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# MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING
## October 20, 2026

Associate Professor of Chemistry Julien Panetier, chair of the Faculty Senate, called the Full Faculty meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. in Old Union Hall. He then introduced President Anne D'Alleva for the semiannual presidential report.

President D'Alleva presented the University's semiannual report to attendees at the Full Faculty meeting. The presentation can be found here.

President D'Alleva concluded by inviting questions from the full faculty.

Prof. Tom McDonough, Art History, raised a question about whether the administration is reconsidering the role of SAT scores in admissions, given recent changes in standardized testing policies at other institutions, and where SUNY stands on this issue.

President D'Alleva noted that the administration shared a data analysis showing that high school GPA is a stronger predictor of student success than SAT scores, based on graduation and student retention rates. The institution will maintain its test-optional admissions policy for now, while SUNY continues to evaluate the issue.

Prof. Sarah Gerk, Music, raised concerns about the long-term condition and sustainability of the Fine Arts Building, including flooding in the South School Recital Hall, structural damage from settling, window issues, and mold and noise problems in the faculty office area. The question asked whether plans extend beyond targeted renovations to address the building's broader structural and infrastructure needs.

President D'Alleva explained that the administration outlined both short-term renovations and long-term improvements. A $5 million renovation of the recital hall is planned to address flooding, accessibility, and performance-space limitations. A smaller renovation of the green room, estimated at approximately $150,000, is also underway. Additionally, the administration is working with the State University Construction Fund on an initial $50 million renovation project focused on the studio building, including structural repairs, roof replacement, HVAC upgrades, flooring, and lighting. Further funding will be pursued to improve the overall safety, functionality, and condition of the Fine Arts complex.

Prof. Bogum Yoon, TLEL, asked about the university's global rankings, particularly its relatively low placement in the QS World University Rankings compared with other rankings.

President D'Alleva noted that the administration acknowledged the discrepancy between the university's QS ranking (approximately 1,000–1,200) and its stronger placements in other rankings. Discussions have been initiated with QS representatives to better understand the differences in ranking methodologies and identify opportunities for improvement. The administration is also engaging with other ranking organizations and plans to continue these efforts, recognizing the importance of global rankings in attracting international students.

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

Associate Professor of Chemistry Julien Panetier, chair of the Faculty Senate, called the second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2026-2027 academic year to order at 12:30 p.m. in Old Union Hall.

1. *Minutes*
   The Senate approved the minutes from September 22, 2026, meeting unanimously.

2. *Reports*
   Prof. Debi Mishra, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), provided the FSEC report, highlighting the committee's work in supporting shared governance, advancing key initiatives, and addressing ongoing faculty and campus concerns.

   **Supporting Shared Governance**
   FSEC approved membership for 19 Faculty Senate committees, including the newly established Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Committee. Prof. Mishra expressed special thanks to Neyda Gilman, chair of the Committee on Committees, for her work in this effort. FSEC also provided faculty nominations for key search committees, including the Dean of the College of Community and Public Affairs and the Chief of Police. FSEC submitted faculty nominees to university committees, including the Strategic Planning Advisory Board, Strategic Planning Review Committee, and Distinguished Professor Committees. FSEC responded to requests for faculty representation on additional campus committees, including Academic Integrity, and reviewed and approved program deactivation and discontinuation proposals through the Program Review Committee (PRC).

   **Major Issues and Initiatives**
   - **Task Force on the Advancement of Associate Professors:** The Task Force presented its final report to FSEC on September 8. FSEC discussed the report and provided feedback. The Provost's Office made the report publicly available.
   - **Credit for Prior Learning Committee:** The committee was established as a permanent Faculty Senate committee after previously operating as a task force. Donald Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, is serving as chair of this committee. Membership was established across academic units.

**Ongoing Discussions**

- **Faculty Senate Representation:** Discussions continue regarding expanded voting rights and representation for full-time faculty holding qualified academic ranks, including lecturers, clinical faculty, and research faculty. The provost has agreed to establish a joint task force to address this issue.
- **AI and Faculty Engagement:** The university is planning campus-wide faculty discussions on AI governance and implementation, in coordination with the AI Governance Committee, chaired by James Pitarresi.
- **Student Opinion of Teaching (SOOT):** FSEC is exploring adopting common university-wide evaluation questions. FSEC has identified five core questions, and implementation discussions are ongoing, with a tentative timeline of Fall 2027.
- **Online Course Growth:** FSEC is reviewing concerns about the growth of asynchronous winter and summer courses, particularly regarding quality assurance.
- **Parking:** Parking congestion and related concerns remain under discussion.

