



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Zoom

Attendance: See attached attendance.

### Call to Order

- Chair called meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### Agenda Approved

- A motion to approve the Faculty Senate [2\\_25\\_25 Meeting Agenda](#) was made by the Faculty Senate Chair.
  - Motion to amend agenda made by Kristin Stapleton, SUNY Senator, to better reflect the time sensitivity and importance of the issues that were being discussed at the meeting. Motion to amend the agenda was seconded. Vote to amend the agenda did not meet the 2/3 majority needed to make the amendment [29(45%) yay, 21(33%) nay, 14(22%) abstain].
  - Motion to accept the agenda as originally proposed by chair was made and seconded. Original agenda accepted.

### Actionable Items

- [FS 12\\_17\\_24 Meeting Minutes](#) was unanimously approved.
- [FS Chair Report 2\\_18\\_25](#) was accepted.
- First reading of the [Resolution recommending changes in the recognition of teaching activities](#) from the Teaching and Learning Standing Committee was completed. Second reading will be conducted at the 3/25/25 Faculty Senate meeting.
- First reading of the [Resolution to Amend the University at Buffalo Name Change Policy](#) from the Equity and Diversity Standing Committee was completed. Second reading will be conducted at the 3/25/25 Faculty Senate meeting.
- First reading of the [Resolution to endorse CAFR response to UB's proposed Mutual Aid Policy](#) from the Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee was completed.
  - Motion to suspend second reading of resolution was made and seconded. Request of suspension of 2nd reading due to time sensitivity; comments presented in resolution due to Policy Review Group by 2/19/25. TPF
  - Vote to suspend second reading of resolution was completed [51(73%) yay, 12 (17%) nay, 7 (10%) abstain]. 2/3 majority met, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading suspended.
  - Vote to endorse the resolution by the Faculty Senate was made [45 yay, 11 nay, 8 abstain]. Resolution was endorsed.
- First reading of [Title VI Resolution](#) from the Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee was completed. Second reading will be conducted at the 3/25/25 Faculty Senate meeting.

## Other Items

### I. SECRETARY REPORT

- **Reapportionment**

- The Elections Committee will begin the reapportionment process in September (2025), and it should be done by December 2025. By January 15, 2026, each unit will have their allotment, based on the reapportionment, of faculty senators and executive committee representatives. Information will be provided to units prior to their election process to allow them to get the allotted senators and EC reps. The time for the most accurate faculty count would be in the fall, when most new faculty begin.
- Related to the reapportionment, the Bylaws Committee is working to clarify the language in the Bylaws regarding the definition of Voting Faculty to ensure accurate senator and executive committee rep allotment.

- **Faculty Senator positions**

- For Faculty Senators whose terms are ending in June 2025, please consider continuing for another term for the 2025 to 2027 term. If not able to continue, discuss with faculty colleagues the position and provide them with some motivation to consider that position for the upcoming term.

### II. PROVOST REPORT

- **Executive Orders**

- **Dear Colleague Letter from DOE**

- Multiple Executive Orders have been issued over the past few weeks affecting the research efforts of UB. The UB.
- On 2/14/25, a Dear Colleague letter was sent by the Department of Education outlining their interpretation of DEI and DEIA and requesting that educational institutions cease all DEI and DEIA activities within 14 days of the memo's release.
- Letter implied that institutions that fail to comply face potential loss of federal funding-- research funding and student aid funds.
- The NY Attorney General, Governor of NY, and SUNY Chancellor are working together to inform (SUNY campus) Presidents to provide direction to campuses to make decisions regarding next steps with requirements made in the Dear Colleague letters.
- Advised by SUNY to not make any changes to web pages or other communications. Current court decisions are being monitored to determine the best approach moving forward to address DEI and DEIA efforts of the University.

- **NIH Indirect Cost Rate Change**

- The Director of NIH informed universities that there will be a reduction in Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR).

- The current federal rate is 60% and has been dropped to 15%.
- UB is closely monitoring the situation and working closely with SUNY federal and state leadership to ensure that UB can continue to carry out core research, education, and engagement missions and adhere to the university's long-standing values.

- **Immigration Representatives and Faculty/Staff Response**

- If UB community members are approached by an Immigration or Customs Representative, note that only University Police engage with federal immigration and custom agents. Should a representative come to UB and approach a UB community member, contact University Police. They are prepared to respond in accordance with New York State regulations.

- **College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search.**

- The finalists for the search for the next Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences were on campus last week. Pleased with the quality of the candidate pool and received many positive comments from the faculty, staff and leadership about the finalists. The search process should conclude in the coming weeks.

