Date: April 8, 2026
Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Location: Via Zoom

Agenda
- UFS Resolution
- CAPQ Guidelines
- Sabbatical Policy
- Financial COI Forms
- Elsevier subscription renewal
- Spring Assembly Meeting Agenda

Present:

Christopher Roman	Daniel Ehlke
Edeline Mitton	Mark Stewart
Vikram Pagpatan	Chella Kamarajan
Richard Kollmar	Nicholas Penington
Katherine Perkins	Joan Ritter-Teitel
Shushawna DeOliveira	Alithia Alleyne

I. Call to Order
Meeting Called to Order: 4:32 pm
The meeting was called to order by Secretary Mitton, who formally opened the session and requested approval of the prior meeting minutes. The motion was moved and seconded, and the minutes were approved without objection.
- Review of SUNY Faculty Senate Resolutions

PO Roman introduced the primary agenda item, which focused on gathering institutional feedback regarding resolutions passed during the Fall and Winter SUNY Faculty Senate plenaries. He noted the importance of determining whether individual schools had reviewed these resolutions as part of their governance structures.
Member Stewart reported on discussions held within the College of Medicine Executive Committee. He outlined several resolutions reviewed by the group:
- A resolution concerning the display of flags representing sovereign Indigenous nations in New York State.
- A resolution encouraging continued gubernatorial support for SUNY.
- A resolution supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice-related programming.
- A resolution calling for SUNY to provide bridge funding for investigators affected by disruptions in NIH grant funding.

He also referenced two earlier resolutions:
- One addressing the protection of due process and privacy for faculty and staff.
- Another reaffirming support for faculty governance and outlining mechanisms for engaging the Faculty Senate.

Member Stewart indicated that the group expressed general agreement with the resolutions and appreciated the Faculty Senate's advocacy efforts.
- Institutional Feedback Process

Member Daniels clarified the formal process for submitting institutional feedback through the University Faculty Senate (UFS) system. She explained that while feedback could include agreement or dissent, the current submissions would be largely archival since the resolutions had already been forwarded to the governor and chancellor.

She emphasized the need for greater timeliness in the future and recommended that colleges either conduct internal discussions promptly or use broader forums, such as town halls, to gather feedback more efficiently.

PO Roman suggested that the April 29 Assembly could serve as a venue to discuss future resolutions, which Member Daniels confirmed would be appropriate for upcoming items.

- School-Level Engagement

Member Ehlke noted that the School of Public Health planned to review the resolutions at an upcoming faculty and staff assembly meeting.

Member Ritter-Teitel confirmed that the College of Nursing had already reviewed the resolutions with faculty and that no objections or concerns were raised.

PO Roman encouraged all governance leaders to ensure that resolutions are discussed within their respective units.

- Submission Coordination

Member Daniels clarified that a single senator would be responsible for submitting institutional feedback to UFS. Individual schools or representatives were instructed to forward their input to her for consolidation. She requested that feedback be submitted prior to the upcoming UFS meeting to ensure compliance.

- UFS Plenary Attendance

Discussion turned to attendance at the upcoming UFS plenary session. Member Daniels outlined the schedule, noting that sector meetings would occur on Thursday evening, followed by plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday.

PO Roman indicated that he would be unable to attend due to a personal family commitment. Member Stewart expressed willingness to attend and assist with representation. Additional attendees identified included Member Daniels and Member Pagpatan, with the possibility of additional participation from other members. It was noted that only designated senators would have voting privileges.

- Election Delays and Administrative Constraints

PO Roman raised concerns about delays in conducting faculty senate elections, attributing them to the inability to process payments to the external election vendor.

Alithia Alleyne elaborated on the situation, explaining that administrative delays related to budgeting, audits, and other institutional priorities had created a backlog. She reported that funding had recently been allocated and that an account had been established, allowing progress toward resolving vendor payment issues. The vendor had also indicated willingness to proceed with the election process despite outstanding payments.

- Election Structure and Bylaw Considerations

Alithia Alleyne proposed conducting a single election that would include two distinct categories:

- ✓ A special election limited to previously approved candidates.
- ✓ A general election with open nominations for additional positions.

Member Penington expressed concern about restricting candidate participation and advocated for a fully open election process.

Member Kollmar questioned whether the proposed structure aligned with existing bylaws.

PO Roman referenced bylaw provisions indicating that once a candidate slate is finalized within a specified period, it should remain closed. He supported maintaining separate candidate pools under the circumstances.

Member Perkins acknowledged that the situation was procedurally imperfect due to missed timelines but confirmed that special election provisions had been formally approved in prior governance actions. She recognized the validity of both perspectives presented.

The group moved toward a consensus to hold a combined election with separate candidate slates.

- Election Scope and Ballot Items

Alithia Alleyne confirmed that the upcoming election would include:

- Three senator positions
- Two alternate senator positions
- A proposed bylaw amendment

PO Roman clarified that the bylaw amendment would address responsibility for reporting election outcomes to UFS.

- Standing Committee on Personnel

PO Roman noted that the standing committee on personnel had not yet been fully constituted and requested that each school provide representatives.
He identified several issues for the committee's review:

- Updates to CAPQ guidelines
- Sabbatical policy revisions
- Concerns regarding newly implemented financial conflict of interest disclosure forms

Mark Stewart indicated that a new representative would need to be identified for the College of Medicine, while Member Ritter-Teitel confirmed that a representative from Nursing had already been submitted.

- Library and Resource Access Concerns

PO Roman provided an update on library resources, noting that access issues with Elsevier subscriptions remained unresolved, while access to Lippincott resources had been restored after a temporary disruption.
Member Stewart conveyed faculty frustration, stating that many perceive the institution as lacking adequate library access.
Member Ehlke suggested that faculty explore alternative access through the New York State Library system.
PO Roman emphasized the need for improved communication regarding access disruptions and questioned the lack of system-wide subscription models across SUNY institutions.

- Spring Assembly Planning (April 29)

PO Roman initiated a discussion on potential agenda items for the upcoming Spring Assembly.
Member Penington recommended including ADA Title II compliance as a major topic.
Member Daniels provided an update on institutional efforts, noting the formation of a committee and the implementation of a software tool that scans institutional websites for compliance issues and generates reports.
Member Perkins emphasized the need for clear, accessible guidance for faculty, noting that existing materials were overly technical.
Member Penington indicated that he had already distributed guidance materials but had not observed significant uptake.
Alithia Alleyne requested that these materials be shared more broadly with the group.
No new agenda items were introduced.
PO Roman provides a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.