

School of Arts and Sciences

SUNY Buffalo State

Minutes

March 7, 2024 ♦ 12:15 pm ♦ BULG 217

- I. Call to order at 12:19 pm
- II. Presentation of the Agenda – Presented
- III. Presentation of minutes from the February 2, 2024 meeting – Presented – please forward any corrections.

Question from floor if we have a quorum –

Barish – 25% of 207 would be quorum, therefore we need 52 voting members in attendance
Count – 57, therefore we have a quorum

- IV. Remarks of the Speaker

Ethics concerns about Dr. Glenn were discussed in November, appointment was made in Sept but through a closed process. Would these concerns have been discussed if process had stayed open? The charges are serious. The new administration will be beginning under a cloud regardless of the details. We request to be informed and consulted. We need to know and understand.

Paperwork reduction taskforce – working with many representatives inside SAS and across campus. Drafted new forms for grade change and change of major forms. Will continue work on other forms like the course by contract, etc. Very effective group!

Adjuncts were informed their IT privileges will be cancelled in June, regardless of whether they are teaching in Summer or next year. No conversation between policy/operations and the end users. Need a culture of communication between policy and operations/implementation. Many scared and angry adjuncts. Forms for return of IT access is insulting and inappropriate.

Adjunct voting rights – glad of work done, largely province of By-Laws committee. No vote today, just conversation. Might have vote at next meeting.

Think about this meeting time. When would schools business be most effectively handled – now, during Bengal Pause, with a short time frame but presumably with more people on campus, or on Friday with more time but potentially fewer people on campus?

- V. Report from the Interim Dean

Dr. Glenn – Dean's council – SUNY must respond to this situation. It is SUNY that hires presidents not us.

The IT emails – we are working on this again. Happens every semester. Clear that there needs to be a wider discussion. This should not keep happening.

Dean's Office stuff – working on personnel actions (promotion and tenure / renewals) everything has been passed along to the Provost (early!).

Bengal Success survey closes tomorrow.

Midterm grade window opens Monday and thru 22nd of March – critical information for students and advisors! This feedback is very important.

April 18th – Dean's award ceremony

April 19th – Honor's convocation – at PAC. See Daily for more information (Students 3.5 and above GPA.)

Questions – What are the appropriate channels to submit comments to SUNY about the situation with Dr. Glenn? Contact Search Chair?

Andrew – contact state legislator?

Lorna – On main SUNY website you can find organizational structure of SUNY – academic administration contact information is listed.

Lisa will pull together an email with sources.

University Faculty Senate as well

Lots of people we can shout at. Want a president we can respect as a scholar.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

a. Steering Council, Lisa Berglund, Speaker

Skipped report

b. Bylaws and Elections Committee, Barish Ali, Chair

Skipped report – voting email will go around soon

c. Personnel Committee, Jennifer Ryan-Bryant, Chair

5 candidates – desire to transition to an electronic system for this process rather than binders

d. Curriculum Committee, Ann Liao, Chair

Very busy!

e. Contingent Faculty Welfare Committee, Roy Bakos, Chair

Deferred to Mary Beth – Adjuncts are very unhappy

VII. Report from the College Senators

Susan Maguire, Senate Liaison

Sent out the Senate report (in email with today's agenda)
Holding our own in Enrollment –
Creditable threat in Psychology – it wasn't creditable
Appropriate notification of teaching assignments – enough time for adequate prep
Budget and Staff allocation – looking for new revenue
Expect significant workforce reduction – compared our workforce to other SUNY schools we have more? 600 people to voluntarily separate in next 5 years????
Looking into Calendar – IR committee

VIII. Report from Task Force on Adjunct Faculty, Mary Beth Sullivan, Chair

Excellent slideshow is available at:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JiJ5biTsfwpeY9or4exYnSUj3luUk3wg-yM9zJhUeg/edit?usp=sharing>

Mary Beth – we are already equity minded and believe in shared governance.

Committee created and charged by former speaker Kevin Williams last May to discuss issues brought up by the Contingent Faculty Welfare Committee

Contingent Faculty – non-tenure track, lack permanency
Adjunct – refers to PT faculty and Lecturer – refers to full time (some discussion of lack of clarity in terminology)

Higher Ed has shifted to mostly contingent faculty in recent years (68% contingent, 48% are tenure/tenure-track)

Crucial for contingent faculty to be engaged with governance of the institution

Buffalo State Mission for Equity and Inclusion

Our Senate is unique in SUNY because it includes not just faculty but other constituents, except contingent faculty

Academic Membership of the School of Arts and Sciences

Rank	Count	%
Tenure / Track	132	56%
FT contingent	18	8%
PT contingent	85	36%

(and 2 visiting scholars)

Total 237 total Academic Membership

Discussion of SUNY policies define voting faculty. Buffalo State College Faculty By-Laws definitions:

Academic staff is defined as “All College employees having academic or qualified academic rank”

Per Article II.B.2. “the voting faculty of the College” is “All members of the academic staff of the College”

Discussion of definitions used in SAS By-Laws - they are confusing, and committees suggests rewording the SAS By-Laws.

Thus, the resolution presented.

In addition, committee wants rights clarified at the Senate level – Librarians for example are a special class already and students also have an exception to the 3-year term ‘rule’

Barish Ali – Bylaws Committee

Has been researching the resolution that the committee submitted

Wanted to clarify that it would not conflict with higher levels of policy

Went to Slade Gellen – Senate Parliamentarian – helped to interpret SUNY and College policies – Slade said that pt-contingent are “lecturers”

Schools can decide their own rules for school matters

Is there anything in the Senate by-laws that would preclude PT from voting for senate or for running for senate? Slade said “no.”

(By-Laws committee will meet again March 18th)

Roy – discussion of the wording of the Senate By-Laws, believes the plain language says they already have voting privileges.

Julian - PT currently can't vote in Ad Hoc Senate elections but schools can set up their own rules so we can decide to allow them to vote in our Senate elections and run for a seat

Scott – Disagrees with Slade about his interpretations. He would hesitate to move forward without clarification of Senate rules. Problem with Temp Lecturers as opposed to Term Lecturers being represented.

Carol – What happens to quorum if we include PT people in total – harder to get to quorum.

Lisa – we have a couple ways to conduct votes. We often don't have quorum at SAS meeting.

Comment from floor – these numbers don't make any sense.

Mary Beth – clarified numbers only include people who teach 3-credit courses. It doesn't include people who only teach 1-credit courses (labs etc.). Pointed out that these numbers have been very hard to get and will change each semester.

Because it is extremely hard to get list of adjunct faculty it is hard to clarify how many there are and to contact them – email contact difficult since there is no list.

John Drager – Think thoughtfully about ???

Comment from floor – Concern about distribution of the adjuncts – certain departments have way more than others – English has many and Math has 16, while several departments might have only a couple or none.

Lisa - Exceptionally important issue. I don't think anyone here is not interested in providing an equitable environment for PT. Want to do this right.

Roy - Keep this on the burner

Lisa - we will

Announcements

Ruth – ton of women's history events happening on campus – please keep an eye out for announcements

Gender and STEM event next week – Keep on eye on the daily

A week from tonight next beyond boundaries film – poets on panel. 7pm Burchfield Penny
Come support your colleagues

Jane – Pi Day celebration Butler 314 during Bengal Pause – lots of fun

The Portrait – Journal

IX. New Business

X. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:26

Spring 2024 Arts and Sciences Meeting Dates:

Friday, February 2, 3 pm

Thursday, March 7, 12:15 pm

Friday, April 26, 3 pm

Meetings are held in Bulger 217.