

## **Official Meeting Notes of the SUNY Downstate 2025 Spring Faculty Assembly Meeting**

**Date:** May 5, 2025

**Presiding Officer:** Dr. Norin

**Location:** Alumni Auditorium/Virtual

### **1. Call to Order and Agenda Overview**

- PO Norin opened the meeting at 3:05 pm

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.
- No opposition; minutes approved unanimously.

### **3. President Riley's Remarks**

- Celebrated Middle States reaccreditation success.
- Warned of potential financial shortfalls:
  - **Federal Risk:** ~\$90B in NYS federal funding at risk.
  - **SUNY Downstate Impact:** 10% cut to \$55M base funding possible.
  - **Hospital Risk:** \$140M in DISH payments and \$48M Medicaid revenue potentially threatened.
- Emphasized risk management planning (staffing freezes, financial modeling).
- Detailed the \$750M capital funding uncertainty—technically protected but politically vulnerable.
- Noted potential political dynamics due to the upcoming gubernatorial election.
- Emphasized commitment to local care and hospital renewal.

## **Questions and Open Discussion Highlights**

### **Financial & Operational Concerns:**

- Can the \$750M be withdrawn by the governor in a crisis?
  - Yes, under fiscal emergency powers, capital projects can be delayed.
- Is relocation to Kings County viable?
  - Unlikely; financial and space limitations make this infeasible.

### **Clinical Program Risks:**

- Caution shared about losing existing services; cardiac surgery example used.
- Rebuilding lost programs is costly and inefficient.

### **Research & DEI Concerns:**

Concerns over NIH guidance linking funding to DEI program compliance.

- SUNY has directed campuses not to comply with potential federal restrictions preemptively.

### **Faculty and Advocacy:**

- Strong support noted from UUP and faculty groups advocating for Downstate's clinical future.

## **4. Dr. Salifu's Presentation**

- Outlined the chairs' consensus plan:
  - New 250-bed tower.
  - Maintain current hospital operations during construction.
  - Avoid relocation to Kings County.
  - Integrate complex surgical and specialized services.
- Shared progress on volume and access initiatives:
  - New centralized phone system.
  - Open access scheduling and Saturday/evening hours.
  - Community referrals via the Flair Health app.
  - Faster patient access from ED and outside institutions.
  - Significant reduction in patient leakage to outside systems.

## **5. Bylaws Amendments (Presented by Dr. Joanne Perkins)**

- Proposals:
  - Add non-voting "Past Presiding Officer" position to Executive Committee.
  - Establish rules and procedures for special elections.
  - Minor clarifications on election timelines and processes.
- Amendments require 2/3 vote from the Assembly.

## **6. Nominations and Elections Report**

### **Presented by Dr. Joanne Rittel-Teitel**

- Overview of the nominations process and committee composition.
- Slates of candidates were presented, and the open **positions on the Ballot were reviewed:**
  - 1 Presiding Officer
  - 1 Secretary
  - 2 Senators
  - 2 Alternate Senators

### **New Floor Nomination:**

- A request from the floor for new nominations was made

- **Dr. Marlene Camacho** was nominated from the floor and accepted as a candidate.
- Materials will be submitted, and she will be added to the final ballot.

**Next Steps:**

- Voting to occur via VoteNow; ballots will be distributed once the nomination slate is finalized.

**7. Closing Business**

- No old or new business was raised.
- Meeting adjourned following a motion.