



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024  
Center for Tomorrow  
3-4:30p

Attendance: see attached FS Meeting Attendance 11\_19\_24

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chair at 3:05p

Agenda: revised [Faculty Senate 11\\_19\\_24 Agenda](#) unanimously approved. Revision was an additional presentation by Dr. Hammill on the formation of an AI Department in response to a SUNY RFP.

Action Items:

- [FS 10\\_22\\_24 Minutes](#) unanimously approved.
- [Chair's Report 11\\_19\\_24](#) accepted.
- Academic Policies and Grading Committee Resolutions. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading completed with a vote to approve both updated policies.
  - [Academic Policies and Grading Committee: 'Sabotage' addition to Academic Integrity Policy](#) [vote to approve updated Policy, 56 yay 0 nay 0 abstain]
  - [Academic Policies and Grading Committee: Updated Dean's List Requirements](#) [vote to approve updated Policy, 56 yay 0 nay 0 abstain].
- First reading of [Resolution to Change the Name of the Department of Geology](#) by the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee. Second reading will be conducted at the 12/17/24 Faculty Senate Meeting.
  - [Why the Earth Sciences Department](#)
  - [Rationale for Name Change](#)

Other Items:

**I. President's Report**

- Shared the progress being made to achieve equity, inclusion, and social justice goals at the University
- Town Hall Meeting Re-Cap
  - In the area of *scholarship, tenure and recognition*, more recognition of faculty's contributions to DEI as scholarly activities to be considered in promotion and tenure
  - In terms of *faculty recruitment, mentoring and retention*, creating a comprehensive guidebook with specific guidelines and best practices for search committees and expanding and improving UB initiatives focused on historically underrepresented scholars.
  - With *curriculum and pedagogy*, providing funding to academic support programs that successfully retain and graduate underrepresented student populations and modifying course and curriculum review processes to support intentional considerations of diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism.
  - In terms of *inclusive space*, targeted investment towards underperforming buildings and spaces and defining inclusive design standards and policies for new construction and renovation projects.







- <sup>As far as</sup> ~~For~~ *student experience and programs* are concerned, strengthened and reimagined the pipeline program for student of color and articulating strategic plans for recruiting retaining and graduating historically underrepresented student populations.
- With *community engagement*, enhancing UB's community engagement digital presence, promoting positive relations with an off-campus student guidebook, creating more engagement programs through community engagement advisory council and helping prepare members of the university community to undertake community work with the launch of a community engagement lecture series.
- Full progress report posted on Provost website: [November 18, 2024 Town Hall Resources](#)
- Scholarship for Students in the Intelligence Community
  - U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand was on campus to promote a federally funded scholarship for students studying cyber security. More information can be found here: [Gillibrand visits UB to promote cybersecurity scholarship](#)
- Mutual Aid Policy Working Group
  - Almost finished with the report. When the report is done, it will be sent out for comments.

### Questions and Comments

- SUNY Senator shared that the various working groups that have been formed to address the incidents of harassment that have recently occurred on campus could benefit from using faculty experts to provide insight into how best to approach a solution to an incident. There are faculty members that have expertise in sociology and criminology and other departments that could provide adequate support within a working group. Examples of recent events of harassment shared with the President.
  - *Each case is being handled through UB's ~~judicious~~ <sup>judicial</sup> process. In the case where there is evidence, the judicious process is being followed and students have been warned by the UB police. In the case, where there is no evidence, the judicious process cannot be followed. A statement was provided condemning harassment of any kind at UB.*
- Faculty Senator shared the need to support faculty with publishing fees that are becoming exorbitant and impacting faculty publications.
  - *Provost and President have recently talked about this issue and believe that this issue needs to be addressed as it will impact faculty, especially in science.*

## II. Chair's Report

- President Tripathi has approved and promulgated the UB Faculty Senate resolution to revise the Policies, Procedures, and Criteria for Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (CAPT).
  - Policy takes effect on July 1st, 2025, for dossier's to be considered in the 2025-26 academic year and beyond. Both the updated and the current CAPT policies are available on the Faculty Affairs website under policies, procedures, and criteria: [Policies, Procedures, and Criteria for Faculty Personnel Actions](#)
- [University at Buffalo Faculty Senate's resolution to change Board of Trustees policy on term appointments](#) was endorsed by the SUNY University Faculty Senate. The resolution calls for a term appointment for a specified period of not more than five years instead of the current not more than three years and renewal of term appointment for successive periods of no more than five years each instead of the current three years each.

- 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.
- The upcoming Faculty Senate Annual Shared Governance Day will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>. SUNY Senator Phil Glick and UB Faculty Senator Barbara Prinari have agreed to provide a celebration plan to the Executive Committee. Contact Phil Glick if there is an interest in aiding with the event.

### **Questions and Comments**

- Honoring Lorna Peterson. SUNY Senator Stapleton shared the recent passing of Lorna Peterson on November 11. Lorna Peterson, a retired faculty member in library classes was an instrumental member of the Faculty Senate who supported new senators.
- SUNY Senator Glick shared that Domenic Licata will also be assisting with Shared Governance Day.

