

University Faculty Senate

Committee on Ethics and Institutional Integrity

ANDREW FITZ-GIBBON, Chair

Annual Report 2020-2021

Committee Charge

The Committee will study and make recommendations to the SUNY University Faculty Senate President regarding issues of professional behavior, ethical conduct and institutional integrity as they relate to faculty, students, administrators and other personnel in SUNY and higher education. The committee will gather information and serve as a resource for the Senate and the University. The Committee will not serve as a disciplinary body nor will it take part in judicial proceedings.

Committee Members

Andrew Fitz-Gibbon, Cortland (chair)
Kathleen Powderly, Downstate
Genevieve Birren, Cortland
Grace Zhao, Farmingdale
Carlie Phipps, SUNY Poly
Jason Whitehead, Morrisville

Marina Tsianou, UB
Richard Durant, Plattsburgh
Cara Palumbo Schrantz, SUNY liaison

Committee agenda for 2020-2021 agreed at the fall planning meeting

1. The committee met each month during the year. Main agenda item has been strategy for the “Committees Squared,” concerning the pandemic, the University Police, and Black Lives Matter.
2. Ethics committee members continued to chair the “Committees Squared,” each of which met several times since the last plenary.
3. The BLM sub-committee produced two resolutions for consideration by the senate (passed), and continue their unfinished work.
4. The UPD sub-committee produced a report after qualitative research involving UPD chiefs and various campus stakeholders.
5. The pandemic sub-committee began its work and will need to continue in the coming year to look at concerns regarding faculty and staff experiences and potential trauma, and the boundaries of the work day during an after the pandemic. Another issue is concern about uniform as sanctioning guidelines for students and the impact of that policy including student demographics.
6. SUNY Empire State and SUNY Cortland are continuing the pilot program on mediation/ombuds committees, faculty led for faculty, in a modified way given the pandemic. A team of mediators at Cortland are currently undergoing mediation training, expecting to begin their work fall 2021.
7. The committee continues to consider the issue of “ethics officers” on campuses in dialogue with the SUNY liaison on the committee. This issue will be raised to the top of the agenda in the fall.

Outcomes/queries for UFS Senators to share with their campus

We would be happy to continue to receive any comments on any of the above issues, and any other issues relating to ethics and institutional integrity.