



Updates from
Your Friendly UFS Senators



<http://www.sunyufs.us/>



SUNY BoT Chairman | Merryl Tisch

- Unchartered territory.
- Highly dependent on each other / highly functioning / talented Chancellor.
- Civil Discourse - stay the course, don't allow to be diminished - don't be distracted or pitted against each other with outside distractions and efforts.
- BOT will guide the System to move forward but not diminish.
- Pledge to do everything they can to promote the messages from UFS to the table - listen in to the board meetings. Hope that the message and tone is carried through appropriately.
- Thank you for all you are doing.



Chancellor King's Message: 2025 Agenda

Rankings matter – proud of the SUNY rankings.

Advancing innovation and research, SUNY is on the move - reiterating the 4 pillars.

- 1) Student success:
Benchmarks include enrollments, retention/persistence, FAFSA Completion, Scaling ASAP|ACE and Academic Momentum campaign.
- 2) Research and scholarship:
Continued emphasis on leadership in the ethical use of AI for research, teaching and learning.
Leadership Opportunities for SUNY Faculty - AI, DEISJ, civic discourse, accessibility and sustainability.
Research task forces to advance AI, quantum, chips packaging, biotech and climate research (new).
- 3) Diversity, equity, and inclusion
Inclusive and supportive - title VI and title IX response.
Campus climate, first gen college students, PRODiG+, SUNY Institute for DEI professionals, title II/EITA compliance and Outdoors for All.
- 4) Economic development and upward mobility
Internships and experiential learning scaling for social sciences and humanities, expanded credit for prior learning, nursing education scholarships and simulation. SUNY Downstate and Upstate major capital projects..



Chancellor King's Message (continued)

- Ensuring fiscal strength
\$391 million increased state operating investment in all SUNY campuses over the last 3 years.
- At least a 30% increase for every state-operated campus and campuses are responsible for making decisions to achieve academic and fiscal health.
- ESF is a strong campus, great programs, leader in SUNY - increased fund by \$6Ml. - but it is not enough to help with the deficit. They created a plan to achieve a balanced budget.
- Ask that we commit to a fact based approach to the areas we have difference. We are committed to all 64 campuses and want to be able to help these campuses thrive – it will require difficult fiscal decisions and actions to achieve a balanced budget.
- Federal update: shutdown, grant and contract terminations (\$25M), SUNY is litigating the attack on grants.

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- New “compact” for academic excellence - three buckets
First bucket - things we already do in our course of business, prevent discrimination etc.
Second bucket - detailed reporting on student demographics - ethically and legally can do -
Third bucket - threat to academic freedom, combat antisemitism, DEI attacks, international and undocumented students, faculty, staff and families.

The question is – how will this compact be used? We are prepared to defend our legal authority when it will come to us.

Clear on commitment to academic freedom, DEI and our values. SUNY values embedded in our DNA.

- We have to inform faculty and staff if they are approached by ICE. They must say they are unauthorized to share information and immediately reach out to CPD or AGC.
- Help train our students in civil discourse – to help prepare our communities to be able to disagree without hate. To co-exist.



Chancellor King's Fireside Chat

1) Academic Freedom

- BOT clear, we will continue standing up to our values.
- NYS law on recordings not favorable - faculty can set their own rules.
- Retrenchments. CDO's / Faculty teaching courses they are not expert in. Time place manner applies to all faculty/staff - cultivate environments where people can feel they can grapple with disagreements.
- Areas where federal funding not covering - should be caught up by the State (Eg. health disparities).

2) Budget

- We expect more cuts to research dollars, cuts to Medicaid, overall we expect flat budget from the State.
- Depends on shared resources. There will be cuts to research more-so than Pell grants (fed). State budget is complicated by the feds. Engagement with faculty is critical, enrollment is critical.
- Academic enrollment is also about financial sustainability.
- Academic portfolio optimization is critical.
- Problems with increasing adjuncts and class sizes.
Full time faculty - 700 new faculty hire / ft percentage is up by 2% - not sure we can maintain
- Love the idea of shared procurement - benefits for campuses and hospitals, healthcare education.
- There is work we need to do on faculty load and work issues - campus specific. Balance research, service and scholarship / mentorship etc.

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- Ask for \$1M for raises and try to cover as best as we can / hope we can do it again this year.
- Workgroup - begun its work on Arts Heavy campuses - what do we do to support the arts and creative strategies.
- Every sector matters, crucial for the fabric of NY State.

3) Diversity / Title II

- Title II compliance - need more support and guidance, professional learning community, feedback.
 - Digital Transformation Project. Information challenge, 90,000 employees - making it easier to have emails to go to the right people, affected by the right thing. Ex. Scholarships.
 - \$9B Capital backlog – our critical maintenance fund (\$550M per year) is not enough.
 - Recruiting and retaining faculty - our salaries are lower than what people can make elsewhere - lean into mission - we are the engine of social mobility and economic growth in NYS.
 - Cost of housing an issue. Looking at a housing solution for faculty/staff - lot of land and a housing need. We struggle as a state in building housing - tough rules to work with. Lean into sense of communities
 - Unfunded mandates - yes, there are things we have to do and more of them with the budget coming up - we will have more of that challenge. Ideas for regulations that are burdensome
 - Eve - vision of quality higher ed. / ethical implication of big ideas / policies and goals that are contradictory . At a comprehensive - mission to get students into higher ed from social class / students unable to pay the bills - collections. ACE is part of the solution but we need more. How to better support our low and middle income students.
- Chancellor - Paying for education is in competition with paying for healthcare – critical tipping point.





