

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 30, 2025

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2025-2026 academic year was called to order by Associate Professor of Chemistry Julien Panetier, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:45 a.m. in Old Union Hall.

1. *Resolution of Appreciation Presented to President Harvey G. Stenger*

Chair Panetier delivered the following resolution of appreciation from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Campus Governance Leaders to outgoing President Stenger:

*In recognition of his **distinguished service, steadfast leadership, and lasting contributions** to Binghamton University.*

***Whereas**, he has upheld and exemplified the values of collegiality, collaboration, and shared governance, thereby strengthening the University community and advancing its mission; and*

***Whereas**, through his vision, leadership, and dedication, he has guided Binghamton University to new levels of excellence, leaving it in a position of great strength and promise for the future; and*

***Whereas**, through his commitment and accomplishments, he leaves Binghamton University in a position of exceptional strength, enriched for generations to come.*

***Therefore, be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate of Binghamton University does hereby extend its profound appreciation to President Harvey G. Stenger for his exemplary service and outstanding leadership; and*

***Be it further resolved** that the Faculty Senate expresses its sincere gratitude and warmest best wishes to President Stenger for continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in all future endeavors.*

Chair Panetier then called for a motion to approve the resolution honoring President Harvey G. Stenger.

A motion was made and seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved.

President Stenger expressed appreciation to the Senate and shared governance for their support and efforts during his 13 years of leadership.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the May 6, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Obituary Notices

Chair Panetier informed the body that: Professor Emeritus Thomas Wallace Donnelly (Geology), Professor Emeritus James F. Geer (Engineering & Applied Science), Associate Professor Charles J. Houghton (Mathematics & Statistics), Professor and Founding Dean Patricia (Wallace) Ingraham (CCPA), and Distinguished Professor Emeritus G. Philip Rightmire (Anthropology). Chair Panetier shared remarks in remembrance of each individual and then called for a moment of silence to honor their memory.

4. Reports

Chair Panetier noted that the 2024–2025 annual reports are available on the Faculty Senate agenda webpage for this meeting. He reminded the body that each Faculty Senate committee and each joint committee must submit an annual report summarizing their activities for the academic year by June 15. These reports are officially received by the Faculty Senate and included on the agenda of the first meeting of the next academic year for review or possible action. Chair Panetier then opened the floor for questions. The senators asked no questions.

Chair Panetier noted that the 2025-2026 committee membership list was posted on the Faculty Senate webpage.

After the reports were presented without comments from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to accept receipt of the reports.

A motion was made and seconded. The reports were approved unanimously.

5. Curriculum Items (PRC)

Chair Panetier reported revisions to a curricular program, including deactivation and discontinuation.

- **Physics and Mechanical Engineering 4+1 revision:** The program was approved during the Spring semester. The revision primarily focuses on making sure all courses meet transfer requirements.
- **Deactivation and Discontinuance for the Adolescence Special Education (Grades 7 to 12) Certificate:** The reason for the discontinuance and deactivation is that students are unable to complete the program as originally intended due to a new inability to enroll in both an in-person, traditional MAT and, simultaneously, an online advanced certification add-on. Additionally, NYS has discontinued grade bands for special education; therefore, the program's offerings need to be restructured. Hence, this program will be discontinued to make time and space for the development of new, all-grade special education program offerings.

The Program Review Committee (PRC) and Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) have recommended the program revision proposal and the deactivation and discontinuance of the certificate to the Faculty Senate (FS) for approval.

Chair Panetier asked the Senate if there were any comments or questions about the program revision proposal and the deactivation and discontinuation of the certificate.

Without any comments or questions from the Senate, Chair Panetier called for a motion to approve the program revision proposal and the certificate deactivation and discontinuance.

A motion was made and seconded. After no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

6. ADA Accessibility Update

Chair Panetier reported that in 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice introduced rule changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Regulations.

Beginning **April 24, 2026**, these rule changes add new compliance requirements for websites, web content, and web-based systems and applications.

More specifically, this policy applies to University websites, applications, and other digital content created or provided by the University and its agents or affiliates.

The Binghamton University Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility Policy is available at <https://www.binghamton.edu/operations/policies/policy-307.html>.

Chair Panetier then invited Prof. Scott Craver, Undergraduate Director of the Electrical and Computer Engineering department, to provide an update from the last Faculty Senate meeting in May.

