

University Senate Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2025, 3:30-5:00 PM (Hybrid Meeting – Wang Theater & Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Brenda Anderson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from December 2, 2024 carried.

Greetings from Brenda Anderson, University Senate President

- Welcomed everyone to the University Senate meeting.
- In regard to search for a new President for Stony Brook University, names of three finalists and one alternate were sent to Chancellor King to review and make the final decision as to who will be Stony Brook University's next President.
- Thanked Justin Fincher who will leave university for his exceptional service, leading the Advancement Office of Stony Brook University, and more recently serving as the Chief Deputy to the Interim President.
- Thanked Marissa Trachtenberg for presenting SBU policy to the chairs and cognate administrators of the standing committees who've been asked to review specific policies noted by an October resolution passed by the Arts and Sciences Senate.
- The SUNY University Faculty Senate Winter Plenary was held on January 17th. The Chancellor reported that SUNY enrollment was up in every sector for the second year in a row. He outlined plans to continue to improve the transfer of community college students to bachelor's degree programs. He highlighted the Chancellor's award and Horizon award for faculty whose scholarly and creative activities have already achieved significant recognition.
- SUNY had been preparing for the Federal transition by looking at policy areas as well as Federal funding areas that might be impacted.
- The New York Executive Budget proposal has been released.

Report from Interim President McCormick

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Expressed concern over the lack of funding for capital facilities and mentioned he will continue lobbying for new and renovated facilities funding.
- Highlighted the need for more deferred maintenance funding and funds for a new chemistry building.
- Addressed the university's relationship with the federal government, expressing concern over the current administration's policies and their potential impact on research funding and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Reassured that the university would continue to uphold its values despite potential changes in federal policies.
- Announced leadership changes, with Braden Hosh becoming the Interim Chief Deputy to the President and Jacquelyn Weisman being named Interim Chief Campus Counsel.
- Will consult university lawyers regarding compliance with executive order on releasing Title VI investigations.

- The operating budget that the Governor recommended includes a third year of the increase in operating funds, and funds for all the negotiated salary increases for our faculty and staff.
- Our researchers were told that funding for the DEI components of their research will not be supported. So, several grants that had been submitted should be rewritten, eliminating the DEI components.

Question – If a federal agent asks for list of students with expired visa, what stony Brook will do?

Answer – We don't have that list.

Question - What's the University's plan to protect faculty and staff who were recruited to and have long served the institution using soft money roles, and whose income and jobs are likely now to be in jeopardy?

Answer - The Stony Brook Research Foundation has a fund that we can draw up to a point for the support of those individuals.

Question - Our grad students and postdocs are concerned that they won't receive their stipends or stipend supplements which are funded by the NSF, NIH, and SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. How can we reassure them that there won't be a disruption in their funding?

Answer – As of now, the federal agencies have been told that they cannot freeze the funds for these executive orders. I want to assure the researchers and the students that we're here to support them and to do everything that we possibly can in terms of our role in this whole aspect.

Question – Trees were cut down during the time when everyone was off campus, without consultation with the Senate Environmental Committee. I don't see any joint governance. What can you tell us about that?

Answer – We're on a very tight schedule to provide almost 500 new beds for our undergraduates beginning next fall. We have a well-developed plan, but it requires enormous adherence to some very strict deadlines, and so there wasn't a whole lot of time to consult about or to delay the cutting down of trees. I regret not to consult with the committee.

Question – Would Stony Brook University comply with an order to release Title VI Investigations?

Answer – Stony Brook is not currently planning to make public its title VI Investigations.

Report from Provost, Carl Lejuez

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- No presentation.

Reports from VPHSC William Wertheim

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).

- Stony Brook University is one of the first eight hospitals in the nation to achieve Healthcare Equity Gold certification from the Joint Commission. And the first organization in Long Island to receive this recognition and underscore our leadership in providing equitable healthcare for all.
- Stony Brook University Hospital received the highest-level achievement from Healthgrades as one of America's 50 best hospitals for 2025.
- Stony Brook University Hospital and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital earned a grade in the Leapfrog group's Fall 2024 hospital safety ratings.
- We continue to place a priority on achieving NCI designation for the Cancer Center.
- We're very focused on making sure that our ambulatory practices meet the needs of the communities across Suffolk County.
- We are planning on a ribbon cutting for the East Hampton Emergency Department in the spring of 2025.
- We are working with local officials, including the County Executive, Ed Romaine and Governor Hochul, to identify land opportunities for new housing that we could use for Southampton's campus, as well as in other places around Suffolk County.
- Working towards primary stroke certification for Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital.
- Announced passing of Dr. Craig Lehman, who for many years was the Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management, now known as the School of Health Professions.
- Welcomed Dr. Joe Verghese, as new Chair of Neurology.
- On November 14th, we hosted the second annual black men and white coats.
- We launched a new Occupational Therapy entry level doctorate program to better prepare our students to become licensed occupational therapists.

Question – We have an executive order about Federal funding for hospitals that provide gender affirming care for trans kids under 19. Do we have support from Albany?

Answer – As of now, we do have support from Albany, and we have no plans to discontinue this care that we provide at Stony Brook University or Stony Brook medicine outside.

Question – Could you hold a town hall for medical staff to make them aware about their rights as faculty members and as medical professionals to not cooperate with ICE or other investigations that are happening on our campus?

Answer - It's certainly worthy of consideration.

Reports from Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Rose Esposito

- The presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- Briefly discussed the changes in course evaluations.

Reports from Undergraduate Council, Hanna Nekvasil

- The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

- The charge of the undergraduate council is to review all curricular and other academic matters that are not limited to a single major governance unit.
- Working on implementing some of the changes that SUNY has required, along with working on Middle State requirements. Your insights are welcomed.
- Students proposed that any class could be repeated for which a grade of C- or lower was attained, that each graded attempt would still be listed on the transcript, but only a single higher grade for the course would be used for the GPA Calculation. This idea has gone to registrar for implementation by Fall 2026.

Report from Graduate Council, David Green

- The presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- An overview of the charge of the Grad Council was presented.
- The Grad Council looks at everything regarding academics of the graduate curriculum.
- Graduate programs are constantly being revised to keep up to date with evolving fields.
- The council is involved in the approval process of all new policies published in the graduate bulletin and giving general guidance to the dean of the graduate school on various issues.
- Explained about revisions to various graduate programs on campus, and a broad policy on the use of generative AI and large language models in graduate education.

Reports from UUP

- B. Kube - East campus President
 - UUP is very concerned about all the executive orders and their impact on the researchers throughout SUNY.
 - UUP members doing research potentially affected by executive orders can respond to the UUP survey.
 - The UUP election cycle has started.
- L. Melious – West Campus UUP President
 - Written report can be viewed [here](#).
 - No presentation.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Senate President: Brenda Anderson

Senate Secretary: Richard Stein