

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 24, 2026

Associate Professor of Chemistry Julien Panetier, chair of the Faculty Senate, called the Full Faculty meeting in Old Union Hall to order at 11:37. He then introduced President Anne D'Alleva for the semi-annual presidential report.

President D'Alleva provided a series of institutional updates, including ongoing collaboration with the university community and broader system partners. Updates included progress on strategic planning and growth initiatives, both of which were identified as major current priorities.

President D'Alleva congratulated faculty and staff on the successful extension of the NSF Regional Innovation Engine, which secured an additional \$45 million to support battery technology projects. These initiatives continue to have an impact on research, economic development, education, and community engagement.

A new Division I women's flag football program will be introduced. The sport is rapidly growing, has NCAA support, and will debut in the 2028 Olympics. This addition supports Title IX balance, bringing the university to 11 men's and 11 women's teams, while expanding opportunities for female student-athletes.

The university also celebrated its Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, a distinction held by fewer than 200 institutions nationwide, recognizing its strong commitment to community-focused work.

Dining services will transition to a new provider, Chartwells Higher Education, following a comprehensive two-year review process that incorporated feedback from students, faculty, and staff. The transition aims to address concerns related to cost, flexibility, and dietary options. Clarification was provided that no permanent layoffs are occurring; seasonal employment patterns remain consistent, with efforts underway to support staff during the transition. Renovations to dining facilities, including the Marketplace, are planned.

Campus construction projects are progressing on schedule despite winter challenges. Updates include:

- Chenango Room expansion (opening summer 2026)
- University Hall (opening Fall 2027)
- Grace Hall- new residence hall adding approximately 360 beds (opening Fall 2027)
- Battery prototyping facility in Johnson City
- Track and field facility, East Gym renovation (opening Fall 2026), and Event Center upgrades

The New York Center for Artificial Intelligence Responsibility Research is being established, supported by a \$30 million gift and \$25 million in state funding. The center will focus on AI safety, transparency, and public impact, with plans for faculty hiring, fellowships, and system-wide collaboration.

President D'Alleva reflected on a recent Listening to Lead Tour involving over 1,000 participants across 38 sessions. Key themes included collaboration, innovation, research expansion, graduate education, and community engagement. Insights from this tour inform the university's strategic planning process, which is on track for completion by May and launch in the fall.

A rebranding initiative, in partnership with SimpsonScarborough, is also underway to strengthen the university's national and global visibility, aligned with strategic priorities. The updated brand and strategic plan are expected to launch together in the upcoming academic year.

President D'Alleva concluded by inviting questions and emphasizing continued engagement with faculty, staff, and the broader university community.

Prof. Colin Lyons, Art & Design, raised a question regarding the first strategic goal of integrating research and creative activities for undergraduates. After several years of detailed planning and prior assurances regarding the feasibility of renovating the Fine Arts complex at the end of the previous administration, it appears those plans are no longer moving forward as expected. He asked for clarification on the factors that led to this change in direction and the specific steps that will be taken to support the arts in the absence of full renovation.

President D'Alleva explained that plans to renovate or replace the Fine Arts Complex have been reassessed due to significant cost constraints. Earlier concepts for a new building, initially estimated at approximately \$100 million, have increased to \$330 million, making full replacement financially unfeasible at this time due to a lack of available funding.

As a result, the university is shifting to a phased approach. In the near term, the institution will seek state support for critical infrastructure upgrades, including a new roof and HVAC system, through a proposed SUNY-wide capital maintenance fund.

In addition, the university will develop a five-year renovation plan in collaboration with faculty, committing approximately \$10 million annually (totaling \$50 million) to improve existing spaces. These renovations will focus on essential upgrades, including infrastructure, functionality, and modernized equipment to better support teaching and learning in the arts.

President D'Alleva noted that further discussion with stakeholders will be important as planning continues.

After no further questions or discussion, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned.

Chair Panetier called the third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2025-2026 academic year to order at 12:09 p.m.

1. Minutes

The minutes from the November 4, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Panetier informed the Senate that Emeritus Prof. David Bartine, former chair of the English Department; Adjunct Instructor Brian Davis, Art & Design/Theatre; Emeritus Prof. Lyle Feisel, Watson College founding dean; Emeritus Prof. James E. Sorauf, Geological Sciences; and Distinguished Prof. Kaiming Ye, former chair of Biomedical Engineering, have passed away. After speaking about our colleagues, Chair Panetier requested a moment of silence in their memory.

3. New Business

Chair Panetier reviewed eight curriculum items, including a new program proposal, program deactivations, and discontinuations. The Executive Committee and DEI Committee have reviewed all the curriculum items.