Prof. Scott Craver announced his new role as Electronic Information Technology Officer and provided an update on the ADA Title II Digital Accessibility Compliance Project. He presented the following details.

- **What It's About:**
 - New federal rule under ADA Title II (2024) requires digital content to meet accessibility standards by April 24, 2026.
 - Applies to public-facing websites, course materials, and internal tools (e.g., DegreeWorks, Brightspace).
 - Based on W3C accessibility standards (e.g., color contrast, alt text, reading order).
- **Impact on Faculty:**
 - Main focus: Ensure documents uploaded to Brightspace (PDFs, Word, PowerPoint) pass an accessibility check.

- Also includes faculty-edited web pages and other digital content that students or employees' access.
- Intended not to restrict teaching methods or prohibit the use of materials, but to support accessibility compliance.
- This should not be a burden for faculty. Faculty should contact Prof. Carver for support with complicated or problematic materials.
- We are striving to establish a baseline level of accessibility to meet the default compliance level.
- **Support and Resources:**
 - Accessibility tools are available (e.g., Office, Google Docs, Brightspace/Yuja).
 - Remediation services are offered for hard-to-fix documents; use is allowed while in the queue.
 - Student assistants have been hired, and more help will be available in the Spring semester.
 - Knowledge base and resources are linked at the bottom of every Binghamton web page.
- **Strategic Plan:**
 - Faculty collaboration is key—policies will be shaped based on teaching needs.
 - “Roadshows” are ongoing to explain the changes and gather department-specific input (20 academic units done, 20 to go).
 - A faculty-administration task force will advise on policy and interface with SUNY.
 - Development of policies for course materials
 - Acquisition and creation of tools and technologies to assist with accessibility.
- **Bottom Line:**
 - This is doable.
 - Binghamton is ahead of the curve with planning, tools, and support.
 - There is time to adapt and make needed changes by 2026.
 - Faculty are encouraged to engage with the process and reach out with questions.
 - Prof. Craver will be presenting directly to departments as part of the rollout.

Chair Panetier then asked for questions from the floor. The Senate asked no questions.

7. New Business

Chair Panetier noted that the last item on the agenda for the Senate's approval, which was posted beforehand, is the proposed new General Education text.

He pointed out two task forces responsible for designing and proposing this new general education curriculum. The first is the Global Interdependencies (“G” attributes) Task Force. Its charge is to implement the new SUNY general education requirements

in the areas of Civic Discourse and Artificial Intelligence. These updated requirements are mandatory additions to the general education curriculum, as directed by the SUNY Chancellor and approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees. They must be implemented by Fall 2026.

Chair Panetier invited Prof. Nate Andrade from the History department, and co-chair of the Global Interdisciplinary Task Force, to the floor to provide an overview of the task force.

Prof. Andrade explained that the task force was formed due to challenges with applicants for that particular general education course. The main objective is to re-evaluate the trends and provide recommendations to the committees on how to proceed. They reviewed the applications for the "G" gen ed, noting the success and rejection rates. They identified global trends in general education courses. They eliminated the requirement that the G course must focus on how two or more distinct regions or cultures impact one another mutually and instead produced language that allowed courses to focus on how one world region could have an asymmetrical impact on other world regions. As before, the G course must focus on at least one world region or culture outside of the USA, Canada, and Western Europe. The UCC can grant exceptions to this framework on an individual basis; however, petitioners must provide a clear and convincing justification for why courses focusing on these regions within a global framework should be included.

Prof. Robyn Cope, Romance Languages, asked how the task force was formed.

Chair Panetier explained that Provost Hall was involved in forming the task force with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Prof. Andrade added that the initiative originated from the Provost's office and that a variety of meetings were held to develop the task force.

Prof. Hawkes, Theatre and FSEC chair, explained that the eleven task force members were jointly appointed by the Provost's Office and the FSEC. In any given task force, we cannot represent every single unit, so representation is spread out, and input is solicited from various groups through campus discussions. UCC was also represented on the task force. The task force solicited further faculty feedback through multiple widely published Zoom sessions to reach a wider audience.

Prof. Andrade added that there was outreach, including in Dateline and a Google survey form.

Prof. Bogum Yoon, Teaching, Learning and Educational Leadership, inquired whether this focused on undergraduate programs or graduate programs.

