

Ethics and Institutional Integrity Committee Report

University Faculty Senate (UFS) 2024 - 2025

Committee Charge

The Committee will study and make recommendations to the SUNY University Faculty Senate President regarding issues of professional behavior, ethical conduct and institutional integrity as they relate to faculty, students, administrators and other personnel in SUNY and higher education. The committee will gather information and serve as a resource for the Senate and the University. The Committee will not serve as a disciplinary body nor will it take part in judicial proceedings.

Committee Members

Chair: Eve Clark Benavides: Evelyn.benavides@oswego.edu

Members:

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Agenda from the Fall Planning Meeting

Action items and description of the committee from the fall planning meeting.

1) Faculty Burnout and Wellbeing:

- Creating White Paper, with recommendations for campuses that this is a growing problem, want to keep survey open a bit longer to catch campuses that didn't get it. Need to stress the importance of the supporting faculty/staff wellbeing, particularly during crisis in addition to looking at students.

2) Civic Engagement/Title VI/Free Speech-Panel "Title VI in the Classroom: Ethical and Practical Considerations for SUNY Faculty"

- • Hard Ethics Panel and training, are we really aware of the issues of free speech and harassment.
 - • Climate of fear and preventing disruptive social action-is this a violation of free speech, do we even know what that means?
 - • Scary Panel ideal-what are the legal ramifications of Title VI-First Amendment rights in Public Universities? What about this new training?
 - • How in the world will we juggle free speech, academic freedom vs. harassment and discrimination?
 - • What protections and backlash against protest is playing out on SUNY level and individual campuses?
- 3) **Maternity Health Outcomes in NY:white paper and possible resolution**
- • NY has highest mortality rates in country-racial, social class, gender implications and the role of SUNY education, what is the role in C Sections in this data, and how is that being addressed in nursing and medical programming in SUNY, our partners, and the recourse for students?
 - • Informed consent-do women really understand the implications on their health and their babies' health outcomes? Are they really getting informed consent and choices in care or is it being assigned by their race, and personal circumstances? Do we actually teach and educate our future health practitioners and the patients this applies to?
 - • SUNY focus-how our education programs teaching issues of maternal health, C sections and health outcomes and how are we dealing with third party (hospitals) training nursing (40 out of 60 campuses have nursing, med, premed) programs. And what are the ethical protections for students who are not able to push back against unethical practices?

Completed Action Items

Items that have been presented or passed by the Senate this year. Please include a brief description of the actions taken to complete the goals.

Fall Plenary (October 24-26, SUNY Plattsburgh)

- Committee member on maternal health had to step off the committee so this goal is no longer part of our committee goals
- Committee chair requested to body to complete online survey as statutory colleges were not significantly represented in current data

Winter Plenary (January 16-18, online)

- Committee continuing looking at data analysis for burnout survey

Spring Plenary (April 24-26, SUNY Oneonta)

- Presented data on burnout to address the problem brewing in our system. We will finish white paper over the summer..

Committee requests for campuses

List requested actions from Senators and their campuses. These will be compiled across all committees and send out to members after each plenary as follow-up.

Fall Plenary (October 24-26, SUNY Plattsburgh)

- Please return Burnout Survey to your campuses:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Xh7xxwIj2FEv9RjxKB9Jboe5savTooJj7YNS3OjmZZQ/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit_requested=true#responses

Winter Plenary (January 16-18, online)

Spring Plenary (April 24-26, SUNY Oneonta)

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Meeting Dates

List the dates your committee met this year.

October 11, 2024

December 19, 2024

February 14, 2025-what says love more than burnout!

March 28, 2025

Summary of Committee Actions for the Year

Goals for year what we did, what we didn't

- 1) **Faculty Burnout and Wellbeing White Paper**
Received over 1000 survey responses, majority of the year was data analysis of the results, this took significant amount of time. The chair presented data to the UFS body, but white paper will be worked on during the summer and finished in fall
- 2) **Civic Engagement/Title VI/Free Speech-Panel "Title VI in the Classroom: Ethical and Practical Considerations for SUNY Faculty"** Unfortunately due the increase workload of legal SUNY representatives it is was determined that there was not enough time to complete the panel, we will revisit this topic in Fall 2025
- 3) **Maternity Health Outcomes in NY:white paper and possible resolution**
Due to the departure of the lead representative from the committee, the preliminary research on this white paper has been dropped by the committee