New Program Proposal:

[Master of Science in Advanced Professional Nursing](#)

The M.S. in Advanced Professional Nursing is an online, 30-credit graduate program with two tracks: nursing administration and nursing education.

The Nursing Administration track prepares graduates to assume management positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities, ambulatory clinics, and other organizations, with eligibility to pursue certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE).

The Nursing Education track integrates a clinically focused practicum consistent with ANCC requirements. It qualifies graduates to sit for the National League for Nursing (NLN) certification exam, positioning them for teaching roles in academic and clinical settings.

The proposed program will address the critical need for more nursing educators.

With no discussion or objections from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to approve the proposal. A motion was made and seconded, and the program was approved unanimously.

Deactivation requests:

[Asian and Asian American Studies, MA](#)

The purpose of this deactivation is to give the Department a pause on the program so they can evaluate how to proceed. Note: The program will remain active for the three students currently enrolled.

[Community Schools Certificate](#)

Deactivation of the Advanced Certificate in Community Schools to evaluate whether there is a need to realign program offerings with the development of the new undergraduate teacher education program focused on community school contexts. The advanced certificate has a low graduation rate, with only 8 awards issued out of 56 enrolled students.

With no discussion or objections from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to approve the deactivation. A motion was made and seconded, and the requests were approved with one abstention.

Discontinuation requests:

[Nursing combined BS/MS](#)

These combined degree programs were deactivated on 8/25/2016. We have exceeded the three-year window for reactivation or discontinuation. They have a history of no enrollment, and the Decker School of Nursing is not interested in offering these combined pathways moving forward.

[Social Work in Health Care Advanced Certificate](#)

It was deactivated on 12/21/2018. We have exceeded the three-year window for deactivation or discontinuation. It had a history of no enrollment, and the Social Work department is not interested in offering this advanced certificate in the future.

With no discussion or objections from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to approve the discontinuation requests. A motion was made and seconded, and the requests were approved unanimously.

[Education, MSED – 7 Programs](#)

Seven programs were approved for deactivation in September 2023. Demand for MSED degrees in each of these specialized areas—Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, Mathematics, Physics, and Social Studies- remains low. Note: Any students desiring in the future to specialize in one of these seven areas will be able to do so as an MAT in the same specialization.

Deactivation and Discontinue requests:

[Education, MSED – French & Spanish](#)

Demand for MSED degrees in these specialized areas has been very low over the past five years. For example, only one student has earned a degree from the French MSED program since Spring 2022, and no other students have enrolled in this program. There have been no degree earners in the Spanish MSED since fall 2017, and no students have enrolled since spring 2018.

With no discussion or objections from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to approve the deactivation and discontinuation requests. A motion was made and seconded, and the requests were approved unanimously.

[Geriatrics and Gerontology Advanced Certificate](#)

In 2015, only one student enrolled and earned the certificate in Spring 2015. The Social Work department is not interested in offering this advanced certificate going forward.

Prof. Erin Pauling, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, asked for clarification on the motion to specify that it covers both deactivation and discontinuation, because the form itself appears to have been filed only as a discontinuation, and sought clarification before proceeding.

Courtney Ignarri, Assistant Dean for Program Review at the Graduate School, clarified that there was a minor error on the form. It was corrected, and it was confirmed that it was deactivation and discontinuation.

With no discussion or objections, a motion was made and seconded, and the deactivation and discontinuations were approved unanimously.

FSEC Proposal:

[Gauge Interest in Expanding Voting Rights](#)

Chair Panetier reported that FSEC wants to assess faculty interest in increasing representation for full-time faculty with qualified academic ranks within the Faculty Senate. Specifically, this includes full-time faculty with titles such as Lecturer, Clinical Faculty, and Research Faculty.

FSEC aims to gauge the Faculty Senate's interest before making any formal bylaws changes.

Several potential models for representation could be considered. These include allocating a limited number of dedicated Faculty Senate seats to full-time faculty holding qualified academic rank, or more broadly expanding voting eligibility to include this category of full-time faculty.

Chair Panetier explained that the question before the Senate at this time is whether there is interest in expanding representation and creating dedicated representation for this category of full-time faculty within the Faculty Senate.

He then asked the Senate for any questions or comments before voting to gauge interest in expanding voting rights.

Prof. Rosemary Collier, Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Vice President for Academics at the union, also spoke in support of the proposal from two perspectives.

From a union standpoint, Prof. Collier noted that participation in shared governance is a common concern among contingent faculty. They highlighted that a significant number of full-time lecturers and clinical faculty hold long-term appointments, with

many serving 3 to 6 or more consecutive years. They emphasized that these faculty members should have a voice in institutional governance.

