

Governance Committee
Michael Motta, Chair
SUNY University Faculty Senate
2023 Spring Plenary
April 20-22, 2023

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.

2022-2023 Committee Members

Genni Birren, Cortland
Puttagounder Dhanasakaran Swaminathan, Canton
Eric Eisenbraun, POLY
Henry Flax (Parliamentarian)
Daniel Marrone, Farmingdale
Mike Motta, Farmingdale (Chair)
Cyndi Proctor, SUNY System (System Liaison)
Sandra Rezac, Plattsburgh (CGL Convenor)
Amy Rosen-Brand, Buffalo State
Dennis Showers, Geneseo
Bruce Simon, Fredonia
Jeff Steele, Herkimer (FCCC Liaison)

Committee Work Summary

At the Fall Planning Meeting, the committee met and established their priorities for the year. The priorities, in hierarchical order, are to:

1. Amend the Guidelines and Standing Rules at the Fall Plenary to make it clearer that attendance at Fall Planning Meeting is of utmost importance (as directed by Executive Committee) (completed earlier in year)
2. Continue revising and digitizing the Governance Handbook
3. Continue work on a shared governance rubric
4. Revise the Nominations and Elections Handbook (completed earlier in year)
5. Build the groundwork for a repository of campus documents
6. Continue the work of the Bylaws Task Force, clarifying elements in our three governance documents, and creating links between them

Since the preceding plenary, the whole committee met virtually every two weeks. The committee has also worked over e-mail and on the committee Google Drive. Motta and Rezac met three times to collaboratively write the new introduction to the digitized Handbook. Most of the committee members are also independently researching and/or revising and/or writing assigned sections of the Governance Handbook (goal #2 above.)

At the Winter Plenary, Governance Committee was tasked by President Landa with revising the Standing Rules to recognize that winter plenaries are virtual, and to include language emphasizing that Sector Representatives and the CGL Convenor must submit sector reports after each of the plenaries, as well as a template for Sector Reps and Convenors to rely on to be included as an appendix to the Standing Rules. Motta drafted Standing Rules changes and Eisenbraun drafted the template. The committee met, discussed the revisions, and then accepted the revised language. The Executive Committee is considering these changes at the April Plenary.

Rezac and Immediate Past UFS President Kay completed their revisions of the Consultation and Visitation guidelines. The committee discussed the revisions and accepted the revised language. The new edition will be proposed to UFS at the April Plenary.

As described above, the committee has accomplished goals 1 and 4. The committee continues to work on revising and digitizing the Governance Handbook—and is nearing completion (goal #2.) The committee has also discussed the shared governance rubric (goal #3.) Goals #5 and #6 are on hold as higher priority goals are pursued. The committee has also discussed the role of free speech in governance and will be asking Executive Committee to put together a task force to examine these and related issues.