

## 5. Reports

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a. Report from

### MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING February 6, 2024

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year was called to order by Associate Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences Aaron Beedle, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:46 a.m. in Old Union Hall.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Beedle notified the body that Retired Prof. Linda Barnfather, Decker School of Nursing; Prof. Emeritus Vincent Grenier, Cinema; Prof. Sylvia Horowitz, English, have passed away. Chair Beedle spoke about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

Chair Beedle reminded the senators that the Employee Assistance Program is a resource for faculty and staff to assist with grief or difficult situations. They offer free and confidential consultations. If you would like to schedule an appointment, email [EAP@binghamton.edu](mailto:EAP@binghamton.edu), or call 607-777-6655.

3. New Business

Chair Beedle announced several program proposals and revisions. She added that the Program Review Committee and Faculty Senate Executive Committee have reviewed and recommended approval by the Faculty Senate. Proposals and revisions presented included:

- a. Title change from the MS of Student Affairs Administration to an MS of Higher Education and Student Affairs proposal. Prof. Deb Taub, CCPA department chair was available for questions.
- b. English-English Adolescence Education 4+1 Program proposal. Assoc. Director. Kateri Regan, TLEL, was available for questions.
- c. History- Social Studies Adolescence Education (MAT) Degree proposal. Prof. Elizabeth Casteen, History, was available for questions.
- d. Five Linguistics and Translation 4+1 Expedited MA Program proposals in AAS, Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish. Prof. Cynthia Marasigan, AAS, and Prof. Tarek Shamma, TRIP director, were available for questions. Prof. Tom McDonough, Art History, questioned why German and Russian Studies were not included in the five proposed Linguistics and Translation 4+1 MA programs. Chair Beedle noted that she did not have an answer to his question and recommended bringing it back to the department to consider those areas.

- e. Economics BA/MA 4+1 Degree proposal. Prof. Wei Xiao, Economics department chair was available for questions.

After each proposal or set of proposals was presented, Chair Beedle requested a motion to approve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve each proposed revision or new proposal. All proposals were approved by a unanimous vote.

#### 4. Announcements

President Harvey Stenger provided two announcements. First, Binghamton University won the National Science Foundation Innovation Engines Award last week. President Stenger reported the following details:

- It is a potential ten-year contract, for a total of \$160M
- This \$160M is separate and in addition to the \$113M from the “Build Back Better Regional Challenge”, a PDA program won a year and a half ago.
- There is a proposal being submitted this week for funding for the Binghamton University “Tech Hub” to request funding to support battery technology.
- Another proposal is being made for an additional \$60M to support The Tech Hub.
- There is a workforce developing a new curriculum, community member involvement, supply chain partners involvement, and engine partnerships with Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell, and Syracuse University.

Secondly, there is a call for Road Map proposals. The Road Map Steering Committee is soliciting proposals from faculty, staff, and students. Proposal projects must be related to one goal and at least one metric, using less than 300 words. To submit a proposal, go to, <https://www.binghamton.edu/president/road-map/index.html>. Proposals are due February 15, 2024. If you have questions regarding the proposal process, contact Pam Mischen, at [pmischen@binghamton.edu](mailto:pmischen@binghamton.edu).

Matt Gallagher, Director of Collection Development, Libraries, inquired whether proposals could be updated post-submission in case of any changes in the financial component given the short timeframe.

President Stenger responded to give a rough estimate of what you might think the costs will be. He added that he may consider extending the deadline.

Chair Beedle then provided some ideas to think about to help increase our reach and profile such as research and scholarship, student success, recruitment, diversity, and internationalization.

#### 5. Report on the UFS Plenary- Prof. John Starks, SUNY University Faculty Senator

Prof. John Starks, SUNY University Faculty Senator, reported items from the SUNY University Faculty Senate Virtual Winter Plenary Session held January 18 through January 20. Prof. Starks and Prof. Melissa Zinkin attended the plenary.