From Decker College's perspective, Prof. Collier explained that career pathways in the health sciences are often non-linear, with many faculty spending substantial time in professional practice. As a result, tenure-track roles may not be appropriate for all clinical faculty, and they should not be disadvantaged in opportunities to participate in governance.

Prof. Collier expressed appreciation and reiterated support for the proposal.

Prof. Surya Parekh, English, also serves on the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) Governance Committee and spoke in support of expanding voting rights for contingent faculty.

Prof. Parekh reported that their committee is currently examining voting rights for contingent faculty across SUNY and noted that Binghamton is an outlier among the four university centers (Albany, Buffalo, Stony Brook, and Binghamton). Specifically, Binghamton is the only campus where full-time contingent faculty with at least a 1-year appointment are not included as voting faculty.

Prof. Parekh expressed that this is an appropriate time to align governance practices with principles of inclusivity and shared governance.

Additionally, Prof. Parekh noted that, based on SUNY Board of Trustees policies and consultation with UFS parliamentary leadership, voting eligibility for UFS representation appears to include all professional staff. They raised concerns that current campus practices may not be aligned with this policy.

Prof. Parekh further noted that contingent faculty are included in the population counts used to allocate senate representation but are not granted voting rights and emphasized the urgency of addressing this discrepancy.

Prof. Parekh encouraged the body to move forward in support of the proposal.

Chair Panetier opened the floor for final comments and expressions of support on the proposal. Members were asked to consider whether to move the proposal forward.

Chair Panetier noted that, based on prior discussion, clarification may be needed regarding SUNY UFS policies and their applicability. It was suggested that interpreting the Board of Trustees guidelines may require further discussion, and Chair Panetier offered to follow up separately to clarify these points.

The discussion returned to the proposal, with a focus on whether there was interest in expanding its scope. Chair Panetier noted broad support among members, with no significant objections raised.

It was acknowledged that the proposal could be revisited and further expanded in the future, with attention to clarity and careful consideration.

With no further discussion or objections, a motion was made and seconded to proceed with gauging interest in expanding voting rights.

Before the vote, Chair Panetier indicated that voting would be conducted by secret paper ballot.

Following the collection and tallying of ballots, Chair Panetier announced the results: 41 in favor, 8 opposed, and 2 abstentions. Chair Panetier noted that the proposal will return to FSEC with the intention of being developed into a formal resolution.

SUNY University Faculty Senate Resolutions:

Chair Panetier reported that all resolutions are available on the Faculty Senate website and at <https://ufs.suny.edu/>. He reviewed the resolutions approved by SUNY UFS at the November and January plenary meetings. He added that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee reviewed the resolutions, but they were not unanimously endorsed. The Diversity Committee also reviewed the resolution before today's meeting. He then explained that the Senate would vote today on whether to endorse or not endorse the resolutions.

Resolution- [202-01-01: Amend policy regarding "Display of the Flag" to include the flags of sovereign indigenous nations in New York State](#)

Abstract: Advocates for a change to SUNY Policy 5600 "Display of the Flag" to grant campuses autonomy to display the flags of federally and state-recognized indigenous nations whose traditional territories encompass the campus location.

Background: Current SUNY Policy 5600 limits flag display to the U.S. flag, New York State flag, United Nations flag, Red Cross flag, National League of Families POW/MIA flag, and campus-specific flags.

Resolution Requests: Calls on the SUNY Chancellor and Board of Trustees to amend Policy 5600 to permit the display of indigenous nations' flags alongside the U.S. flag. Recommends granting individual campuses autonomy to display flags of federally and state-recognized indigenous nations whose territories encompass the campus.

Chair Panetier then asked the Senate for any questions or comments before voting on the resolution.

Prof. BrieAnna Langlie, Anthropology, from the Native American and Indigenous Studies Working Group, spoke in support of the resolution, explaining that the initiative aims to respect Indigenous sovereignty and ensure that any actions are taken in consultation with the nations whose ancestral lands campuses occupy.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the resolution. A voice vote was conducted, with the motion passing and one abstention.

Resolution- [202-02-1: In Support of DEISJ Knowledge Areas across all SUNY Sectors](#)

Abstract: Urges SUNY leadership to support programs and departments that develop and teach Diversity: Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DEISJ) content as autonomous interdisciplinary units.

Background: DEISJ programs face a national threat due to financial pressures and political climate, risking defunding, merging, or marginalization. DEISJ knowledge areas are vital for general education, research, experiential learning, and preparing students for a global society.

Resolution Requests: Support, retain, and expand DEISJ programs as independent interdisciplinary units. Acknowledge the significance of DEISJ content for general education and degree programs. Oppose efforts to defund or marginalize DEISJ knowledge areas. Affirm SUNY's commitment to DEISJ and academic freedom.

