

**University Faculty Senate
Student Life Committee
Amy Rosen-Brand
184th Winter Plenary
January 16-18, 2020
University at Albany**

Committee Charge

The Committee will be concerned with significant educational, developmental, social, cultural and recreational policies, programs, issues and services that affect the quality of student life and the campus environment of the State University of New York.

Committee Members 2019-2020

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Summary of Committee Actions since Fall 2019 Plenary

There are three main areas where we are focusing our energy.

1. We are exploring the issue of religious/spiritual spaces on SUNY campuses. We are working with Dr. Leah Wentworth, from SUNY System Administration on developing and administering a survey to all 64 campuses to learn the following:

How many campuses already have dedicated space for religious/spiritual use?

From the campuses which have the space in place, we need to know the following:

- Size of the space
- Responsibility for cleaning of the space
- Security of the space
- Reservation system of the space
- Tracking of usage of the space
- Management of the space
- What challenges have developed from usage of the space

The data will be gathered from:

- University Centers
- University Colleges
- Technology Colleges
- Community Colleges

The Student Life committee supports consistency in the provision and availability of this type of space dedicated to the religious/spiritual use of SUNY students and the campus community. We envision non-denomination space which has storage space for religious texts/prayer materials needed for religious observance, should that be the need of the person/group reserving the time/space. We envision space for quiet reflection and meditation. We think that students would greatly benefit from being able to incorporate religious/spiritual observance during the course of the academic day. Ultimately, the goal of the space is for student use, but anyone from the campus community could also enjoy the availability of the space.

We're in process of looking to our own campuses to see what we have in place. We will be asking Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee to collaborate.

We expect the survey to go out early in the spring semester to Chief Student Affairs officers, Equity and Diversity officers and Student Government leaders to gather as much information as possible.

We will share the data we obtain. We anticipate a spring plenary resolution on this issue to put forward.

2. SUNY Old Westbury's College Senate recently passed a resolution to change campus use of the word "freshmen" and any related derivatives to "first year student" and other similar language to more accurately describe the diverse student body. Our committee is looking at this now and seems to support it. We are determining how many SUNY campuses have "first year student" wording currently. We also want to have more input from the Student Assembly as to support.

We anticipate a spring resolution on this issue for the spring plenary.

3. We are considering development of a resolution to mirror an FCCC resolution on state funding of campus childcare centers. We are exploring bringing this forward as a fall resolution for consideration. The timing of the resolution should be made relative to the established state budget process.