Updates from Provost Ram & team

- Recruiting faculty - political climate and our values will be attractive.
- Global branding - recognized throughout the world as the largest system in the country and our outcomes.
 - Great media and publicity from Oswego's advertisement, MBA followers increased, great ROI..
 - Visa challenges, not enough staff for interviews.
 - 4 yr restriction proposed policy is a problem for PhDs.
- Civic discourse and AI fellows are doing amazing work.

Updates from Dr. Julie Heartley-Moore, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

- Preserve distinctiveness of each sector, not having campuses compete with each other.
- Institutional and academic strength, less competition.
 - Coordination efforts: Arts Focused, Nursing, Inter-institution graduate programs, lesser taught languages.
 - New Fed standards: Gainful employment - federal accountability measures. Enrollment, completion and workforce placement. Efforts to include industry certifications.
 - Academic structures - courses that are a struggle, how to better help those students.

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Updates from

David Cantaffa: Share with campuses - [2 page document](#).

- AI, DEISJ, Sustainability and Civic Discourse Fellows are doing great work.
- Gen Ed conference coming up April 9-10 call for proposals already out, due November 16.
- Conversations in the disciplines - call for proposals - events in 2026-27, due Jan. 30.
- Google AI Essentials and AI Prompting essentials - free courses available to all.
- Credit for Prior Learning - guidance addendum, maximize opportunities for students.
 - Status report due Dec 31.
- Embedding industry credentials in academic coursework - looking for new programs (arts, humanities and social sciences).

Kim Scalzo:

- AI - tutor project underway, 6 different AI tutor platforms - w/ 100 faculty across the system.
- AI advising initiative - supporting efforts on campuses - 24/7 support, basic advising questions. Forming the team now - 27 vendor responses.
- Faculty advisory council teaching and technology (FACT2) - best practices for AI tutors and AI tools. This upcoming for accessibility and AI, technology to support credit for prior learning. Awards coming up soon.
- New OER mini grants for the year coming up.
- EITA: 5 standards <https://www.suny.edu/accessibility/eit/>
- Faculty fellows will help share the information, Direct funding for accessibility - \$10M per year to help state operated campuses for support for students with disabilities.



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Conversation with SUNY Accessibility Advocates & Allies Faculty Fellows

Rebecca Mushtare, Liz Bowen, Shelly Jones

Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and
Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments

Guidance provided by SUNY Counsel or one of the SUNY UDL
webinars on Title II.

Recommendations shared - See resolution



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Update from Donna Linderman, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success

- Academic Momentum Campaign
 - Phase I Discovery and goal development (summer 2025)
 - Phase II Presentation of goals/targets/action planning (fall 2025) System goals shared w. presidents
 - Phase III Implementation (spring 2026)

Six broad goals for Fall 2026 entering cohort at Comprehensives:

1. 100% graduation rates (bacc) +8%
 2. 150% graduation rate (bacc) +9.9%
 3. fall-to-fall retention (bacc) + 6.5%
 4. 30+ credits earned in first year (bacc) +9.8%
 5. Gateway English/Math completion 1st year +10%
 6. FAFSA completion (FT / Transfer & Continuing) +17.4%
- Seamless Transfer
 - Maximizing credit acceptance and major applicability (to reach 80%)
 - Clear, transparent and consistent policy and process (Transfer Student Bill of Rights)
 - Providing additional system-wide resources
 - Fostering system-wide transfer partnerships.





Shared Governance Fireside Chat

- Support each other
- Support and engage the students
- Build feedback loops and accountability structures

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New space for public facing documents:

<https://hdl.handle.net/1951/88525>

2025 Annual Report

New Website - ufs.suny.edu



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Proposed Resolutions:

Passed Resolutions:

- 201-01 Governance UFS role in supporting campus-level shared governance (Handbook)
- 201-02 EC Safeguarding due process and privacy - amended
- 201-03 Operations Increased Support for Title II preparations - amended (thanks, Rebecca!)
- 201-04 EC Support for FCCC Defending Shared Governance
- 201-05 EC Support for FCCC to Defending Foundational Shared Governance Principles in Texas, (Don't)/(Let's) mess with Texas resolution
- 201-06-1 Endorsing two Petitions and Statements in the Name of the Body
- 201-07 Resolution Calling for SUNY-wide Doxxing Policy and Photography and Recording Policy - amended

Resolutions redirected to UFS:

Safeguarding Free Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Privacy



Shout out to out to the 2025-2026 UFS Committee Members

<https://www.sunyufs.us/members.html>

Ritu Radhakrishnan - Equity Inclusion and Diversity, Chair

Gwen Kay - Governance, Chair

Eve Clark-Benavides - Ethics, Chair

Tina Cooper - Communications

Isabelle Bichindaritz - Graduate Academic Programs and Research Council

Matthew McLeskey - Programs and Awards

Allison Ayotte - Student Life

Grace Maxon-Clarke - Student Life

Sarah Hanusch - Undergraduate Programs

Jason Zenor - Undergraduate Programs



Questions? Concerns? Ideas to share?



Feel free to reach out to us...

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