For this meeting, many of the most substantive points of engagement developed during the University Center Sector meeting with Senators from Albany, Buffalo, and Stony Brook. In these sessions, the major agenda items become a set of questions from each of the university sectors (e.g., 4-year comprehensives, tech campuses, statutory schools, etc.) to present to Chancellor John King during the Saturday plenary. The University Centers Sector discussed a major point for SUNY from Governor Kathy Hochul's 2024 State of the State address, news of which only a few days before our plenary had gone under the radar in the press or discussion outside SUNY administrative circles. Governor Hochul announced that SUNY & CUNY schools will grant admission to the top 10% of New York High School students. We in the University Centers were primarily concerned that this plan was not discussed with the SUNY Faculty Senate before it was announced. However, the President of UFS, as a member of the Board of Trustees, was fully informed. We asked the Chancellor how this would work out for enrollment management for University Centers and how it would impact equity for students, given the differences between New York high schools, district by district, and what challenges he foresaw for SUNY and the individual campuses in implementing this grand plan.

The Chancellor explained that it would take a long time to roll out this plan, since unlike other states where this has been put in place, New York doesn't have a centralized database of high school achievement, nor any unified state standards for what represents "top" achievement. So, school districts will need to define student achievement and college readiness. The top 10% of students at each high school will also have to demonstrate that they are ready to enroll in their chosen institution. SUNY campuses will define college readiness regarding their own campus' standards. He said he believed this plan would encourage more diverse enrollment in SUNY campuses, particularly from rural areas and high schools with less affluent students, who may have thought college out of reach and who may not have considered applying.

University Faculty Senators also asked the Chancellor to comment on how SUNY campuses have seen more political activism around hotly-debated issues involving sexual/gender identities and global conflict, and that some faculty who teach about these topics have felt threatened and some students have felt harassed, including by outside groups. We asked him to address: how to balance academic freedom with the need to maintain a safe and inclusive campus environment; how he would work with students, faculty, and staff to promote a culture of open dialogue and debate; and how he might direct campus Presidents to respond to calls for position statements in reaction to off-campus events.

The Chancellor explained that, unlike many colleagues, he believes that academic leaders have an obligation to speak out on issues about human suffering and that he would speak out strongly when he felt he must. As he does frequently, he used a recent example in the narrative to address how on one SUNY campus an errant use of a charged phrase was met with protest, then retraction and reconciliation, a de-escalated moment of high campus tension that balanced human understanding and respect for first amendment rights.

Finally, they requested a status update on a UFS 2023 Plenary resolution condemning abusive workplace behavior and requesting that the SUNY System Administration establish a system-wide workplace conduct policy. The Chancellor and the UFS President both said they would look into this and follow up with us.

Other sectors continued mostly with questions about the fall program cuts and budget shortfalls at Potsdam, but much more worry about Downstate Hospital closing and preservation of the medical school there, plus the mounting concerns at Fredonia of circumstances similar to Potsdam's.

Prof. Starks then discussed the following five resolutions that were passed during the plenary session, linked directly below:

- EXEC: "[196-01-1 Resolution: Ensuring Non-Discrimination, Enhancing Campus Inclusivity, and Supporting All SUNY Students, Faculty, and Staff](#)" - This resolution states that SUNY UFS abhors discrimination and harassment in many forms against students, faculty, and staff; calls upon campus governance bodies to pass similar resolutions; and calls for the chancellor to work with campus leaders and SUNY administration to identify faculty and professional staff experts in these areas.
- OP: "[196-03-1 Resolution: Addressing Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in the SUNY Workplace](#)"- This resolution: requests that the chancellor and SUNY Administration develop and implement clear policies and procedures for the use of AI in the SUNY workplace; recommends that UFS and campus stakeholders be involved in the process, that recommendations from FACT2 and STRIVE are included, that the chancellor explore professional development on the use of AI, and that the chancellor share updates on developing and implementing these policies and procedures before the 2024/2025 academic year.
- OP: "[196-04-1 Excelsior Scholarship Review](#)"- This resolution requests that SUNY System Administration work with CUNY System Administration to conduct a detailed review of the Excelsior Scholarship Program within two award cycles, examining issues brought forth by the UFS Operations Committee white paper on Excelsior, and identify revisions based on those issues, including: the strictest credit and residency requirements, post-scholarship, among similar state or federal programs; low retention rates and compounding of necessities to withdraw out of financial and academic difficulty meeting and maintaining the strict requirements; reverse impact on diversity and inclusion by failing to meet the genuine cost needs of most students, of which tuition is only one, and in many cases the least costly in the short and long term; failure to address enrollment issues on SUNY campuses because the program discourages and excludes the very students who need its support the most; and an infantilizing discouragement of students with the most need for financial aid and encouragement from developing their diverse portfolios of concentrations and coursework in multiple fields to take only courses that meet requirements up to the minimum needed for graduation, in other words, no multiple majors or minors.
- OP: "[196-05-1 Opposition to Mandated Purchases from SUNY Preferred Vendor Corcraft](#)"

[Products](#)” - This resolution applauds the attention paid to this social justice issue on un-/underpaid labor from incarcerated individuals by the SUNY Plattsburgh Faculty Senate resolution, asks UFS Senators and CGLs to raise awareness about possibly questionable preferred vendors on their campuses and consider passing similar resolutions, and asks the chancellor to direct the SUNY Office of Government Relations to New York State legislators to enact new legislation which is more consistent with the principles of social justice and allow SUNY campuses to opt out of SUNY Preferred Sources. Dissenting opinion on this was the most robust of our plenary, mostly centering around those who were aware of and received feedback from incarcerated individuals on how the program offers some opportunities for those individuals during their period of incarceration and beyond. The key to this resolution passing was the language allowing for campuses to opt out of supporting industries that profit from such labor and labor practices.

- OP: “[196-06-1 Process for Professional Staff Advancement](#)” - Support for the current SUNY/UUP collaborative effort to review SUNY professional staff titles to accurately reflect duties, establish promotional lines where appropriate, and address recruitment and retention issues; to request the chancellor to direct HR offices follow through with any changes brought forward by the review; and that CGLs should raise awareness of these issues on their campuses.

Lastly, Prof. Starks noted that we may consider endorsing or adding to these resolutions locally.

Chair Beedle added that she had attended part of the campus governance leaders' meeting during the plenary and noted that there was discussion on proposed changes from the state that would allow teachers' certification to develop a master's degree with some other credentials. This question was posed to Chancellor King and he was in support of meeting the requirement for a master's degree. He met with campus teams for education programs and that SUNY was seeking to question the State Department of Education to apply considered changes.

6. *Upcoming Spring 2024 Faculty Senate meetings*

Chair Beedle announced that the next Full Faculty / Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, and the last Faculty Senate meeting for the spring semester will be held on Tuesday, April 30.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Present: Michael Armstrong, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Megan Benson, David Bisaha, Nicole Cameron, David Campbell, Luca Cassidy, Alex Chase-Levenson, Zu-yan Chen, Kenneth Chiu, Junghyun Cho, Laura Cook, Laura Fine Hawkes, Rodney Gabel, Matt Gallagher, Ariana Gerstein, Donald Hall, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Nora Henry, Leslie Heywood, Murali Jagannathan, Clarice Kelleher, Rebecca Kissling, Jonathan Krasno, Michael Lawler, Wei-Cheng Lee, Colin Lyons, Andre Mathis, Marcin Mazur, Tom McDonough, Paul McShee, Anthony Meder, Ralph Miller, Christopher Morgan-

Knapp, H.R. Naslund, Vladimir Nikulin, Thomas O'Brien, Julien Panetier, S.B. Park, Heather Parks, Mark Poliks, Xingye Qiao, James Rea, Anton Schick, Olga Shvetsova, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Bridget Whearty, Melvin Whitehead, Marguerite Wilson, Wei Xiao, Bogum Yoon, Hong Zhang, Ning Zhou, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Manoj Agarwal, Christopher Bishop, Jeremy Blackburn, Peter Borgesen, Leon Cosler, Weiyang Dai, Sidney Dement, Sean Dunwoody, Guy German, Barry Jones, BrieAnna Langlie, Meg Leja, Debi Mishra, Luiza Moreira, Kirsten Prior

Absent: Nancy Abashian, Jobial Alex, Douglas Holmes, Jason Moore, Titilayo Okoror, Shay Rabineau, Gurpreet Singh