

Minutes of the 179th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, March 20th from 3:30 to 4:25 pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniadis, Jay Arena, Banu Aslanertik, Maria Bellamy, Alan Benimoff, Vandana Chaudhry, David Curcio, Deb DeSimone, Chiara Ferrari, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Orit Gruber, Roshen Hendrickson, Susan Holak, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Catherine Lavender, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Lee Papa, Michael Paris, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Tobias Schaefer, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbra Teater, John Verzani, Siona Wilson, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski, Sarah Zelikovitz.

Guests in Attendance:

Cheryl Adolph, Michael Anderson, Michael Batson, Warrick Bell, Jason Bishop, Darlene Blanco, Jasmine Cardona, Florette Cohen, Jessica Collura, Jonathan Cope, Kate Cumiskey, Emmanuel Esperance, Katrina Fama, Gene Fellner, Stephen Ferst, Hernan Green, Intissar Hasan, Michel Hodge, Patricia Kahn, Koby Kohulan, Nicola LaMassa, Jackie Lamberti, Michael Lederhandler, Mark Lewental, Blerina Likollari, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastroilli, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvilly, Ana McGuire, Ralf Peetz, Angelina Raio, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Lisa Rodriguez, Lisa Roe, Adrian Rosales, Terri Sangiorgio, Alex Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Ruth Silverberg, Amy Stempler, Muhammed Tekanyi, Nelly Tournaki, Dana Trimbolo, Rosemary Vitale, Robert Wallace.

Members not in Attendance:

David Allen, Robert Allen, Karen Arca-Contreras, Comfort Asanbe, Probal Banerjee, Michael Chiacchiero, Andrew Colbeck, Rafael de la Dehesa, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Mark Feuer, Joseph Frusci, Ismael Garcia-Colón, Rosane Gertner, Patti Gross, Yumei Huo, David Krittr, Anatoly Kuklov, Alfred Levine, Sharon Loverde, Robert Lovering, Lucas Marchante-Aragón, Philippe Marius, Edward Miller, Halil Ege Ozen, Mark Aaron Polger, Randelle Sasa, Thomas Tellefsen, Allen Tesdall, Christina Tortora, Simone Wegge, Mark White, Alex Zevin.

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm by Chair Susan Smith-Peter.

I. Approval of the agenda.

Motion moved, seconded, and passed.

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of February 20th, 2025.

Moved, seconded, and passed.

III. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

IV. Provost's Report

- Please fill out your progress reports
- Listing of faculty accolades by school/division.

V. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of Biology

- a. Change in existing degree: Medical Laboratory Science BS

2. Department of English

- a. Change in existing degree: English BA: Literature Concentration
- b. Change in existing degree: English BA: Writing Concentration
- c. Change in existing degree: English BA: Dramatic Literature Concentration
- d. Change in Literature Overlays

3. Department of English, Educational Studies, and Curriculum & Instruction

- a. Change in existing degree: English 7-12 BA: Literature Concentration
- b. Change in existing degree: English 7-12 BA: Writing Concentration
- c. Change in existing degree: English 7-12 BA: Dramatic Literature Concentration

GRADUATE – N/A

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Program in American Studies and Department of English

- a. New course: AMS/ENH 233 Indigenous Sovereignty and Persistence through Law and Literature

2. Department of Performing and Creative Arts

- a. New course: ART 365 Intermediate Animation for Artists

GRADUATE – N/A

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of History

- a. Change in existing course: HST 239 Modern France and Its Empire

2. Department of Nursing

- a. Change in existing course: NRS 321 Nursing Research

3. Department of English

- a. Change in existing course: ENL 470 Senior Seminar in Literature

GRADUATE

1. Department of Educational Studies

- a. Change in existing course: EDP 624 Reading: Assessment and Instruction in Special Education and Inclusive Classrooms
- b. Change in existing course: EDE 675 Issues in Bilingualism in Special Education and Inclusive Classrooms
- c. Change in existing course: EDP 630 Practicum in Special Education
- d. Change in existing course: EDP 680 Integrating Technology in Math and Science Instruction in Special Education and Inclusive Classrooms
- e. Change in existing course: EDP 631 Teaching Practicum I in Special Education
- f. Change in existing course: EDP 632 Teaching Practicum II in Special Education
- g. Change in existing course: EDP 633 Student Teaching in Special Education
- h. Change in existing course: EDP 640 Fundamentals of Research in Special Education

Consent agenda moved to approve, seconded, and passed.

VI. New Programs:

1. Department of Educational Studies

- a. New degree: Special Education PreK-12 MEd Sequence I
(based on existing degree program)
- b. New degree: Special Education PreK-12 MEd Sequence II
(based on existing degree program)
- c. New advanced certificate: Special Education PreK-12 Advanced Certificate
(based on existing certificate)

Motion moved, seconded, and passed.

