

Faculty Senate Chair's Report

2024-04-05 Faculty Senate Meeting

Current and Ongoing Items:

Issues Facing Committees:

- FRRC held their first of two faculty forums this semester, this one on the topic of “equity-minded faculty workloads.” Thanks to FRRC chair Youngjoo Kim and member Patrick O’Brien for moderating the forum!

For a copy of the slideshow that launched the discussion, see [here](#). Included in the slides is a template for a spreadsheet that can help guide department chairs in asking who to do volunteer work like attending open houses, accepted students days, and commencement, transfer advising, and serving on departmental committees. We heard from faculty in departments where versions of these practices are already being used with success. We encourage the Provost’s Council to explore tools like this to help ensure equity-minded faculty workloads, especially as it relates to service.

A second faculty forum has been announced to discuss the CUTE survey results, with the date pending. We will be talking more about the CUTE survey later today.

- Nominations and Elections will release the ballot for elections before the April 19th meeting. Our goal this year is to have more nominees than the number of available vacancies -- because remember that according to the [Faculty Bylaws](#), runners-up who receive enough votes can fill vacancies later if needed for the full terms (without the need for more temporary FS Chair appointment to fill a vacancy later). Thanks to Mohamed Khalefa, Erik Benau, and Marty Cooper for their continued work on this!
- TLRC: Is holding interviews of faculty interested in the part-time position as director of the new Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL). We have interest from excellent candidates but are still working out the final details. Thanks to TLRC chair Yogesh More for his continued work on this!
- APPC is working on a resolution “Updating and Making Transparent the University’s Dual Degree and Double Major Policies.” This resolution will be read at the next FS meeting (4/19), and voted on at the following FS meeting (5/17). In between those meetings, we will meet as a full faculty on 5/3. Thanks to APPC,

especially Curtis Holland, Lisa Chin, and Lisa Lewin, for continuing to craft important resolutions for us to consider!

Other Issues:

- Faculty Handbook: I have received feedback from FRRRC, BWG, ARPT, the chairs of TLRC and PRODIG, and the EC. I want to especially thank Maureen Dolan from the BWG for working overtime to provide her feedback!

I am working with Academic Affairs to synthesize all of these comments into a comprehensive set of recommendations to provide to Academic Affairs and guide them in revising this draft. Increasingly, it's looking like we might not get a version that faculty can vote on before June 15th. However, standing governance will continue working with academic affairs on drafting a handbook until we get a document that is viable in a full vote of the faculty.

- Policy on Shared Governance & Consultation: On March 21, President Sams sent out a "Policy on Shared Governance and Consultation." This policy was first introduced to the EC in the 2022-2023 Academic Year and arose out of a broader effort to put all policies of the university digitized online, which was a recommendation from Middle States in our last accreditation review.

The EC has worked with the President's office for approximately two-and-a-half semesters, iterating the outlines of this policy on shared governance. Notably, this policy does not supersede faculty bylaws, which are written by the faculty and must be voted on by the faculty to change. Instead, this document represents an overarching policy of the administration for how they will be guided in decision making.

Now, we are at a stage where we are asking everyone for their input. I ask that you all encourage your constituencies to read through the policy on shared governance and consultation and submit your feedback through the google forms link provided in the March 21 email.

- The Policy Repository is being created to upload all old policies online. The EC has expressed concerns about the potential for existing policies to conflict with dominant practice on certain issues across campus. For that reason, we are advocating for and have received a commitment for the creation of a **Policy Review Team** that can look over policies that get uploaded to the repository, identify those policies that conflict with practices, and help to socialize them before they go into effect. Currently, Runi Mukherji is the only person serving on the PRT. Thanks to Runi for your hard work on this! **If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving on the PRT, please let me know.**

- SPAAR is hosting check-in events for the strategic planning subcommittees to talk about their goals. The first event is April 5th, and there are two more events the following week, one on April 10th and another on April 11th. These latter two events will be held as **hybrid** events, with people meeting in-person at the Student Union MPR and meeting on zoom as follows: April 10, 2024, 1:30-2:30 Virtual Option
(<https://suny-ow-edu.zoom.us/j/6077644760?omn=84130199094>) Meeting ID: 607 764 4760; and April 11, 2024, 1:30-2:30 Virtual Option
(<https://suny-ow-edu.zoom.us/j/6077644760?omn=81236088088>) Meeting ID: 607 764 4760

June 15th is still being targeted as the end of the strategic planning process. As always, your participation in helping craft the strategic plan is crucial to creating a shared vision for the university!

- Childcare is returning to SUNY Old Westbury. Academic Explorers at SUNY Old Westbury will soon provide childcare services to the campus. They have been busy finalizing the licensing process in preparation for their opening. Academic Explorers will host an Open House for SUNY Old Westbury students, faculty, and staff on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10:00- 2:00 in the Campus Center. Please come see the facility and meet the staff.
- The Code of Student Conduct is being updated as part of its regularly scheduled annual update process. The timeline for revisions are as follows: 1) A committee including the FS Chair and Chair of the SCC will Meet via zoom in April to discuss the edits and feedback 2) April-May: Make all edits and final touch before sending it to University Council to start revising and provide new feedback. 3) September-October: University Council Presentation/SUNY Legal Approval/Final Approval. If you would like to be involved in this process, or have any thoughts about updates to the Code of Student Conduct, please let myself or Patrick know.
- I am saddened to announce the retirement of our longstanding administrative assistant for Faculty Senate, Dinorah Martinez. Dinorah has worked for Faculty Senate for years, and her service is much appreciated. We will miss you, Dinorah! If anyone is interested in helping to serve on the search committee to hire a new administrative assistant for faculty senate, please let me know.