPF