

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY / FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 6, 2025

Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Aaron Beedle, Faculty Senate chair, called the fifth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year to order at 11:45 a.m. She welcomed President Harvey G. Stenger and turned the meeting over to him.

President Stenger delivered his final report to the faculty, highlighting the key accomplishments achieved during his tenure.

Following President Stenger's presentation, Chair Beedle formally presented him with the 2024–2025 SUNY Shared Governance Award, which had been presented to Provost Hall and Chair Beedle on April 25, 2025, at SUNY Oneonta by SUNY Chancellor John B. King and SUNY University Faculty Senate President Keith Landa.

Chair Beedle then called the fifth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year to order at 12:17 p.m.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the March 25, 2025, meeting were approved.

2. Obituary notices

Chair Beedle informed the body that the following individuals had passed away: Former Professor Richard Boswell, French; Former Dean James Votruba, College of Education and Human Development; Former Chair Bernard Rosenthal, English; and Chair Tomonari Nishikawa, Cinema. After speaking about our colleagues, Chair Beedle requested a moment of silence in their memory.

3. Election of 2025- 2026 Faculty Senate Officers.

The Nominating Committee of the Faculty Senate presented the following slate of nominees:

Chair (term 2025-2027) – Julien Panetier (Chemistry)

Vice Chair (term 2025-2026) – Debi Mishra (SOM)

Secretary (term 2025-2026) – Erin Rushton (Libraries)

With no additional nominations received in accordance with the bylaws, a motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of nominees.

The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

#### 4. Approval of degree candidates

Chair Beedle reported that 4,247 graduates have filed an application for a degree, comprising 3,038 undergraduate and 1,209 graduate students.

With no questions or comments from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to approve the degree candidates.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

#### 5. Curriculum

Chair Beedle presented the Watson College proposal, which would involve establishing a collaboration with an additional location to offer international master's degree programs at this international site.

Madhu Govindaraju, Vice Provost for International Education and Global Affairs (IEGA), and Atul Kelkar, Dean of Watson, were present to answer questions from the Senate.

Chair Beedle reported the following:

- Proposal posted materials (redacted):
  - SUNY Form 7, Program Announcement /Letter of Intent for Out-of-State Programs,
  - SUNY Form 8 Out-of-State and International Academic Program Proposal Form
  - Diversity Statement
  - Academic Business Plan
- MS programs that would be included:
  - MS Biomedical Engineering
  - MS Computer Science
  - MS Electrical & Computer Engineering
  - MS Healthcare Systems Engineering
  - MS Information Systems
  - MS Industrial and Systems Engineering
  - MS Mechanical Engineering
  - MS System Science
- Benefits of engaging in this opportunity
- Risks of not engaging in this opportunity
- The Binghamton and Local Partner responsibility matrix
- Additional details of the MS two-year programs
- Faculty involved with Binghamton and the International site

She explained that after addressing the questions raised by the Program Review Committee, Budget Review Committee, Diversity Committee, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, each group ultimately endorsed the proposal, recognizing the importance of seizing this exciting opportunity.

Chair Beedle then commended those involved with the proposal on robust plans to ensure the quality of this degree as it is offered at the international site.

She then asked the Senate if they wished to share any comments or had questions.

Provost Hall noted that he had worked closely with Watson faculty leadership and the budget office and believes this initiative offers a practical and cost-effective entry into the international market. He emphasized that the international partner is a highly ranked institution, which will enhance the university's brand in that region. He also mentioned that other top-tier U.S. institutions have expressed interest in partnering with this university. Finally, he and CFO John Cordi are confident that the financial outlook is strong, with the potential for the initiative to be self-sustaining and increasingly profitable.

With no further comments or questions from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Watson MS programs in engineering for these amendments to add the additional location.

The motion passed with one abstention and one opposition.

#### 6. *New Business*

Chair Beedle presented the following proposed Bylaws amendments.

