

School of Arts and Sciences
SUNY Buffalo State

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2026 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ BULGER 217

- I. Call to order – 3:05pm
- II. Presentation of the Agenda – motion to move item VI to VIII (remarks of the Dean). Seconded. Approved.
- III. Presentation of minutes from the November 21, 2025 meeting. No substantive changes.
- IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda – approved by unanimous voice vote
- V. Remarks of the Speaker – spoke about the budget crisis, program deactivations, and what his personal cause for optimism: students in his classes and his wonderful colleagues.
- VI. SAS Standing Committee reports (Appendix A) – See Appendix A. Reminder to everyone about the curricular review schedule this semester. Deadlines are coming up sooner than usual, due to the placement of Spring Recess this year. If your department has pressing curricular matters, please take note of this.

Any committee chairs' wish to add anything? No
Any questions for chairs? None

- VII. SAS Senate Liaison reports – shared over email this week. Anything you wish to call our attention to?
Keep an eye on the proposal to change the senate structure. Not an easy senate meeting last December regarding restructuring. Some differing opinions on the numbers. Proposal was sent back to committee.
- VIII. Report from the Dean – Dean's report – Want to focus our remarks on our students. 1st – Atta and Kelly met with student council this week. About half the departments were represented (not all students attended).

The departments received a donations box for donations to the food pantry.

Care Closet – they have a lot of clothing donations. Starting to get students dropping in. Please tell students going on job interviews etc. about it. Atta will send the flyer for departments to post/share. They will also accept cash to buy toiletries.

Dean's Award winners – each department gets to nominate a student. Nominations are due a week from today. Ceremony is April 23 during Bengal Pause. Anthony Chase will be the MC. Make sure that students have applied for graduation; otherwise they will not show up as eligible.

April 16th Honors Convocation

May 7th SAS End-of-Year Picnic

May 16th – Commencement –separate undergraduate and graduate ceremonies. Please attend and celebrate our students' success. The SAS Undergraduate ceremony is at 1pm and the Graduate ceremony is at 5pm.

Presidential search committee is making progress.

Another voluntary retirement incentive program has been announced. Emails were sent out yesterday.

Questions?

Q - About the faculty reports being due in May: Are we shifting our expectations about the "year"? Answer from floor – no it correlates with our contractual obligation.

Why May 15th? This deadline is difficult given faculty will be in the middle of grading and commencement is the next day. Could this be moved to May 31st?

Q -There seem to be a lot of things coming down from Academic Affairs that don't seem to have had any faculty input. Can we get back to some input and shared governance?

Q – Many budgetary decisions are forthcoming. If I were a presidential candidate, I would want to have some voice in the decision-making processes. Is there some way that this could happen?

A - The candidates have been apprised of the budget situation at Buffalo State, and the incoming president would likely be involved moving forward. Some decisions will be made prior to the presidential appointment, due to pressure from SUNY.

Floor - The Union asks we don't turn on each other. That doesn't mean we can't talk about possible changes and improvements in programs. Just don't point fingers at colleagues.

Floor – The Union says that you can't list names for retrenchment. That doesn't mean we are not supposed to talk about shared governance.

Floor – The hope is to get Chancellor King to appropriately fund all of the SUNY comprehensives. We know that we are underfunded. The money is being redirected. We are part of the SUNY system and they need to support us better. There is a middle ground here.

Q – We need a clear-eyed view of what we can expect from incoming leadership.

A - people who have applied for this position have a fairly good idea what is going on. One of the ways we can help each other is to be open to change.

Q – we are going through cuts and we will be going through more cuts. How is that impacting the \$16 million deficit?

A –The Interim President is optimistic we will have a balanced budgeted 27-28. BUT we are not reaching our goals. We should know more in July with the new fiscal year.

Q – Are you part of the decision making about what is being cut?

A – yes

Finance and Management and HR are involved – they are looking at revenues from programs, and how much the programs cost. The program health model will be released campus—wide. They have maintained that this will be an open process.

Q – Will there be an emphasis on the employability of graduates?

A –We need to be strong proponents of a liberal arts education – need to keep all of the components. We also need to do a better job of connecting degrees to paths of employment. Students come here to get a good education and to get a good job. Only some of them will be going on to graduate school.

Q – How we market ourselves. We need to manage crises on campus better because they affect our image. Something isn't clicking about the good things we do on campus. They are not even showing up in the SUNY Albany newsletter. Is there any entity on campus addressing that?

A – request to forward the related emails.

Q – so right around the late add/drop deadline student came in to say they only had 9 credits. Several others were underenrolled.

Floor – This came up in Senate – students shouldn't be able to drop below 12 credits without approval.

Floor: Our current students need to have some transparency about what is going on. Some faculty have been flooded with letters of recommendation for transfer requests. These student concerns need to be addressed not just by faculty members.

A –Buffalo State will be here in the future. Try to re-assure your students in your classes. We are here for our students in a way that faculty at UB are not.

Dean Frothingham will supply a list of things to tell students – (sent as a separate email following meeting). This includes:

There is a budget deficit
President is optimistic that it will be filled by 27-28
Students can complete their degrees here
The degree is still valuable

FAQ page related to the deactivations has some good talking points. Take a look at it.

IX. New Business

Dr. Amy MacMillian – we have moved forward in our pre-health advisement – Dr. McMillian will be having advisement sessions. Please come.

For the first time in 10 years: the undergraduate show in the Burchfield-Penney!

First Beyond Boundary was last night. PBS Passport app. Next film is about the ERA (ask David for slides). Please come. This is our 14th season.

President talked about setting up a real stakeholders meeting.

March 18th – Women’s History month – Restoring East Side Parkway.

X. Adjournment – 4:21 pm.

The next SAS meeting will be Friday, April 17, 2026, 3pm in **Bulger 217**.

Appendix A: SAS Standing Committee Reports

SAS Bylaws and Elections Committee (Jason Grinnell, chair)

BYLE continues to review SAS bylaws and prepare for spring elections.

SAS Curriculum Committee (Julie Wieczkowski, chair)

There were no course proposals to review over the winter.

Spring 2026 SAS Curriculum Committee Review Schedule

- **Start on Thursday, end on Wednesday, 2-week cycle**
- **NB: April 1, 2026 is the last deadline for the Senate Curriculum Committee for proposals to be reviewed Spring semester. This pertains to everything (new course proposals, course revisions, Gen Ed, program proposals, deactivations).**
- **This means that all proposals, etc. need to be submitted to SAS by March 11.**

SAS Submissions By:	SAS Committee Reviews:
Winter submissions	January 29 - February 4
February 11	February 12 - February 18
February 25	February 26 - March 4
*March 11 (SAS deadline)	*March 12 - March 18
April 1	April 2 - April 8
April 15	April 16 - April 22
April 29	April 30 - May 6

SAS Personnel Committee (Jennifer Ryan-Bryant, chair)

The SAS Personnel Committee is reviewing the dossiers of two candidates applying for tenure and for promotion to associate professor.