

School of Arts and Sciences
SUNY Buffalo State

Minutes

September 19, 2025 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ BULG 423

- I. Call to order
 - o Called to order 3:05pm
- II. Presentation of the Agenda – slight correction to Agenda (added Item VII)
- III. Presentation of minutes from the April 18, 2025 meeting – request for substantive corrections – none
- IV. Approval of the Consent Agenda - Sue seconded, all in favor of adopting consent agenda – all ayes no nays heard.
- V. Remarks of the Speaker – still need 2 volunteers for Curriculum committee and 1 (pref. from arts) for Personnel committee

Selection of faculty members to represent SAS for the Presidential Search Committee - we recommend 6 (following a vote) and the University Council will select the ones that they want.

Try to follow Roberts Rules in our meeting – meant to be democratic and clear – if you have any questions during process please ask

Nothing pressing today

One of our Dean's priorities is to set aside some time for informal interaction. After our meeting, please stick around for conversation.

- VI. Report from the Dean –
Tell colleagues – want more people to attend the meetings. (Please see the attached images at the end of the minutes). Mentioned Welcome Back and the news shared at that time. Academic Convocation was very sparsely attended – frankly embarrassing. So important to attend, especially now, need information to be coming from valid sources. And we need to celebrate our successes.

We are accepting applications for sabbaticals for next year – see slides for dates. The proposals are due to the dean's office on 10/17/2025 – in addition to the proposal you also must complete an evaluation worksheet and there must be a review by the chair. Please make sure your chair knows now so they can review your proposal and fill out evaluation sheet in a timely fashion.

Two award deadlines – Natural and Social Sciences Student Research Support Award, applications on a rolling basis for student research until the money runs out. It is up to about \$250 for students to do research and get supplies. Applications get sent directly to Kelly or SAS address. Undergraduate only. Information is on the SAS website. Students need to write up a short proposal and budget on what they need, faculty support it.

Awards and recognitions page on the SAS website.

E.O. Smith Arts and Humanities Faculty Development award due November 3rd. Will be announcements in the daily soon with all of the details.

From floor - Amy McMillian – Honor's students can apply for support through the Honor's program.

[Details at [this website](#)... if a faculty member is working with a Muriel A. Howard Honors student, they can apply for funds on behalf of the student or the student can apply for funds – the Honors Enhancement Fund supports opportunities that will enhance the academic experience for Honors students. The next deadlines are Sept. 26 and Nov. 28.]

EURO awards due Sept 24th – announced in daily

Starting a School of Arts and Sciences Care Closet – accepting gently used professional clothing and hygiene products donations. Should be open for business soon. Will also accept cash donations. Can drop off at any time or bring things to the meeting. SNSS used to have this – encouraging students to go to Milligan's Food Pantry, but students still have needs.

Question from floor - Campaign to put products in all of the bathrooms. New York State mandate for period products to be available in all restrooms. Not sure what the status of this is. Currently only available in some buildings.

Comment from the floor: There was a senate resolution about this that passed so this should be enforced.

VII. Accessibility Resources Liaisons (Keira Hambrick)

- Slides – Building a Culture of Digital Accessibility – on behalf of the SUNY committee on subcommittee – ADA Title II regulations, must be compliant April of next year. Creating a cohort of department liaisons – each department identifies a liaison to act as a conduit for research sharing. It is about information sharing – the liaison can direct department members to resources. If a department realizes that they have textbook resources that are not accessible – pass that information along for assistance. Committee will contact chairs in early October to solicit

names. SUNY has a bunch of committees that are working on different aspects of this. It is up to the individuals to make materials accessible.

Discussion about burden of accomplishing this, rather than just pulling all of your digital materials to achieve compliance. They are looking for 100% compliance (AH). There have been some workshops announced. No acknowledgement that this takes time and is another unfunded mandate.

Comment: – something needs to be done for departments like Math that use specialized software – how does this become accessible? To just write it in Word is not acceptable as a solution. This is something that really needs to be looked at.

These are the issues that liaisons need to get back to the committee. External links don't count against accessibility scores. Specific issues – communicate back to the group. Will also be adding to training and resources available.

- VIII. SAS Standing Committee reports (submitted in writing; see Appendix A) – see attached. Take a quick look at the SAS Curriculum Committee Review schedule. No new GE courses can be submitted, but revisions can be submitted.

No questions for standing committee chairs.
No additional comments from committee chairs.

- IX. The SAS Senate Liaison report was sent around separately via email on Thursday. There were no comments or questions for Senator Ettestad.

Senator Ettestad had nothing to add to the report.

- X. No New Business

- XI. Adjournment –

Adjourned 3:39pm

The next SAS meeting will be November 21, 2025, 3 pm in **Rockwell Hall 124**.

Appendix A: SAS Standing Committee Reports

SAS Bylaws and Elections Committee (Jason Grinnell, chair)

BYLE coordinated the election of interim SAS Senators, and the selection of SAS representatives to the Presidential Search. We will be meeting in October to continue our review of SAS Bylaws.

SAS Curriculum Committee (Julie Wieczkowski, chair)

SAS Curriculum Committee has reviewed one minor program revision (TFA). It will review proposals during the fall semester according to this schedule:

SAS Submissions by:	SAS Committee Reviews:
Summer submission	August 28 – September 3
September 10	September 11 – September 17
September 24	September 25 – October 1
October 8	October 9 – October 15
October 22	October 23 – October 29
November 5	November 6 – November 12
November 19	November 20 – November 26

* The College Senate Curriculum Committee has not yet announced its Fall 2025 deadline.

SAS Personnel Committee (Jennifer Ryan-Bryant, chair)

The Personnel Committee met briefly on September 2nd to discuss the committee's charge and our standard approach to writing reviews. We then scheduled times to review candidate materials during our first round of applications for tenure and promotion in early October.

Summary of Buffalo State Senate meeting Sept 12, 2025

Remarks of the Interim President

Dr. Bonia Duran reported that we had over 27,000 applications last year, which was a record. She encouraged us to tell others to come to Buffalo State. She also reported that the residence halls are getting more students. They had to open the North Wing Residence Hall.

The marketing manager reported on the new marketing strategy. The recurring campaign messages they are send include:

Faulty-staff mentorship / Student support

Affordability

Positive career outcomes

They are also tailoring ads to specific audiences, with a different type of ads for the NYC area vs Western New York. They now have the largest commitment to

program-specific ads

graduate students

streaming video, digital display, paid social

They are also using lots of 15 second ads with alumni testimonials.

President Durand then gave an update on the presidential search. They have selected the company to do the search and are starting to form the search committee, which she said will be representative of Buffalo State.

Committee reports

This was mostly just approving the new rosters of each committee for this school year.

The Bylaws and Elections committee did say that the new school (School of Education and Applied Professions), will get 12 seats on the senate, which is the same total number they had when they were two separate schools with 6 senate seats each.

Respectfully submitted by

Senator Dave Ettestad

SAS Faculty Meeting, Sept. 19, 2025

- Sabbatical requests due to the Dean's Office October 17, 2025
- Natural and Social Science Student Research Support Award
 - <https://artsandsciences.buffalostate.edu/awards-recognition>
 - Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- E.O. Smith Arts and Humanities Faculty Development Fund
 - <https://artsandsciences.buffalostate.edu/awards-recognition>
 - Applications due November 3, 2025

SAS Care Closet

- Donations being accepted!
 - Gently used professional clothing
 - Hygiene products
 - Cash donations to be used to purchase hygiene products

