



Downstate Assembly of Faculty & Professional Staff

Special Assembly Meeting Minutes Date: June 30, 2026

Time: 2:01 p.m. (called to order)

Presiding Officer (PO): Christopher Roman

Secretary: Edeline Mitton

Call to Order

Secretary Mitton called the special meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

PO Roman explained that the meeting had three purposes:

- Present the slate of candidates for two University Faculty Senate elections.
- Review a proposed amendment to the DAFPS bylaws.
- Accept nominations from the floor for the upcoming elections.

Bylaws Amendment

Katherine Perkins reviewed the proposed amendment to Article XI, Section B (Elections). The amendment clarifies that:

- The **presiding officer** is responsible for reporting election results to the **SUNY University Faculty Senate**.
- During years when the presiding officer transitions, the **outgoing presiding officer** assumes this responsibility.

She noted that the amendment supplements existing language rather than replacing it and would require a **two-thirds majority** of those voting to adopt it.

Discussion

- **Anika Daniels** asked whether a reporting deadline should be specified.
- Katherine Perkins noted that election results are already required to be reported to members by **May 15**, but no deadline exists for reporting to the University Faculty Senate.
- Anika proposed requiring notification within **three business days** following announcement of election results to the membership.
- **Chella Kamarajan** suggested five business days, citing potential travel and scheduling conflicts.
- After discussion, members agreed that the existing two-week notification period for the membership, followed by an additional three business days for reporting to SUNY, was sufficient.
- Member Perkins confirmed that the amendment would specify **three business days after the election results are announced to the membership**.

Motion

PO Roman called for approval of the revised amendment.

- **Vote:** Approved by majority vote.

The revised language will appear on the election ballot.

PO Roman also thanked Member Perkins for agreeing to serve as Parliamentarian and acknowledged her expertise in governance matters.

Presentation of Election Slates

Alithia Alleyne, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, presented the slates of candidates. She explained that two separate Senate elections are necessary:

1. **Special Election** to fill a vacant Senate seat resulting from an earlier resignation.
2. **Regular Election** for a Senate seat whose term has expired.

The special election had previously been approved but was delayed due to vendor issues, necessitating that both elections be conducted simultaneously.

Special Election – Senate Vacancy

Candidates:

- Michelle Adams
- Chayla Kamarajan
- Sivan Kinridge

Alithia thanked the candidates for their patience during the delayed election process.

Regular Senate Election

Alithia presented the nominees for the second Senate position.

Questions were raised regarding candidates appearing on both ballots. Alithia explained that candidates are permitted to appear on both because the positions represent **different term lengths**—one fills an existing vacancy, while the other is a full Senate term.

Questions from Members

Several governance questions were addressed:

- **Anika Daniels** clarified that her nominee appeared on the second ballot after initially believing the name had been omitted.
- **Christopher Lange** suggested combining the Senate elections into a single election based on vote totals. Alithia explained that separate elections are required because the two positions have different terms and the original special-election slate had already been ratified.
- **Nick Penington** asked about Senate term limits. Katherine Perkins clarified that senators may serve **two consecutive three-year terms**, after which they must sit out for one year before becoming eligible again, with special provisions for partial terms.

Nominations from the Floor

Additional nominations were accepted.

For Senator:

- Dr. Tim Bigeli (nominated by Chris Chatzinakos)

For Alternate Senator:

- Rena Orman (nominated by Anika Daniels)

Alithia requested that nominators email the nominee's information for verification and ballot preparation.

Alternate Senator Election

Alithia presented the slate of candidates for **two Alternate Senator positions**.

She noted:

- The two candidates receiving the highest vote totals would become Alternate Senators.
- If any current Alternate Senator is elected to the Senate, an additional special election may be required to fill the resulting vacancy.

Election Timeline

Alithia outlined the remaining schedule:

- Newly nominated candidates will have **one week** to submit required materials, including a CV and candidate statement.
- The election vendor is prepared to launch the ballot once submissions are received.
- Election announcements will be distributed campus-wide through the Communications Department.

Closing Remarks

Alithia expressed appreciation for the large number of candidates, noting that faculty interest in governance has grown significantly compared with previous years.

Christopher Roman thanked:

- Alithia Alleyne for leading the nominations process after Brigitte Desport assumed the Dean position.
- Katherine Perkins for her leadership on governance and bylaws.
- Faculty senators and alternates for strengthening faculty governance.

- Finance for resolving funding issues that had delayed the elections.

He also noted that all standing committees, including the Nominations and Elections Committee, will be reconstituted in the fall as new officers and senators begin their terms.

Adjournment

- **Meeting Adjourned:** Approximately 2:29 p.m.

Members were reminded to watch for the election ballots and subsequent reminders.