VII. University Faculty Senate Report (Prof. John Verzani)

- The UFS is involved some work by the central administration on the National Institution for Student Support reports that were done at five campuses

- The UFS is concerned about some of Trump's executive orders that might affect higher education
- A Freedom of Expression Committee has been formed and will be holding some listening events to find out what concerns the community has about freedom of expression on campuses; they determined to start with a policy from 2016 that didn't go through the Board and there was a brief meeting with members from the law school, who for accreditation purposes have to work on such a statement.
- The UFS Executive Committee and the chairs of its Academic Freedom Committee wrote a letter in response to Governor Hochul's removal of a job ad from Hunter
- There are several important UFS blog posts about student rights and WU grades: <https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/ufs-blog/>
- Keep an eye out for upcoming UFS elections
- Please spread the word about the F grade forgiveness policy

Discussion on academic freedom and diversity of opinion. Should we be concerned about this threatening our federal funding? How can we strengthen our financial situation so as to be less reliant on federal funding? – Probably the amount is too high to make up, especially considering Pell grant funds. Further discussion about the governor interfering in faculty governance.

VIII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

1. Academic Freedom Committee Report (Cindy Wong)
2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Report (Maria Bellamy)
 - The UCC discussed the resolution to delist and discontinue COR100 after Spring 2026, proposed by the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs, as presented by Prof. Michael Paris. Deb DeSimone spoke on the opposing side, and a vote was taken. 8 members voted in favor, 9 against, and 5 abstentions. 3 Departments were not represented in the vote.
3. Library Committee (Amy Stempler)
 - 2 new online library resources: Sage Reference and Academic Books (<https://csi.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?url=https://sk.sagepub.com/referenceandbooks>), featuring 5000 handbooks, specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries covering the social sciences, business, global affairs, psychology, education, sociology, geography, social work, and communications, and Sage Research Methods (<https://csi.ezproxy.cuny.edu/login?url=https://methods.sagepub.com/>), featuring over 1000 books on quantitative and qualitative research, including how to collect and analyze statistical data, and covering different research methodologies.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

1. UFS Executive Committee Statement to Governor Hochul, CUNY Board Chairman Thompson, and CUNY Chancellor Matos-Rodriguez regarding the removal of a job posting at Hunter College (Appendix B)

Moved, seconded, and passed, with minor amendment to wording, suggested by Prof. Jay Arena.

XI. Adjournment at 4:19

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Committee report for March 18, 2025

These are dark days for academia, but we ourselves can be the light. I want to encourage everyone to think of ways that we can break through the attempt at isolating academia from the federal government by reaching out to our counterparts and alumni, especially on the island. Let us share what we do with others and show that we cannot be replaced. Nurses could talk to nurses, historians to historians, biologists to biology teachers, all sharing the truth about how we are one of the greatest engines of social mobility in history. Each of us can make a difference at the local level, which is where everyone lives.

On March 18, 2025, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost and deans, as well as Chief Librarian Amy Stempler. We began by thanking the provost for the new Know Your Rights webpage, which is now up in the campus life section of the CSI website. We are working on creating posters with a QR code linking to this part of the website to publicize it. We thanked the administration for the red cards, which say how to respond to ICE, but noted that some locations may need to be resupplied. The listing of where red cards can be found is in the KYR page mentioned earlier. We mentioned the upcoming KYR presentation on Friday March 21 and asked everyone to help spread the word. We mentioned we were glad to hear that the career fair will provide a floor plan, so that students who want to avoid the Department of Homeland Security table will be able to do so. In addition, we noted that at the College Council Executive Committee meeting, the president has assured us that there are no new policies regarding LGBTQ+ students and that prior legal guidance was still in effect regarding non-discrimination policies. Affected groups would likely be happy to hear this.

We had a long discussion about animal research at the college. Other colleges and universities charge researchers a per diem to defray the cost of holding the animals and there is discussion now about how to establish this here. There had been talk about working with the Institute for Basic Research to house CSI's animals, but this will require a new building that is still in the planning stages. It is crucial to have a group of researchers who are getting grants and whose indirect costs help to defray animal research costs. There was an agreement that access to animal research should include a commitment to apply for grants. At the same time, researchers who are waiting on their grants should have a grace period before having to pay. Further discussions will take place between the administration and animal research faculty on how to implement this going forward.

I also want to take this opportunity to announce a new policy regarding attendance at Faculty Senate. In addition to listing those who are present, starting in April the minutes will officially note those members who are absent, as otherwise the record is incomplete.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Smith-Peter, Faculty Senate Chair