- a. **Article I, e. Voting Faculty (page 2)**, Policy Change: According to our current bylaws, faculty on work visas are considered as temporary, not term, appointments. Due to this "temporary" status, these faculty members, who would otherwise meet the criteria for term voting faculty, are excluded by our current bylaws. This amendment is intended to correct the disenfranchisement of these faculty members.
- b. **Article III, Title A. Faculty Meetings, 6. Faculty Minutes (page 4)**, Minor changes to the location of permanent minutes: Existing bylaws state that the President's office holds minutes, the Dean of the Libraries, and the Faculty Senate Secretary. This amendment corrects that the minutes will be kept by the Office of the Provost and the Dean of Libraries (filed in the University Archives).  
**Article III, Title B. Faculty Senate, 12. Minutes (page 10)**, This amendment is to correct that the minutes will be kept by the Office of the Provost and the Dean of Libraries (filed in the University Archives).
- c. **Article VII, Title E, 2 Procedures for Cases other than Initial Appointments, e., i. regarding the required preliminary UPC report to a faculty member under review (pages 26 and 27)**. Current bylaws do not require that the UPC vote count be included in the preliminary UPC report that a faculty candidate uses to determine if they wish to request a formal review. This amendment would release the UPC vote to the candidate in the preliminary UPC report.
- d. **Appendix Title A, Diversity Committee (page 24)**. This amendment corrects the charge and composition of faculty members serving two-year terms, as well as the rotation of representation from the Professional Schools and the Library when new members are added.
- e. **Appendix Title B, Microcredential Committee (page 26)**. This amendment corrects the word microcredential by removing the hyphen between micro-credential throughout the charge and composition. It also updates the committee membership and approvals process for credit-bearing microcredentials.

With no questions or comments from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaws amendments for distribution for a full faculty electronic vote.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

Next, Chair Beedle introduced Prof. John Starks, MEAMS and SUNY UFS representative, who presented the following resolutions for the Senate to consider for endorsement, as the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) had adopted them at its Spring Plenary.

- “SUNY Administration guidance regarding changes in requirements for existing grants, scholarships, etc.” (posted, for senate vote to endorse)

Chair Beedle affirmed that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Diversity Committee have endorsed this resolution. Chair Beedle then asked the Senate if they wished to share any comments or had questions.

Prof. Olga Shvetsova, Political Science, asked the President and Provost whether it was appropriate for the administration to clarify and communicate its interpretive decisions, making them vulnerable.

Provost Hall noted that this resolution asks the SUNY Central administration to assume this role, so we are not making any individual campus a target for any potential actions from the Federal Administration. With SUNY’s extensive apparatus of legal counsel and other support systems, we are well-positioned to be the central voice on this matter, and this is the right strategy.

With no further questions or comments from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to endorse the “SUNY Administration guidance regarding changes in requirements for existing grants, scholarships, etc.” resolution.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

Prof. Starks proceeded with the following resolution:

- “Legal Support for Immigration Issues” (posted, for senate vote to endorse)

Chair Beedle affirmed that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Diversity Committee have endorsed this resolution.

She then asked the Senate if they wished to share any comments or had questions.

Prof. Surya Parekh, English, commented that a group across 14 different state campuses drafted this resolution. This was in part due to faculty, students, and staff facing immigration issues, and the revoked visas or green cards. This resolution would provide support for our faculty, students, and staff.

With no further questions or comments from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to endorse the “Legal Support for Immigration Issues” resolution.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

Prof. Starks proceeded with the last resolution:

- “In Support of All Forms of Gender Identity and Expression” (posted, for senate vote to endorse)

Prof. Starks noted that this resolution was developed by faculty at Binghamton, revised by the SUNY University Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and presented and endorsed at the SUNY University Faculty Senate Plenary.

Chair Beedle affirmed that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Diversity Committee have endorsed this resolution. Chair Beedle asked the Senate if they wished to share any comments or had questions.

Prof. Bridget Whearty, English, expressed her support for this resolution, citing her role as a mentor and confidant for many students, and noted that non-binary, trans, and intersex faculty, students, and staff do indeed feel threatened.

Prof. Adriane Lam, Department of Earth Sciences, requested clarification on the specific meaning of the term "defend the protection" as used in the resolution statement.

Chair Beedle noted that this would be a call for the SUNY Counsel's office and the NYS Attorney General to support those elements which are already in our state law.

Professor Starks emphasized that the strength of the resolution lies in the Chancellor's explicit recognition of this issue as a protected area under New York State policy. The resolution seeks to affirm that commitment, and should that protection ever be threatened, SUNY Counsel and the Attorney's Office would be expected to intervene in its defense.

