University at Buffalo
Faculty Senate
University Shared Governance

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2024
Zoom

Attendance: see attached FS Meeting Attendance 10_22_24

Call to Order:
Meeting was called to order by Chair at 3:02p

Agenda: Faculty Senate 10_22_24 Agenda   accepted.

Action Items:
- FS 9_17_24 minutes approved
- Chair's Report accepted
- Academic Policies and Grading Committee Resolutions 1st reading completed. 2nd reading will be conducted at 11/19/24 Faculty Senate Meeting.
    - Academic Policies and Grading Committee: 'Sabotage' addition to Academic Integrity Policy
    - Academic Policies and Grading Committee: Updated Dean's List Requirements
- SUNY University Faculty Senate Spring Plenary Resolutions endorsed by UB Faculty Senate: 58/62 Endorsed;4/62 Acknowledged

Other Items:

I.   PROVOST REPORT

- President Tripathi and Provost recently hosted a senior leadership retreat focused on enrollment planning and how the university can successfully lead in AI research and teaching.

Enrollment:

- Focused on current enrollment picture across the University, both undergraduate and graduate levels and the various directions that could be taken within a comprehensive enrollment plan for the university. Considerations for addressing current enrollment: what it would take to expand out -of -state and international footprint, especially at the undergraduate level.

AI Research and Teaching

- Governor Hochul has designated UB as the leader of Empire AI, providing the University with an opportunity to lead AI on a national level and to develop AI across UB's research and teaching domains.
- Administration hosted Governor Hochul on October 11 to kick off the first phase of Empire AI.
- Administration invited eight faculty to demonstrate how they are utilizing AI and research and teaching. Faculty from dental medicine, management, geography, political science, architecture, biomedical engineering and music. Demonstrations were informative and promising.
- Data points from a recent survey conducted by Academic Affairs regarding AI:
    - Approximately 25% of the faculty are using AI in their teaching already.

- o Of the faculty using AI in their teaching:
  - ▪ 80% allow their students to use AI tools.
  - ▪ 74% have included policies about the use of AI and their syllabi.
  - ▪ 6% are planning to add AI policy.
  - o Of the 75% that are not using AI, 65% are interested in learning more.
- ▪ Urge the appropriate Senate committees to lean into all aspects of this topic and help the University address issues of importance around AI.
- ▪ There are questions around policy, curriculum, assessment, access, etc. All those that the Faculty Senate might wish to consider.

Questions and Comments from Provost's Report:

Chair Laychock:

- o Whether this AI emphasis is diminishing more traditional research type of activities.
  - ▪ AI is not going to replace our faculty. We just have to be able to use this as a tool across all our disciplines.
  - ▪ Administration's measure to assist faculty with using AI: providing workshops and grants. On the research side critical for multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary approaches to use AI.

SUNY Senator Phil Glick:

- ▪ Need some basic classes, tools, and subscriptions for faculty to get started.
  - o These measures are being provided and work is being done to bring this to all faculty to support usage of AI in teaching and research as applicable.

Faculty Senator Sarah Robert

- ▪ Does SUNY or UB have a specific AI policy at the moment? Having a uniform policy or resource guidance would be helpful with supporting faculty adopting AI in classrooms and research.
  - o UB does not have a specific AI policy, other than a strong desire to be early adopters and as an institution with the presence of Empire AI would like to be a leader across the nation in AI.
  - o Graham Hammill has been leading on the pedagogy and educational side. Heath Tuttle, CIO, focused on standardized packages of AI resources (apps, subscriptions, etc.). AI Task force is also working on providing standard recommendations to faculty.
  - o CATT is hosting an event on generative AI on November 21st: AI at UB

Faculty Senator Shawna Zorich:

- ▪ Is the University making any progress in trying to address the challenges that some faculty are seeing in terms academic integrity issues with AI use?
  - o Looking at the policy right now; currently asking instructors to have specific policies in their courses.
  - o CATT exploring software to check use of AI in writing.
  - o Office of Academic Integrity is also involved to support faculty in cases that arise.