### **III. VPRED VENU GOVINDARAJU UPDATE AND Q&A RE POLICIES AFFECTING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.**

- VPR Office established a webpage on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> to address Executive Orders: [2025 Federal Agency Transition Guidance - Vice President Research and Economic Development - University at Buffalo](#)
- Dr. Govindaraju and VPR Office communicates with Deans and Associate Deans of Research to address changes due to orders and steps to move forward taking into consideration the guidance of SUNY and the needs of faculty with their research efforts.
  - SUNY Guidance: unless a PI specifically receives in writing, either as a letter or an email from the funding agency or the program officer to change the course of work or to stop work, things should continue just as before.
- One project from USAID and two from Department of Education have received notices to stop work and those are being addressed directly with the PIs and support is being provided on how to address these projects.

### **Questions and Comments:**

**Q1: If a faculty member does receive a message from their program officer, do they contact their relevant Dean, do they contact VPR Office? What are the next steps if they receive that email?**

*Response: Send the notice to the VPR Office to ensure that the letter can be reviewed to determine next steps. The PI will be contacted to determine the best possible course of action. The faculty member can also contact the relevant Dean [and inform the Dean that the VPR also has a copy of the communication].*

**Q2: Do current NIH grants have regular IFR or the IFR stated in the current communication from the federal government?**

*Response: The guidance from SUNY is to proceed as one would have prior to the most recent communication from the federal government due to activities that are progressing in the courts with the Executive Orders. When updates are provided, faculty will be informed.*

#### **IV. RESOLUTION FROM TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE**

##### **Questions posed at FSEC Meeting on 1/28/25 with responses from the T & L Committee members:**

##### **1. Why doesn't the Teaching and Learning Committee do this work?**

*It's a large task that requires exclusive focus. Our committee does not have expertise in awards and management. And an awards/faculty recognition committee could also apply its expertise to other areas such as service.*

##### **2. What is the proposed name of the Ad Hoc Committee?**

*Awards Committee is written in the resolution, but it could be Committee for Faculty Recognition.*

##### **3. Should this be an Ad Hoc Committee or a subcommittee of the T and L committee?**

*SUNY or UB doesn't strongly distinguish between the two, but the most reasonable interpretations of a subcommittee would be that it's mostly members of that committee and reporting back to that committee. The T&L Committee feel that this task is important enough that it should report out directly to the Faculty Senate and as mentioned requires quite a different mixture of expertise than what we currently have among us.*

##### **4. What resources may the committee require?**

*Initially none. There's just going to be a lot of work to bring all the information together, but the newly formed committee may recommend to the Faculty Senate that administrative or other support is required to implement an action plan.*

##### **Questions and Comments**

*There were comments regarding the final name of the proposed committee. Current options: ad hoc Awards Committee, Faculty Development Awards Committee or Recognition and Awards Committee. There were concerns with using the term "development" in the name of the committee due to the focus of the committee on faculty recognition and not teaching development. The final naming convention will be decided upon during the second reading.*

#### **V. TITLE VI RESOLUTION**

##### **Question and Comments:**

- The Academic Freedom & Responsibilities Committee appreciate the responses to questions posed in the resolution by the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Committee would like to continue with the formal process of the resolution and present the resolution to the UB administration to provide answers to the queries in a disciplined and structured way.
- The Committee wants to ensure that there are written policies in place that have the faculty's confidence and that come from the President office on downward.

**Notes:**

- Heath Tuttle – Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer presentation tabled due to time. Dr. Tuttle will present at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:43 p.m.

TPF

Name (original name)	Email	Join time	Leave time
Jessica Naish	jlnaish@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:53	2/18/2025 16:43
Marsha Christiano		2/18/2025 14:53	2/18/2025 16:43
Edward Bednarczyk		2/18/2025 14:53	2/18/2025 16:43
Melinda Lemke, ELP, GGSS		2/18/2025 14:53	2/18/2025 16:43
FredStoss, UBuff. Librarian		2/18/2025 14:54	2/18/2025 16:43
hfaden		2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:42
Christine Linkie	clinkie@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:43
Julia Czerniak	jeczerni@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:19
Sampson Blair	stblair@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:43
Liz Mietlicki-Baase		2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:43
Gary Pollack, UB SPPS	garypoll@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:43
Annette Wysocki	wysocki4@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:55	2/18/2025 16:43
Julie Harris		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:43
lianavardi		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:43
Lisa Butler		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:40
Marcelo Araujo (He/Him/His)		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:23
William McDonnell		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:43
cast-robinsch-ios		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:43
Joan S. Baizer		2/18/2025 14:56	2/18/2025 16:43
Sabrina Sochacki		2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 15:25
Africa	africaha@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Kelsey Lewis	klewis23@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Christina Zachariadou		2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Wojciech Krzyzanski		2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Turquessa Francis	tpgreen@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Dominik Roesch		2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Jason Davies	jmdavies@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 15:10
Angelyn McDuff	angelynd@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:57	2/18/2025 16:43
Abby Matthews	aamatthe@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Kristin Stapleton	kstaple@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Maeve Howett	mahowett@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Lauren Kuryloski		2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Suzanne Laychock		2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Joe Consiglio		2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Alex		2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 16:43
Scott Laing	scottlai@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:58	2/18/2025 15:01
Sharon Nolan-Weiss (UBuffalo)		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
pjlong		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Peter Sobota		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Kerry Traynor		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Seval Yildirim		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Junho Yoon		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:42
Miguel Guitart		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43

