

March 18, 2026

To: Faculty Senate
From: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Gauge Interest in Expanding Voting Rights Proposal

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) brings this proposal to the Faculty Senate to gauge faculty interest in expanding representation for full-time faculty holding qualified academic rank within the Faculty Senate. Specifically, this includes full-time faculty in titles of Lecturer, Clinical Faculty, and Research Faculty.

FSEC seeks to determine the level of interest within the Faculty Senate before pursuing any formal changes to the bylaws. The Committee recognizes the legitimacy of concerns raised regarding the lack of formal (currently non-voting) representation for this group of full-time faculty and the importance of thoughtful consideration of potential remedies. At the same time, members acknowledge the importance of maintaining established shared governance processes and ensuring that any proposals proceed through appropriate elected channels.

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. Dedicated seats would ensure representation for non-tenure-line faculty while preserving the existing structure. Number and apportionment of seats would be considered as a percentage of the total.

Binghamton University has long maintained a separate Professional Staff Senate, a model that has functioned effectively. FSEC is now exploring whether there is faculty interest in expanding representation within the Faculty Senate to provide non-tenure-line full-time faculty both voting rights and guaranteed representation.

This is a complex issue that would require a change to the Faculty Senate bylaws. **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.**

A straw vote will now be taken by paper ballot.