

Governance Committee Report

University Faculty Senate (UFS) 2024 - 2025

Committee Charge

The committee will provide guidance on matters of governance, at both the University and local governance levels. The committee will conduct comprehensive reviews of the Senate Bylaws, Standing Rules, Guidelines, and Governance Handbook.

Committee Members

Chair:

Bruce Simon, Fredonia, simon@fredonia.edu

Members:

Katherine Brent, Cobleskill, brentke@cobleskill.edu

Carolyn Chryst, Oneonta, carolyn.chryst@oneonta.edu

Alireza Dalili, Farmingdale, dalilia@farmingdale.edu

Eric Eisenbraun, Albany, eeisenbraun@albany.edu

Henry Flax, Downstate (retired), henry.flax@flax.org

Philip Glick, Buffalo, glicklab@buffalo.edu

Daniel Marrone, Farmingdale (retired), marronds@retiree.farmingdale.edu

Sandra Rezac, Plattsburgh, rezacsj@plattsburgh.edu

Dennis Showers, Geneseo, showers@geneseo.edu

Kristin Stapleton, Buffalo, kstaple@buffalo.edu

Genevieve Birren, Cortland, Liaison to FCCC Governance Committee,
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Elizabeth Hynes-Musnisky, Nassau CC, FCCC Liaison, liz.hynes@ncc.edu

Chella Kamarajan, Downstate, SUNY UFS Communications Committee Liaison,
Chella.Kamarajan@downstate.edu

Alice Krause, Delhi, CGL Liaison (*ex officio*), krauseaa@delhi.edu

Andrew Lang, Plattsburgh, SUNY UFS Communications Committee Liaison,
langaa@plattsburgh.edu

Cyndi Proctor, System Administration Liaison, cynthia.proctor@suny.edu

Agenda from the Fall Planning Meeting

The committee decided to create multiple subcommittees to advance the following objectives and projects.

On Own (6)

- UFS Shared Governance Assessment (ASAP): customize previous efforts to develop a UFS rubric for assessing shared governance on SUNY campuses or within sectors
 - Convenor: Alice Krause
 - Members: Eric Eisenbraun, Phil Glick, Liz Hynes-Musnisky, Sandra Rezac, Kristin Stapleton
- Nominations and Elections Handbook (ASAP): update and support UFS President in selecting and preparing chair for election activities

- Leads/Members: Henry Flax and Sandra Rezac
- ASPCT Training (September): help plan event, prepare presentations, and assess new format
 - Lead: Henry Flax
 - Members: Wendy Gordon, Alice Krause, Keith Landa, Sandra Rezac, Bruce Simon
- Governance Handbook (date tbd in person): finish updating it!
 - Lead: Bruce Simon
 - Members: Genni Birren, Carolyn Chryst, Henry Flax, Gwen Kay, Sandra Rezac
- Bylaws/Standing Rules/Guidelines Review (ongoing)
 - Lead: Bruce Simon
 - Members: Carolyn Chryst, Henry Flax, Liz Hynes-Musnisky, Sandra Rezac, Dennis Showers, Kristin Stapleton
- Academic Freedom and Campus Free Speech (ongoing): monitor issues and update toolkits as needed
 - Lead: Bruce Simon
 - Members: Governance Committee

Joint (7)

- State Budget Advocacy (AY 2024-2025): draft resolution for Fall Plenary; consider other actions in consultation with SUNY FCCC and CUNY UFS; seek input from SUNY and CUNY System Administrations, UUP, PSC-CUNY, HELU; work with officers and Communications Committee
 - Lead: Bruce Simon
 - Members: Ali Dalili, Ken Fujiuchi, Phil Glick, Keith Landa, Andy Lang, Zina Lawrence
- UFS Leadership Calendar (ASAP after Nominations and Elections Handbook updated): translate Bylaws/Standing Rules/Guidelines into checklist/to do list; consult with Jennifer Redinger
 - Lead: Genni Birren
 - Members: Henry Flax, Wendy Gordon, Gwen Kay, Keith Landa, Dennis Showers [initial convenor], Jan Trybula
- Public Good U (Fall 2024): contribute to planning efforts
 - Lead: Keith Landa
 - Members: Eve Benavides, Matthew Cotter, Ali Dalili, Marianne Hassan, Lori Hoepner, Gwen Kay, Nancy Motondo, Kaushal Nanavati, Lisa Raposo, Michaela Rehm, Sandra Rezac, Bruce Simon, Kristin Stapleton
- Resolutions Tagging/Indexing (AY 2024-2025): prepare for new website by creating metadata for all UFS resolutions
 - Lead: Genni Birren
 - Members: Kate Brent, Ali Dalili, Wendy Gordon, Andy Lang, Dan Marrone, Keith Landa
- Parliamentary Resource Guide (AY 2024-2025): update in consultation with campus parliamentarians and in concert with Faculty Council of Community Colleges
 - Lead: Henry Flax
 - Members: James McLean, Kristin Stapleton
- Digital/Website (AY 2024-2025): determine what needs to be on new website and what features/capacities we want for it; work with Communications and UFS leadership
 - Lead: Bruce Simon
 - Members: Genni Birren, Wendy Gordon, Chella Kamarajan, Keith Landa, Andy Lang
- CGL Handbook (Spring 2025): consider larger overhaul in consultation with CGLs
 - Leads/Members: Alice Krause, Sandra Rezac, Dennis Showers
- Research Project: Holistic Policy Review (AY 2024-2025+): consider how policies regarding academic freedom, campus free speech, safety, and DEI interrelate on campuses and address relations between First Amendment, Title VI, Title IX
 - Coordinator: Eric Eisenbraun

