

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 30, 2024

The fifth and final 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 11:47 a.m. in Old Union Hall.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Beedle notified the body that Retired Professors. Steven Jay Lynn, Psychology; Maria-Teresa Romero, Psychology; Robert Leon Basmann, Economics, have passed away. Chair Beedle spoke about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

3. Election of 2024-2025 Faculty Senate officers

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

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Computing". The Department of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering is requesting approval for its proposal to become the "School of Systems Science and Industrial Engineering." Chair Beedle referred senators to these proposals, posted electronically on the Faculty Senate website ([Agendas & Minutes](#))

Watson representatives Dean Krishnaswami Srihari, Senior Associate Dean Peter Partell, Chair Mohammad Khasawneh (SSIE), and Chair Weiyi Meng (CS) presented and explained the reason for the creation of the new schools and were avaisnd3 (f)-1723.5 (neh)

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b) Report from Prof. Jonathan Krasno, Faculty Senate Executive Committee chair.

Prof. Krasno reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met fourteen times during the Spring semester of 2024. In addition, the FSEC participated in searches for the Watson Dean and the Graduate School Dean. He thanked the committee for all their hard work over the past few months.

The FSEC has scheduled weekly meetings every Tuesday. The committee's agenda includes reviewing recommended program reviews, and department proposals, and conducting meetings with various university officials such as the President, Provost, Vice Presidents, Associate Vice Presidents, and Vice Provosts. These meetings play a crucial role in gathering necessary information and providing valuable feedback from the faculty's perspective.

Professor Krasno mentioned a new project, the Spring 2024 FSEC survey. The survey received a response from 479 out of 715 faculty members. Professor Krasno intends to examine the top 10 results and will present a complete report in the fall. He has requested senators to provide suggestions once the results are shared.

Finally, Prof. Krasno recommended the faculty to serve on the FSEC and thanked the Faculty Senate.

Chair Beedle then thanked Prof. Krasno for serving as chair of the committee.

c) Report on the UFS Plenary – Prof. J6 (k9nd)10.5oe ttoof ttot.e. ...

Prof. Starks briefly added the following major updates from SUNY Faculty Senate President Keith Landa which he provided for all faculty last week.

Only a few weeks overdue, [the enacted budget gives SUNY a lot to be happy with.](#)

- **Direct state aid:** We received a \$114M increase in direct state aid (\$54M proposed in the Executive Budget proposal plus \$60M added in the negotiations). This is on top of the \$163M increase in last year's budget, which continues. We await the final guidelines on allocation, but it should help relieve a lot of pressure, and make a good effort in paying for the latest contract.
- **Downstate Health Sciences University:** The enacted budget includes \$100M in additional operating aid this year to cover Downstate's ongoing structural deficit, and \$300M in capital funds for needed construction/renovation. There will be a commission to explore Downstate futures over the next year, with the option to propose up to \$750M in additional capital. This, plus some existing capital funding, would likely be enough to support core in-patient and expanded out-patient services at Downstate.
- **Empire AI:** \$250M to establish the Empire AI Institute at the University at Buffalo, serving the research and teaching needs of SUNY, CUNY, and private colleges (members of the Empire AI consortium).
- **Tuition Assistance Program:** TAP received a \$54M increase to allow individual awards to go from \$500 to \$1000, the income threshold to be raised from \$80K to

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7. Upcomipcom

Present: Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Megan Benson, Jeremy Blackburn, Zu-yan Chen, Junghyun Cho, Leon Cosler, Sidney Dement, Laura Fine Hawkes, Rodney Gabel, Matt Gallagher, Donald Hall, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Nora Henry, Leslie Heywood, Murali Jagannathan, Barry Jones, Clarice Kelleher, Jonathan Krasno, Wei-Cheng Lee, Colin Lyons, Andre Mathis, Marcin Mazur, Ralph Miller, Debi Mishra, Jason Moore, Luiza Moreira, Christopher Morgan-Knapp, H.R. Naslund, Vladimir Nikulin, Thomas O'Brien, Julien Panetier, Heather Parks, Xingye Qiao, James Rea, Jeffrey Schertzer, Anton Schick, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Bridget Whearty, Melvin Whitehead, Wei Xiao, Hong Zhang, Ning Zhou, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Christopher Bishop, Sean Dunwoody, Ariana Gerstein, Rebecca Kissling, BrieAnna Langlie, Meg Leja, Anthony Meder, Kirsten Prior

Absent: Nancy Abashian, Manoj Agarwal, Jobial Alex, Michael Armstrong, David Bisaha, Peter Borgesen, Nicole Cameron, David Campbell, Luca Cassidy, Laura Cook, Alex Chase-Levenson, Kenneth Chiu, Weiyong Dai, Guy German, Douglas Holmes, Michael Lawler, Tom McDonough, Paul McShee, Titilayo Okoror, S.B. Park, Mark Poliks, Shay Rabineau, Olga Shvetsova, Gurpreet Singh, Marguerite Wilson, Bogum Yoon