With no further questions or comments from the Senate, a motion was made and seconded to endorse the “In Support of All Forms of Gender Identity and Expression” resolution.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

## 7. Reports

Prof. Starks provided a report from the SUNY Spring Plenary, held on April 24-26 at SUNY Oneonta. He began by thanking his co-chair senators, Prof. Melissa Zinkin, Philosophy, Erin Rushton, Libraries, and James Rea, UFS Professional representative. He then highlighted the following from Chancellor John King's report:

- Emphasized the success of the multi-year budgets we received under Governor Kathy Hochul and the State Legislature for the last two cycles. Legislation is moving forward with the approved budget.
- DEI is one area to maintain as a SUNY support structure initiative. He noted to hold the line on DEI initiatives on campuses.
- Spoke about the dismantling of the Education Department
- In response to litigation from the NYS, he talked about a three-point process of addressing issues from here on out with bipartisanship and education in the media.
- Chancellor King received many questions during the plenary, some of which included:

- Americans with Disabilities Act compliance- this will be acknowledged next year over the calendar year and the following year.
  - Recognized that the State University systems have a difficult time getting their budget passed and processes within their states, let alone across state lines, and defending across those state lines.
  - The state will not be able to fill the gaps, but mentioned loan forgiveness programs.
  - He wants the system to speak with a single voice on anything that is litigated. He encourages the expression of values, but does not want the administration to intervene in specific circumstances or issues. Prefers a more consistent message of broad-based values and missions that will continue.
  - He noted to wait for the change, then respond concerning the research and tenure lines.
- Prof. Starks then reported that several other resolutions were passed during the plenary. He proceeded to discuss the following resolutions that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee decided to table for now to allow for further discussion.
    - "On Defining and Opposing Antisemitism"
    - "SUNY System Administration Mandate Impact and Offsets Statements"
    - "Defending, Protecting, and Advancing Foundational Principles and Functions of New York State and United States Higher Education"
  - Lastly, Prof. Starks briefly provided the following highlights:
    - Initiative from Plattsburgh University on recognizing across the system more widely
    - Education policy

Chair Beedle thanked Prof. Starks for his report and the SUNY UFS for their service.

Due to running over time, she requested a motion to table the remaining agenda items for a later meeting. A motion was made and seconded.

The motion was passed unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Present: Ming An, Nathanael Andrade, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Ramaesh Bhagirat, Jeremy Blackburn, Peter Borgesen, David Campbell, Paul Chiarot, Sungdai Cho, Kenneth Chiu, Weiying Dai, Sidney Dement, Tara Dhakal, Marvin Diaz, Gregory Evans, Mikhail Filippov, Anthony Fiumera, Rodney Gabel, Matt Gallagher, Donald Hall, Tiffany Keller Hansbrough, Melissa Hardesty, John Havard, Laura Fine Hawkes, Nora Henry, Gladys Jimenez-Munoz, Barry Jones, Rebecca Kissling, Adriane Lam, Michael Lawler, Andre Mathis, Debi Mishra, Vladimir Nikulin, Nkiru Nzegwu, Thomas O'Brien, Julien Panetier, Andreas Pape, Heather Parks, Sabina Perrino, Mark Poliks, Siyuan Rao, James Rea, Erin Rushton, Anton Schick,

Tarek Shamma, Olga Shvetsova, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Jennifer Stoeber, Jodi Sutherland, Cyma Van Petten, Bridget Whearty, Melvin Whitehead, Marguerite Wilson, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Nancy Abashian, Meaghan Altman, Laura Anderson, Megan Benson, Mackenzie Cooper, Leon Cosler, Sean Dunwoody, Ahyeon Koh, Wei-Cheng Lee, Anthony Meder, Bogum Yoon

Absent: Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Michael Buck, Luca Cassidy, Laura Cook, Robyn Cope, Mateo Duque, Kimberly Jaussi, Joseph Keith, Meg Leja, Shuxia Lu, Jeffrey Lum, Colin Lyons, Marcin Mazur, Tom McDonough, Anjani Praneet Meruvu, Kirsten Prior, Shay Rabineau, Gail Rattinger, Timothy Singler, Sofia Theodore-Pierce,