- Members: Alice Krause, Dan Marrone, Cyndi Proctor, Bruce Simon, Kristin Stapleton
- Research Project: Supporting Campus Governance (AY 2024-2025+): research issues; consult with CGLs
 - Facilitator: Alice Krause
 - Members: Kate Brent, Henry Flax, Sinikka Grant, Sandra Rezac
- Research Project: System-Level Shared Governance (AY 2024-2025+)
 - Lead: [tbd]
 - Members: Carolyn Chryst, Liz Hynes-Musnisky, Cyndi Proctor [initial convenor], Kristin Stapleton

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 Planning Meeting/ASPCT Training (September 19-21, 2024, Saratoga Springs)

- See [Plenary Files](#) for links to ASPCT Training presentations.

Fall Plenary (October 24-26, 2024, SUNY Plattsburgh)

- [Resolution Endorsing the Joint SUNY UFS, SUNY FCCC, and CUNY UFS Statement on Funding Public Higher Education](#) approved by Executive Committee (10/24/2024) and by University Faculty Senate (10/26/2024).

Winter Plenary (January 16-17, 2025, online)

- [Public Good U](#) planning continues.
- [Nominations and Elections Handbook](#) updated.

Spring Plenary (April 24-26, 2025, SUNY Oneonta)

- President Landa is piloting a [governance health survey](#) that a Governance Committee team has been working on this year (an initial pilot was made by a UFS Consultation Team in Fall 2024).
- [Academic Freedom Toolkit 2025](#) was submitted to Executive Committee on April 3. On April 24, Executive Committee [updated and strengthened it](#) (renaming it Academic Freedom Resources 2025) and developed a process for distributing it, pending UFS approval of the resolution discussed below.
- On April 24, the Governance Committee unanimously approved this [resolution](#), co-sponsored by the Graduate and Research Committee, that builds on the Resources list. Executive Committee [updated and strengthened it](#), and joined the list of co-sponsors, later the same day. On April 26, after being accepted by the body for consideration (the second of three resolutions to be initiated this way, and the [ninth of ten overall resolutions](#)), it was approved overwhelmingly without discussion by the UFS, and [posted to the SUNY UFS website on April 27](#).

Committee Requests for Campuses

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

Fall Plenary (October 24-26, SUNY Plattsburgh)

- Please develop follow-on resolutions for the one passed at the plenary in the spirit of its final “resolved” clause: “SUNY UFS calls on all SUNY campus governance bodies—along with all friends and all other good-faith partners of SUNY and CUNY—to speedily pass resolutions aligned with ours, and in those resolutions to encourage their constituencies, in their capacity as citizens or residents of New York and/or supporters of public higher education, to urge Governor Hochul to make New York State the national leader in college affordability and in advancing the mission of public higher education in her SFY26 Executive Budget.”
- If you have any suggestions regarding improving UFS Bylaws/Standing Rules/Guidelines, the CGL Handbook, the Parliamentarian Resource Guide or the ASPCT Training; or updating our two toolkits from last academic year (on academic freedom and campus free speech), please let the lead(s) listed above and the chair know.
- If you want to participate in any of the three research projects we’re kicking off this academic year (Holistic Policy Review; Supporting Campus Governance; System-Level Shared Governance), please let the lead(s) listed above and the chair know.

Winter Plenary (January 16-18, online)

- If you know of resources that would be useful to include in an updated toolkit on academic freedom, please see if they are included in our [Fall 2023 toolkit](#), and, if they aren’t, please share them with Governance Committee Chair Simon.
- Please consider registering for and attending [Public Good U](#) in Albany, February 7-9, 2025.

Spring Plenary (April 24-26, SUNY Oneonta)

- Please look over [all approved resolutions](#) from the Spring 2025 Plenary and, given the urgent and time-sensitive nature of many of them, consider endorsing them or creating resolutions aligned with them for your next governance body meeting.

Meeting Dates

List the dates your committee met this year (virtually unless otherwise indicated).

- 9/19/2024-9/21/2024: Governance Committee (Saratoga Springs)
- 10/9/2024: Governance Committee
- 11/13/2024: Governance Committee
- 11/19/2024: Holistic Policy Review Research Project
- 11/21/2024: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 12/12/2024: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 12/12/2024: Supporting Campus Governance Research Project
- 12/18/2024: Governance Committee
- 1/9/2025: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 2/6/2025: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 2/15/2025-2/16/2025: Governance Handbook Team
- 2/20/2025: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 2/26/2025: Governance Committee
- 2/27/2025: UFS Shared Governance Assessment Subcommittee
- 3/26/2025: Governance Committee
- 4/30/2025: Governance Committee

Summary of Committee Actions for the Year

Summary of the Chair's analysis of the accomplishments and challenges of the year and a look ahead for the next year.