Prof. Mishra concluded by reaffirming FSEC's commitment to strengthening shared governance, supporting strategic university initiatives, and addressing issues affecting faculty, students, and the broader campus community. He encouraged faculty members to contact him with any questions or concerns.

Chair Panetier thanked Prof. Mishra for the FSEC report.

Prof. Alistair Lees, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, presented the Advancement of Associate Professors Report. The task force presented findings and recommendations regarding promotion from associate professor to full professor. A review of 235 cases from 2000–2025 found that approximately 90% were approved on the first submission, with about 93% successful. The average promotion time was eight years and seven months, with differences across departments and gender.

The task force recommended that departments and academic units regularly update promotion guidelines and incorporate them into six-year unit reviews. Promotion guidelines should be published on the provost’s website. The report also emphasized strengthening mentoring for associate professors through biannual constructive feedback from mentors, with cross-departmental mentoring when needed. Additional recommendations included providing mid-career research support, course releases, conference travel funding, and attention to service burdens. The full report and survey findings are available on the provost's website under Faculty Resources.

Chair Panetier thanked Vice Provost Lees for his report.

3. *New Business- Curriculum Items*

Chair Panetier reported on curricular program revisions, including deactivation of an existing program.

Chair Panetier presented the Deactivation of the Special Education, Early Childhood, MSEd. FSEC and the Diversity Committee endorsed deactivation. Chair Panetier clarified that the deactivation would not affect currently enrolled students or existing permanent program arrangements.

Chair Panetier asked whether the Senate had any comments or questions regarding the program deactivation.

With no comments or questions from the Senate, the Senate moved to approve the deactivation. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Panetier presented two proposed program revisions to the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Administration Certificate and the TESOL Intensive Teacher Institute to align the programs with revised New York State Department of Education requirements for clinical practice and teacher preparation. FSEC and the Diversity Committee endorsed both proposals. The Senate subsequently addressed concerns about omitted information.

Chair Panetier asked whether the Senate had any additional comments or questions regarding the two program revisions.

With no comments or questions from the Senate, the Senate moved to approve the program revisions. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings*
Chair Panetier noted that three additional faculty meetings are scheduled, including the Full Faculty meeting on March 16, 2027, at which the President will present the second report of the academic year. The committee could schedule an additional faculty meeting for late February, depending on the amount of business remaining before the end of the semester.

5. *Open Floor*
The floor was then opened for additional business.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Present: Monica Adams, Barima Akwasi Amankwaah, Michael Armstrong, Pegor Aynajian, Magdalena Bermudez, Indranil Bhattacharya, Peter Borgesen, Jayson Boubin, Sandra Casanova-Vizcaino, Elizabeth Casteen, Subimal Chatterjee, Hippocrates Cheng, Paul Chiarot, Scott Craver, Anne D'Alleva, Casey Doyle, Komla Dzigbede, Elise Ferer, Sarah Gerk, Robert Guay, Donald Hall, Melissa Hardesty, Yetrib Hathout, Brendan Hennessey, Tracey Hookway, Amanda Hutchinson, Murali Jagannathan, Barry Jones, Thiam Huat Kam, Mohammad Khasawneh, Ahyeon Koh, Kenneth Kurtz, Meg Leja, Emily Leppien, Colin Lyons, Adam Mathews, Andre Mathis,

Richard Mattson, Marcin Mazur, Tom McDonough, Jennifer McGrath, Debi Mishra, Steven Murphy, Heidi Nicholls, Julien Panetier, Andreas Pape, Erin Pauling, Xingye Qiao, August Rey, Erin Rushton, Bahgat Sammakia, Sina Saneiyan, Manuel Smeu, John Starks, Kathleen Sterling, Minfei Su, Jodi Sutherland, Melvin Whitehead, Jeffrey Yates, Bogum Yoon, Sangwon Yoon, Denise Yull

Excused: Elizabeth Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Ramaesh Bhagirat, Birgit Brander Rasmussen, Heather Fiumera, Sasha Frizzell, Surya Parekh, Ramesh Pokharel, Jennifer Stoever

Absent: Seden Akcinaroglu, Meaghan Altman, Reethee Antony, Eric Atkinson, Hwan-Sik Choi, Rosemary Collier, Elizabeth DiGangi, Carl Gelderloos, Peter Gerhardstein, Matthew Harrick, Will Hayes, Douglas Jones, Monika Mehta, Pratik Misra, Giovanna Montenegro, Samuel Elikem Kwame Nyamuame, Pedro Ontaneda, Mark Poliks, Aravind Prakash, Luis Rocha, Kristian Rydqvist, Sumantra Sarkar, Scott Schiffres, Sujoy Sikdar, Sundeep Venkatesan, Timothea Vo, Kuang-Ching Wang