### **III. Guest Speaker: Dr. Saval Yildirim, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence**

- The Office of Inclusive Excellence puts forward initiatives and collaborates with different offices and units around campus to create an environment that produces equitable outcomes and inclusivity.
- Initiatives
  - [VITAL](#) is a program for supporting diversification of tenure line faculty.
  - [PRODiG Fellowship](#) SUNY initiative. A post-doctoral program for future faculty from underrepresented backgrounds. Currently UB has four fellows on the campus and three fellows have been approved for coming year.
    - Share the costs with SUNY, but also promise the fellows a tenure line position. Not a guaranteed position, but if everything goes well, there will be tenure line positions for the fellows and they all come from historically underrepresented backgrounds.
- UB joined the [Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities](#)
- Sponsorships.
  - During the 23-24 academic year, provided financial support to over 45 events or programs, including the Discover Law Program, First Generation Celebration Week, Faculty of Color Writing Group, Graduate Student of Color Writing Group, LGBTQ faculty and staff association activities and events, to name just a few.
  - Started a new program called Campus Community Conversations. Two events in the fall. The first was a teaching on free speech on September 25th and the second was an October 8th event on elections with Professor Richard Hasen from UCLA.
- Participated in SUNY's DEI and Academic Excellence Grant Initiative. The proposal from the campus is in Indigenous Studies where colleagues have proposed a graduate student mentorship program.
- Collaborate with different units around campus and provide guidance and support in ensuring that they fulfill their obligations under the [PACOR](#) Program.
- Currently working on exploring how UB can better support undocumented students. UB does not currently have an initiative, but there are colleagues who are looking for ways to better support undocumented students.

## Questions and Comments

- Faculty Senator Christine Linkie asked how students with disabilities fit into the DEI construct in terms of inclusivity with a follow-up question on accommodation vs inclusivity.
  - *Accommodation.* There is an office that directly caters to the needs of students with disabilities. We should be referring students to that office first when they encounter difficulties because the colleagues in that office are most equipped to understand and respond to students with disabilities.
  - *Inclusivity.* Strategy has been to go to the relevant dean and have conversations about how in that unit we're supporting our students with disabilities, not just in terms of accommodation,
- Faculty Senator Prinari had two questions: (1) whether there is the expectation that all, some, or none of the VITAL scholars are being brought on campus with the hope that they will join UB's faculty and (2) the role of Office of Inclusive Excellence with supporting women in STEM.
  - *VITAL Scholars.* The purpose of VITAL is to provide mentorship to prepare for a faculty position. There is no promise of a line.
    - Two previous VITAL Scholars are now our PRODiG fellows. In other departments that did have the lines in the past before Dr. Yildirim's, arrival, have hired VITAL Scholars for tenure line positions. However, there is no promise of a line with the VITAL Program.
  - *Supporting Women in STEM.* Office of Inclusive Excellence not supporting women in STEM directly, but there is an initiative in the School of Engineering that promotes women in STEM fields, which may have received funding from the Office of Inclusive Excellence.

### IV. Presentation by Dr. Graham Hammill, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School

- SUNY issued an RFP to the PhD granting institutions: UB, Stony Brook, Binghamton, Albany, Upstate, Downstate Medical. The RFP asked to develop either an institute, a center, or a Department in AI in society, with a very strong preference for an AI Department.
- Part of the Governor's overall agenda in ensuring that New York State is a leader in AI and that higher education as opposed to technology companies plays a significant role in guiding the future of AI.
- 3-year spending period. Campus can ask for up to \$2 million per year. One submission is permitted per campus.
- Proposals are due November 25. SUNY expects to announce awards in early December.
- **AI Department structure.** The Department would be shared between the School of Engineering and <sup>the College of Arts and Sciences</sup> ~~another~~ College. The Department would have graduate programs, master's, and PhD program that combine technological competencies with competencies in areas like information integrity, social analysis, history of technology, and the like.
  - At the undergraduate level, the vision is that the Department would partner with already existing departments across the campus to develop bachelor's degree programs that essentially integrate the competencies on technology and society-related competencies, social analysis, information integrity, history of technology, and the like.
    - Ex: bachelor's degrees in AI and English or AI and Public Health, or AI and Anthropology, Earth Sciences, etc.

- This model is based on a model that was developed at the University of Illinois: [CS + X Degree Programs](#)
- **Faculty Senate** will play a critical role in approving, renaming, and development of new departments. If the proposal is funded, the administrative leads that are working on the proposal would bring together interested faculty to develop the curriculums.
  - Communicated with Diane Christian, Chair of the Academic Planning and Assessment Committee last week to discuss next steps if proposal is funded.
  - Governance process has been impacted by the brief timeline for submission of proposal for the AI Department. Steps are being taken to involve the Faculty Senate throughout this distinct process.

Question and Comments

Faculty Senator asked that if the proposal is funded, the FS Budget Priorities Committee be actively involved in the discussion of long-term budgetary implications of the new department, after the 3-year SUNY funding period.

Meeting adjourned: 4:25p

TPF