JW		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:21
Sara Metcalf	smetcalf@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Ryan C Hunter		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Kristen Moore (she/her)		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:28
Venu Govindaraju   UB		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 15:37
A. Scott Weber, University at Buffalo		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
David Shucard	dshucard@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
PLG (UB JSMBS)		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
John Beatty	jrbeatty@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Brian Murray		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 15:05
Aisling Winston	aislingw@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 15:20
Omayra Munoz-Lorenzo		2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Heath Tuttle - UB	htuttle@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:38
Julie Bowker		2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Jun		2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Melissa Mccartney	mrm10@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Jieun Lee	jlee286@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Nader Nader	nnader@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:40
Robert Bies	robertbi@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Anthony O'Rourke		2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:36
David Bruce	dlbruce@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:39
Yungki Park		2/18/2025 15:00	2/18/2025 16:43
Opinder Kaur	opinderk@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:43
afam		2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:43
Tracy KP Gregg (she/her)		2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:43
Kemper Lewis	kelewis@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:35
Thomas Covey	tjcovey@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 15:21
Ken DeMarree	kgdemarr@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:34
Suzanne Rosenblith	rosenbli@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:43
Theva		2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:39
Graham Hammill	ghammill@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:43
Scott Stewart - DART		2/18/2025 15:01	2/18/2025 16:37
meg deangelis		2/18/2025 15:02	2/18/2025 16:34
John Ortolani		2/18/2025 15:02	2/18/2025 16:43
Theo. Triandos	titriand@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:02	2/18/2025 16:33
vs74@buffalo.edu		2/18/2025 15:02	2/18/2025 16:29
R.J. Multari, PhD   University at Buffalo	multari@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:03	2/18/2025 16:43
Stuart Inglis	stuartin@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:03	2/18/2025 16:43
Robert Granfield	rgranfie@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:03	2/18/2025 16:43
Paschalis Alexandridis	palexand@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:04	2/18/2025 15:58
Heidi Suffoletto		2/18/2025 15:04	2/18/2025 16:43
Mark Parker		2/18/2025 15:04	2/18/2025 16:24
Harvey Palmer	hpalmer@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:06	2/18/2025 16:43
Brian Murray		2/18/2025 15:06	2/18/2025 15:11

rshen		2/18/2025 15:07	2/18/2025 16:42
Pasquale Raico	ppraico@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:08	2/18/2025 16:43
Jason Davies	jmdavies@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:10	2/18/2025 16:43
Aditya Vedantam	adityave@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:11	2/18/2025 15:13
Brian Murray	bmmurray@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:11	2/18/2025 16:43
Eric TenBrock		2/18/2025 15:15	2/18/2025 16:28
sreyasee		2/18/2025 15:16	2/18/2025 15:53
B. Rita Alevriadou		2/18/2025 15:17	2/18/2025 16:43
Kamran Nemati		2/18/2025 15:19	2/18/2025 15:22
Kamran Nemati		2/18/2025 15:20	2/18/2025 16:43
Thomas Covey	tjcovey@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:21	2/18/2025 16:43
Weifeng Su		2/18/2025 15:22	2/18/2025 16:43
Kamran Nemati		2/18/2025 15:22	2/18/2025 15:27
Dave C		2/18/2025 15:23	2/18/2025 16:43
Sabrina Feitosa Sochacki		2/18/2025 15:26	2/18/2025 16:08
Barbara Prinari		2/18/2025 14:59	2/18/2025 16:43
Kamran Nemati		2/18/2025 15:27	2/18/2025 16:43
Kellen Hoxworth	hoxworth@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:30	2/18/2025 16:43
Ravi Ranade	ranade@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:30	2/18/2025 15:31
Ravi Ranade	ranade@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:31	2/18/2025 16:18
Ophelia Morey	otmorey@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 15:35	2/18/2025 16:43
Jean Wactawski-Wende, Buffalo	jww@buffalo.edu	2/18/2025 16:08	2/18/2025 16:31
Sabrina Feitosa Sochacki		2/18/2025 16:13	2/18/2025 16:24
Sabrina Feitosa Sochacki		2/18/2025 16:25	2/18/2025 16:43
Anthony O'Rourke		2/18/2025 16:36	2/18/2025 16:43
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