

## SUNY University Faculty Senate

### Governance Committee

Michael Motta, Chair

2021 Fall Plenary

October 7-9, 2021

**Charge:** The Committee will concern itself with University-wide governance and shall provide guidance on matters of campus governance. The committee shall interact with local governance leaders of the University. The committee is responsible for the publication of the Governance Handbook and will review and update it every four years.

#### 2021-2022 Committee Members

	Role	Campus	E-mail
Elizabeth Helzner		Downstate	elizabeth.helzner@downstate.edu
James McLean		Geneseo	mclean@geneseo.edu
Michael Motta	Chair	Farmingdale	mottam@farmingdale.edu
Cynthia Proctor	System Liaison	SUNY System	cynthia.proctor@suny.edu
Sandra Rezac		Plattsburgh	rezacsj@plattsburgh.edu
Bhakti Sharma	CGL Convener	Buffalo State	sharmab@buffalostate.edu
Bruce Simon	<i>Acting UFS VP/Secretary</i>	Fredonia	bruce.simon@fredonia.edu
Jeff Steele	FCCC Liaison	Herkimer	steelejf@herkimer.edu
David Vitt		Farmingdale	vitt@farmingdale.edu
Ryan Vooris		Cortland	keith.landa@suny.edu
Keith Landa	<i>UFS President</i>	Purchase	

#### Committee Goals for 2021-2022

##### 1. Review and Update the Governance Handbook

The committee's main priority this year is reviewing and updating the Governance Handbook, last updated in 2013. After a lengthy discussion at the Fall Planning Meeting, the committee challenged itself to "reimagine" what the Handbook could and should be. This is an ongoing conversation. The three

major re-imaginings concern: (A) who the typical user of the Handbook is and, therefore, what its **purpose** is; (B) its **relevancy** alongside existing materials; and (C) its **re-organization**.

The present idea for (A) (though subject to continued conversation) is to specifically purpose the Handbook for new senators and CGLs. A consequence of this narrower focus is that other audiences may find the Handbook useful: new members of the SUNY community, existing senators and CGLs, and administrators. Regarding (B), the Handbook's relative relevancy, many materials in the current Handbook appear (or could appear) elsewhere, such as on the SUNY UFS website. Also, there are existing materials from CGL orientation materials and FCCC that either render the Handbook redundant or provide it with materials to emulate. After deciding (A), the purpose of the Handbook, the committee can make a more informed decision regarding what role the Handbook should play alongside these other materials, and how it can draw from them without being unnecessarily redundant. Similarly, (C) depends upon decisions made regarding (A) and (B.) The current idea, likely actionable regardless of (A) and (B), is to divide the Handbook into Local Governance and System Governance sections.

The entirety of the Governance Committee will decide (A), (B), and (C) before the end of the 2021 calendar year, and the committee will create the reimagined Governance Handbook in the first-half of 2022. A draft will be circulated to senators, CGLs, and the Executive Committee prior to the Summer Planning Meeting.

## **2. Complete Revisions to Procedures**

Over the past few years, the Bylaws Subcommittee of the Governance Committee revised the UFS Bylaws and authored its Standing Rules. What remains is the third of UFS's governing documents, the Procedures. The Procedures are nearly complete. The remaining members of the Bylaws Subcommittee—Sandra, James, and Michael, alongside Henry Flax, the Parliamentarian—will complete the revisions and seek comment at the January Plenary, with a plan to seek adoption at the April Plenary.

## **3. Create a Shared Governance Rubric**

Building upon existing templates at FCCC and at local campuses, the Committee will create a rubric that local campuses can use to assess, and improve upon, their shared governance practices on a year-to-year basis and through comparative analysis across campuses. A Rubric Subcommittee—chaired by Bhakti and joined by Elizabeth and Ryan—will lead this effort. The plan is to seek adoption at the April Plenary after a preceding comment period.

## **4. Collaborate with Operations Committee on Presidential Search Resolution**

The Governance Committee will collaborate with the Operations Committee on a resolution regarding the role of shared governance in the campus presidential search process.

## **5. Iterative Improvement of the Elections Handbook**

Governance Committee member and UFS senator David Vitt also serves as the chair of the Nominating Committee. In this capacity, he is uniquely positioned to assess the efficacy of the existing Elections Handbook. David will determine what, if any, changes would make the Elections Handbook a useful tool for future elections. The Executive Committee can consider any revisions when David has a chance to coordinate and then reflect upon this year's election.

## **6. Other Potential Projects for 2021-2022**

The above represent the priorities of the Committee this year. Also in consideration is a resolution emphasizing the importance of shared governance in selection of a SUNY Chancellor, and a survey regarding remote governance procedures at the local level, among others.

### **Committee Achievements Since Summer Planning Meeting**

#### **1. Resolution Re: Remote Plenary Meetings**

At the Fall Planning Meeting, the Governance Committee and Parliamentarian Henry Flax wrote a proposed amendment to the Standing Rules that would provide a formal mechanism for making an in-person plenary remote due to a public health crisis. The motion for this proposed amendment will be made at the Fall Plenary.