Prof. Andrade clarified that it was for undergraduate education programs only.

Prof. Gladys Jimenez-Muñoz, from Sociology, inquired about the meaning of the new language and its implications for the asymmetrical impact or relationships among different world regions and peoples.

Prof. Andrade responded that the new language was intended to include courses that focus on asymmetrical relationships.

Prof. Jimenez-Muñoz inquired further about the rationale behind the language change and what it means for courses focusing on asymmetrical relationships between world regions.

Prof. Andrade explained that the new language enables courses focusing on asymmetrical relationships between world regions to be included in the G, whereas the standing language does not.

Prof. Cláudia Nogueira Hora Marques, Biological Sciences, and chair of the Diversity Committee, requested clarification on whether students or professors apply to that particular general education course and the impact on international students who need to take those courses.

Prof. Alex Chase-Levenson, History and chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, just as is the case for all course proposals for Gen Ed designations, it is up to the instructor (rather than any individual student) to apply for an exception to the rule in the new G that one of the two world regions covered in the course be outside of the US and Western Europe. He also noted that this language was inserted to accommodate the wide range of opinions expressed during the town hall meetings. It was an attempt to preserve both our wish to indicate that studying non-Western societies is important within the Gen Ed curriculum and the opinions of some that, in cases where a course, for example, compared indigenous societies within two distinct Western regions, it was within the discretion of the UUCC to say that the course would still be eligible for the new G.

Prof. Nogueira Hora Marques then requested and reminded that the information presented at the Faculty Senate meeting be provided to her in advance for review by the Diversity Committee.

Prof. Cope expressed concern about changing the language from 'Global Interdependences' to 'Global Issues'. She described how this would interfere with guiding professors and instructors in these courses.

Associate Librarian Megan Benson, Libraries, and co-chair of the Civic Discourse and AI Task Force, clarified that SUNY has added AI to the information literacy category. Workshops on implementing these new categories are scheduled for October 17, October 31, and in November, around the Thanksgiving holiday.

After no further questions were asked from the floor, Chair Panetier asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of both task forces and to approve the proposed new general education text.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved, with two abstentions and no opposition.

8. Upcoming Faculty Senate meeting

Chair Panetier noted that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, and we will be welcoming the new President, Anne D'Alleva.

9. Open Floor

Prof. Matt Johnson, Psychology, expressed concern about recent personnel actions regarding administrative appointments and wished to call attention to a discrepancy between SUNY practice and our internal bylaws.

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, Ramaesh Bhagirat, Peter Borgesen, Elizabeth Casteen, David Campbell, Sungdai Cho, Rosemary Collier, Robyn Cope, Tara Dhakal, Marvin Diaz, Kristina Donders, Komla Dzigbede, Gregory Evans, Elise Ferer, Mikhail Filippov, Anthony Fiumera, Heather Fiumera, Sasha Frizzell, Cullen Goldblatt, Robert Guay, Donald Hall, Matthew Harrick, Laura Fine Hawkes, George Homsy, Gladys Jiménez-Muñoz, Barry Jones, Douglas Jones, Joseph Keith, Rebecca Kissling, Ahyeon Koh, Michael Lawler, Meg Leja, Emily Leppien, Shuxia (Susan) Lu, Jeffrey Lum, Colin Lyons, Adam Mathews, Andre Mathis, Debi Mishra, Vladimir Nikulin, Nikiru Nzegwu, Julien Panetier, Andreas Pape, Erin Pauling, Sabina Perrino, Mark Poliks, Xingye Qiao, Gail Rattinger, James Rea, Erin Rushton, Anton Schick, Olga Shvetsova, Timothy Singler, Manuel Smeu, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Jennifer Stoever, Jodi Sutherland, Cyma Van Petten, Melvin Whitehead, Bogum Yoon

Excused: Laura Anderson, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Michael Buck, Kenneth Chiu, Sidney Dement, Mateo Duque, Yang (Jenny) Guo, Melissa Hardesty, John Havard, Tom McDonough, Tarek Shamma, Denise Yull

Absent: Prabhu Anil Bhor, Jeremy Blackburn, Paul Chiarot, Weiying Dai, Tiffany Keller Hansbrough, Kimberly Jaussi, Adriane Lam, J. Koji Lum, Surya Parekh, Sofia Theodore-Pierce