

University Senate Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2024, 3:30-5:00 PM (Hybrid Meeting – Wang Center Lecture Hall & Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from March 4, 2024 carried.

Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President

- Welcomed everyone to the University Senate meeting.

Report from President Maurie McInnis

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Discussed New York State funding the New York Climate exchange.
- Reported the progress with the State University Construction Fund regarding the Chemistry Building.
- Mentioned SB has finalized the boundaries through the survey for Ashley Shiff.
- We have finalist candidates for the Vice President for Research and the Chief Innovation Officer.
- Judith B. Greiman is retiring at the end of the summer, so we are starting a search for the Chief Deputy position.
- We will have a visit by the Middle States accrediting team soon, that should hopefully be the end of the accrediting process.
- On March 26th, a group of students who had been part of a much larger and otherwise uneventful demonstration, had to be removed by the University Police from the Administration Building.
 - Q&A/Comments regarding arrest of students who were demonstrating:
 - Students were quietly sitting down in the foyer of the administration building. They were engaging in a sit-in strike, how that was disruptive to the campus community?
 - The next day faculty went into that same building in distress over these arrests, and to support these students' right to free speech, and were surrounded by police officers who cordoned and flanked them. Is that a space of free expression?
 - I do not understand why we must be cordoned, flanked, surrounded by campus police, and we'd like a clear explanation as to who and why made that decision, when students were sitting in silent protest.
 - I spoke to students who were arrested and to those who left the building earlier, to faculty who were there, watched a lot of the recordings that were on social media, and I was deeply saddened about the escalatory response of this administration, and a response that comes off as openly hostile towards our students. Why is the auditorium filled with police today? Is there any threat of violence here? Why did I have to walk in passing multiple university

police cars parked in front and cops lining the hallways of the building today? To my knowledge, there has been no violence, no destruction of property, no threats of violence, and no vandalism from any of these student protests, and yet they're treated as if they are a threat, and that's very upsetting to me.

- I employ Stony Brook University to reassess its investments and make public its policies and its commitments. We, as a community, must stick together to shed the light on the truth. We will not be the product of our institution. Let us not allow the fruits of our labor, the embodiment of our hopes, and our dreams to be tainted by association with injustice. Let us channel our collective resources, our energy, and our passion towards building a future that respects the dignity of all people, a future where education and wellbeing of children, regardless of their nationality, are upheld, upheld as sacred. Free Palestine from the river to the sea.
- Last Tuesday, a group of students fighting for Palestinian liberation, peacefully marched into the Administration Building in solidarity with people facing genocide, as well as against our Administration's complicity in genocide. We clearly stated our demands to meet with a board of trustees, to have Stony Brook divest from Israel, and initiate the divestment of the entire SUNY system. We intended to stay there as long as it took for our demands to be met. However, as soon as we entered the building, not 45 minutes afterwards, we were told by the administration that we had 15 minutes to leave, or we would be arrested. We were told to think of our futures, to think of the opportunities we would lose. They believe we only do things to serve our careers, our best interests, as long as there's money in our pockets, who cares what's in our hearts. We know that is well within the power of the Administration, especially President Mckinnis, to initiate a meeting between us and the Board of Trustees.

Report from Provost, Carl Lejuez

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- No presentation due to early adjournment of the meeting.

Reports from UUP

- B. Kube - East campus President & A. Solar-Greco – West Campus President:
 - No presentation due to early adjournment of the meeting.

Old Business: ByLaws Working Group Presentation & Discussion, Jason Torre and Suzanne Velasquez

- Changes can be viewed [here](#).
- All changes were read and briefly discussed.

New Business:

A. Consideration of Bylaws WG Proposals

- Vote: Changes passed by majority of members.

B. EC - Vote on Proposal for University Senate Proceedings

- Resolution proposal was read by Richard Larson.
- Vote: Passed by majority of members.

C. Election of Secretary/Treasurer

- Richard Stein was announced as the only nominee for the position of Senate Secretary/Treasurer.
- Vote: Richard Stein was elected by the vote of majority of members.

D. PEG Board Resolution, Nancy Tomes

- Resolution can be viewed [here](#).
- Resolution was presented to the EC in advance.
- Resolution was read and discussed by Nancy Tomes to the Senate body.
- This is a resolution designed to broaden the representation of PEG Board and basically turning it into a professional employee's senate.
- Resolution will be posted on the Senate website for review and comments.
- Senators will vote on the resolution in the next Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.