Faculty Senate Chair Laychock:

- ▪ What about the environmental impact of AI? People are concerned about all the energy consumption that AI requires.
  - o Empire AI has a significant consumptive power; Warrants more thought and study and UB faculty are in a position to look into the impact of the level of energy consumption.

- o There is an opportunity to recycle some of that hot air into the University's heating systems. and take some of the outputs express them into the HVAC systems.

II. CHAIR'S REPORT

- **Annual Shared Governance Day** will be March 4, 2025. Faculty interested in planning can contact Chair Laychock.
- **Mutual Aid Policy Working Group** held its second meeting to review the draft policies. President's charge: review and provide recommendations on the overarching draft policy on mutual aid, and ensuring the policy clearly communicates the need and impact of mutual aid to the University community.
    - o Mutual Aid Policy Working Group wants to conclude its activities by November or December. The time to review and comment on the second draft of the Time, Place and Manner policy ended on October 14th.
- The **Policy Review Group** met with Ernest Sternberg, and other members of the UB Association of Jewish Faculty, Staff and Friends in response to the group's recent revisions of the proposed Time, Place and Manner regulations.
- Dr. Sternberg's report shed light on the antisemitism being experienced on campus and shortcomings of the policies as drafted at that time.

Questions from Chair's Report:

Faculty Senator Sarah Metcalf:

- Is it possible to view the current Mutual Aid Policy?
    - o Not really a policy. It is an agreement that was written in the 1960s. The current Mutual Aid Policy Working Group is creating a new document.

III. FEATURED SPEAKERS: PROVOST WEBER AND LAURA HUBBARD, VP FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THE 2024 -25 ARPP OUTCOMES

Budget--Major Focal Points:

- Present the financial health of the University, provide an update on a new budgetary software platform that is being used, and investments being made into the top 25 goal.
- ARPP (Annual Resource Planning Process)→UB's Budgetary Process
- University continues to be in strong financial position.
- **Some highlights**:
    - o Governor Hochul supportive of SUNY; flagship designation has come some state investment:
    - o $114 million was invested across SUNY and just additional direct state tax support of that.
    - o UB received $14 .2 million of that 114 million.
    - o Removal of the TAP gap (added $10 million to UB's budget)
    - o Removal of tuition freeze (added $1million to UB's budget)
    - o $53 million for additional faculty
        - UB received $12 million of allotment.
    - o Endowment match: one -to -one match for endowments that are funded at UB. The state matches those investments.
- **Areas of focus that can impact budget:**
    - o Softening of enrollment
    - o Salary costs

- Inflation
- **New budgetary program: U-Plan**
  - New fully integrated all funds budgeting and planning and forecasting tool for the University.
  - Takes what is now done manually and puts information into a system; more efficient with the way the University runs the budgeting process centrally and within individual departments.
  - Provides more robust forecasting.

AAU Top 25

- President has articulated a vision for the campus to be the top 25 public research universities. Focused on achieving this vision.
- **Focused on:**
  - Attracting top faculty and having them successful and being recognized for their achievements
  - Having a campus environment that is consistent with a leading public research university
  - Having student support services to make sure that the University provides transformational education to all students.

IV.   ACADEMIC POLICIES AND GRADING RESOLUTIONS

Questions and Comments:

- Sabotage resolution doesn't say purposefully anywhere.
  - Every case that's submitted to our office is reviewed. Context is considered when students appeal. That's the role of the Office of Academic Integrity: to look at the student side, to look at the instructor side, to look at the entirety of the case.
  - The Office does its due diligence to make sure that they are reviewing each case carefully.

- How are these behaviors dealt without this resolution?
  - Handled as cheating kind of cases or falsifying academic materials, depending on the situation.

V.   SUNY Faculty Senate Plenary Resolutions

- SUNY Faculty Senators Stapleton and Multari presented SUNY Faculty Senate Resolutions from the Spring 2024 Plenary were presented. Both SUNY Senators recommended endorsement of all five resolutions by the UB Faculty Senate. Endorsed by UB Faculty Senate with the following vote: 58/62 Endorsed;4/62 Acknowledged

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

TPF