

Governance Committee
Michael Motta, Chair
SUNY University Faculty Senate
2022 Winter Plenary
January 20-22, 2022

Charge: The Committee will concern itself with University-wide governance and shall provide guidance on matters of campus governance. The committee shall interact with local governance leaders of the University. The committee is responsible for the publication of the Governance Handbook and will review and update it every four years.

2021-2022 Committee Members

	Role	Campus	E-mail
Henry Flax	Parliamentarian	Downstate (ret.)	henry.flax@flax.org
Elizabeth Helzner		Downstate	elizabeth.helzner@downstate.edu
James McLean		Geneseo	mclean@geneseo.edu
Michael Motta	Chair	Farmingdale	mottam@farmingdale.edu
Cynthia Proctor	System Liaison	SUNY System	cynthia.proctor@suny.edu
Sandra Rezac		Plattsburgh	rezacsj@plattsburgh.edu
Bhakti Sharma	CGL Convener	Buffalo State	sharmab@buffalostate.edu
Bruce Simon		Fredonia	bruce.simon@fredonia.edu
Jeff Steele	FCCC Liaison	Herkimer	steelejf@herkimer.edu
David Vitt		Farmingdale	vittd@farmingdale.edu
Ryan Vooris		Cortland	keith.landa@suny.edu
Keith Landa	<i>UFS President</i>	Purchase	

Committee Work Summary

Since the Fall Plenary, the Governance Committee has primarily worked on its three goals for the year: updating the Governance Handbook, finishing the Guidelines revision, and creating a shared governance rubric. To that end, the committee divided up its work as follows: All committee members are working

on the Handbook; Bhakti Sharma chairs a Rubric Subcommittee alongside members Elizabeth Helzner, Jeff Steele, and Ryan Vooris; and the Bylaws Task Force of Henry Flax, James McLean, Michael Motta Sandra Rezac, and Bruce Simon continues their work on the Guidelines. David Vitt is independently working on possible revisions to the Elections & Nominations Handbook.

Virtual Meetings

Committee as a Whole: November 19, 2021

Bylaws Task Force (Flax, McLean, Motta, Rezac, Simon): December 3, 2021; December 16, 2021; January 11, 2022; January 13, 2022

Rubric Subcommittee (Helzner, Sharma, Steele, Vooris): November 3, 2021

Liaison Activity: Chair attended final portion of FCCC Plenary on January 11, 2022

Chair Meetings: December 14, 2021 (with Bhakti Sharma); January 4, 2022 (with Jennifer Redinger)

Progress on 2021-2022 Committee Goals

1. Review and Update the Governance Handbook

The committee decided that the Governance Handbook will be substantially overhauled. Most significantly, it will become digitized so that it can be updated as frequently as necessary rather than every four years. At least every four years, a printed edition will be created. Also, the audience of the Handbook will be presumed to be new senators or CGLs (while retaining its usefulness for others.)

To complete this overhaul, the committee has divided into two groups: a Design Team (McLean, Vitt, and Vooris) that will work on the layout of the new digital handbook; and a Content Team (Flax, Helzner, Motta, Rezac, Sharma, and Simon) that will focus on updating the content. This work will begin in February.

2. Complete Revisions to Procedures

The revision of the Procedures is nearly complete. The current draft will be shared at the Executive Committee meeting at the January Plenary, and adoption of the procedures will be sought at the April Plenary, as planned.

3. Create a Shared Governance Rubric

The Rubric Subcommittee spent much time pouring over existing rubrics to see what lessons could be learned and thinking through what else would be necessary, such as creating guidance to accompany the rubric. Chair Bhakti Sharma observed that making a rubric that is helpful for the wide array of campuses that constitute the SUNY system will require a “three-dimensional” rubric that goes above and beyond existing rubrics. As such, this project has grown beyond its initial scope. Subcommittee Chair Sharma and Committee Chair Motta will meet on January 25, 2022 to organize the subcommittee’s work so that it can be taken up by the committee as a whole.