

**Governance Committee**  
**Michael Motta, Chair**  
**SUNY University Faculty Senate**  
**2023 Winter Plenary**  
**Virtual**  
**January 19-21, 2023**

**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**

Genni Birren, Cortland  
Puttagounder Dhanasakaran Swaminathan, Canton  
Eric Eisenbraun, POLY  
Henry Flax (Parliamentarian)  
Daniel Marrone, Farmingdale  
Mike Motta, Farmingdale (Chair)  
Cyndi Proctor, SUNY System (System Liaison)  
Sandra Rezac, Plattsburgh (CGL Convenor)  
Amy Rosen-Brand, Buffalo State  
Dennis Showers, Geneseo  
Bruce Simon, Fredonia  
Jeff Steele, Herkimer (FCCC Liaison)

**Committee Work Summary**

At the Fall Planning Meeting, the committee met and established their priorities for the year. The priorities, in hierarchical order, are to:

1. Amend the Guidelines and Standing Rules at the Fall Plenary to make it clearer that attendance at Fall Planning Meeting is of utmost importance (as directed by Executive Committee)
2. Continue revising and digitizing the Governance Handbook
3. Continue work on a shared governance rubric
4. Revise the Nominations and Elections Handbook
5. Build the groundwork for a repository of campus documents
6. Continue the work of the Bylaws Task Force, clarifying elements in our three governance documents, and creating links between them

Since the Fall Planning Meeting, the whole committee met virtually on 9/28/22, 10/12/22, and 11/2/22. The committee has also worked over e-mail and on the committee Google Drive. Chair Motta and Parliamentarian Flax spoke twice over the phone regarding the UFS presidential election timeline (goal #4 above.) Most of the committee members are also independently researching and/or revising and/or writing assigned sections of the Governance Handbook (goal #2 above.)

At the Fall Plenary, the committee motioned to amend the Standing Rules and Guidelines to emphasize the importance of attendance at the Fall Planning Meeting (goal #1.) The committee-written language

was adopted by the Executive Committee for the Guidelines, and the committee-written language was adopted by UFS for the Standing Rules. In the case of the latter, additional language was added and adopted from the floor.

As described above, the committee has accomplished goals 1 and 4. The committee continues to work on revising and digitizing the Governance Handbook (goal #2) and working on a shared governance rubric (goal #3.) Goals #5 and #6 are on hold as higher priority goals are pursued. The committee has also begun preliminary conversations regarding the role of free speech in governance. More to follow on this after our February 2023 meeting.