Chair Panetier then asked the Senate for any questions or comments before voting on the resolution.

It was noted that the resolution had been reviewed by both the Executive Committee and the Diversity Committee. Some concerns were raised regarding language and the need to ensure balance and clarity, particularly around academic freedom and program scope. However, the overall intent—to support and strengthen such programs—was recognized.

A motion was made and seconded. Upon request, voting was conducted by secret paper ballot. The resolution received majority support with 40 in favor, 9 opposed, and 2 abstentions, and will move forward for further development.

Resolution- [201a-08-1 Safeguarding Free Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Privacy](#)

Abstract: Resolution calls for SUNY-wide refinement of content-neutral time, place & manner policies to enhance protection of participants in lawful assembly and protest.

Background: Misuse of “time, place, and manner” policies has sometimes resulted in unconstitutional or discriminatory restrictions on protected freedoms of speech and assembly.

Resolution Requests: Calls for the adoption of time, place, and manner policies that protect freedom of speech and assembly while maintaining campus safety. Calls for campus governance bodies to be involved in developing or updating policies related to time, place, and manner restrictions.

Advocates for the secure storage of personally identifiable information related to freedom of expression.

Prof. Surya Parekh, English, stated that they were involved in drafting the resolution and presenting it at the UFS Assembly in the fall. They provided background, noting that the UUP Delegates Assembly and the SUNY Student Assembly had already passed versions of the resolution.

Prof. Parekh explained that the resolution has two primary goals: first, it does not seek to change existing policy, but rather to ensure that time, place, and manner policies are implemented in a way that maximizes protection of free speech. They referenced New York State regulations and education law, as well as Board of Trustees policies, which emphasize strong protections for free expression. Second, the resolution calls for shared governance involvement in the development and revision of campus policies.

Prof. Parekh emphasized that protecting free speech contributes to a robust and healthy campus environment and encouraged colleagues to support the resolution.

Prof. Meg Leja, History, expressed concerns. While acknowledging the importance of free speech in principle, they noted that, in practice, such policies may not always be applied equitably.

Prof. Leja also raised concerns about potential unintended consequences, including the possibility that certain members of the campus community may feel unsafe depending on how policies are implemented.

After no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded. Upon request, voting was conducted by secret paper ballot. The resolution received majority support with 36 in favor, 11 opposed, and 4 abstentions, and will move forward for further development.

4. Spring 2026 Faculty Senate meetings

Chair Panetier announced that the last Faculty Senate meetings of the spring semester will be held on April 21, 2026.

Chair Panetier also encouraged senators to complete the surveys regarding upcoming vacancies for SUNY UFS and FSEC representatives.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Present: Meaghan Altman, Ming An, Elizabeth Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Reethee Antony, Michael Armstrong, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Ramaesh Bhagirat, Jeremy Blackburn, Elizabeth Casteen, Rosemary Collier, Robyn Cope, Anne D'Alleva, Tara Dhakal, Kristina Donders, Gregory Evans, Elise Ferer, Anthony Fiumera, Heather Fiumera, Sasha

Frizzell, Cullen Goldblatt, Robert Guay, Donald Hall, Melissa Hardesty, Tiffany Keller Hansbrough, Matthew Harrick, John Havard, Laura Fine Hawkes, George Homsy, Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz, Rebecca Kissling, Michael Lawler, Meg Leja, Emily Leppien, Jeffrey Lum, Colin Lyons, Adam Mathews, Andre Mathis, Tom McDonough, Debi Mishra, Vladimir Nikulin, Nikiru Nzegwu, Julien Panetier, Surya Parekh, Erin Pauling, Sabina Perrino, Mark Poliks, Xingye Qiao, James Rea, Erin Rushton, Anton Schick, Olga Shvetsova, Manuel Smeu, John Starks, Jodi Sutherland, Sofia Theodore-Pierce, Melvin Whitehead, Bogum Yoon, Denise Yull

Excused: Laura Anderson, Peter Borgesen, Michael Buck, Paul Chiarot, Mateo Duque, Barry Jones, Kimberly Jaussi, Andreas Pape, Jennifer Stoever

Absent: Prabhu Anil Bhor, Kenneth Chiu, Sungdai Cho, Weiyang Dai, Sidney Dement, Marvin Diaz, Komla Dzigbede, Mikhail Filippov, Yang (Jenny) Guo, Douglas Jones, Joseph Keith, Ahyeon Koh, Adriane Lam, Shuxia (Susan) Lu, J. Koji Lum, Gail Rattinger, Tarek Shamma, Timothy Singler, Cyma Van Petten