

# Faculty Council Matters



**FCCC**  
Faculty Council  
of Community Colleges  
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Fall 2019



The Faculty Council Executive Committee, from left to right: Michael Delaney, treasurer; Jeffrey Steele, Governance Committee chair; Wendy Johnston, Campus and Student Life Committee chair; Nina Tamrowski, past president; Bruce Rowe, vice president; Christy Fogal, president; Sean Simpson, information officer; Danna Prather-Davis, secretary; Charles Hoffman, Academic and Student Affairs Committee chair; Cynthia Lonsbary, Communication and Professional Development Committee Chair. Not pictured is Iris Cook, Awards Committee chair.

## Introducing the Faculty Council's new Executive Committee

Christy Fogal, professor of mathematics at Monroe Community College, was elected president of the Faculty Council at this year's spring plenary meeting. Fogal served as vice president for four years alongside now past-president Nina Tamrowski.

Taking Fogal's place as vice president is Bruce Rowe from North Country Community College, and Danna Prather-Davis from Suffolk County Community College was elected to serve as the Council's Secretary. Michael Delany from

Erie Community College will continue in his role as treasurer.

Fogal was sworn in to the SUNY board of trustees in July.



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# Letter from the president

As we begin a new academic year we hear of new and continuing SUNY initiatives like guided pathways, OER, and SUNY Online, to name a few. All of these initiatives in one way or another are meant to attract and retain students. With so many initiatives being enacted at the same time how do we know if one or multiple, or any, are having an impact on enrollment and retention?

Guided Pathways is a retention initiative meant to guide students through the advisement process and not give too many choices. Some research has shown this generation of traditionally college-age students prefer not to have a buffet of courses to choose from so guided pathways suggests which general electives and general education courses would be most applicable to their program.

Open Educational Resources (OER) aim to save money by decreasing or eliminating textbook costs. This could attract students by decreasing their financial burden.

SUNY Online is meant to bring students back to SUNY. It's estimated 40,000 New York State residents are enrolled in online programs out of state. This fall semester pilot programs for SUNY Online were rolled out with more set to roll out in the spring, however initial estimates say enrollment is lower than expected.

General Education reform is

meant to excite students by giving them a general education plan that works for the 21<sup>st</sup> century student. A white paper with an environmental scan was distributed last year as well as a green paper with task force recommendations. This year another, more inclusive, committee will come together to create a single general education plan that will be presented to the SUNY provost. This group will be inclusive as it will also include registrars, provosts, and transfer counselors as well as faculty and students.

ProdiG: System Administration would like to help with the hiring of under-represented minority faculty members. This has now been expanded to help potential faculty members earn a master's degree or doctorate and eventually teach in the system. The idea is students may be attracted to or more likely stay in college if they see faculty members who more closely resemble themselves. This sounds like a great plan, but how many of our colleges are hiring faculty now?

We have another exciting year ahead of us with potentially a whole set of new initiatives on the horizon. As mentioned before, how do we know which one(s), if any, are working when we try so many at the same time?

We should consider slowing down the initiative freight train and assess what is already in place before adding on more



confounding changes. Who knows, maybe we have already found a successful initiative that has had a positive impact on student success. But we will never know unless we give each strategy a while to take hold and assess what we have already done. I for one wouldn't mind a little break from initiative burn-out.

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# Changes to Gen Ed should allow for innovation

By Bruce Rowe  
Vice President, FCCC

In the coming months, SUNY Provost Tod Laursen will be announcing the make-up of a new gen ed task force to review comments on and recommendations for the gen ed working group green paper during the campus review period between March and May 2019. In a resolution (ASA 3: 2018-2019), the Faculty Council delegates unanimously supported the recommendations of the green paper.

According to Faculty Council President Christy Fogal, “Not much has happened since the green paper was submitted,” but she noted that Laursen seemed “very open to suggestions” offered by herself and University Faculty Senate (UFS) President Gwen Kay regarding the eventual make-up and charge of the new task force. Fogal anticipates representation will come from the Faculty Council and UFS designated faculty, chief academic officers, and registrars from the SUNY campuses, students, and SUNY staff.

Once the task force has completed its review and recommendations, new SUNY gen ed policy will be drafted and circulated to the campuses for comment and review, Fogal said.

The working group, which was established in November 2017, published first in 2018 a white paper that “provided an

environmental scan of gen ed programs,” according to former Faculty Council President Nina Tamrowski, who chaired the working group. The green paper, which was produced in March 2019, contained specific recommendations to Laursen. Among the general concerns from the campus feedback to the white paper, Tamrowski noted the concern that gen ed learning outcomes should be “measurable and assessable” and that SUNY gen ed requirements “should be aligned with those of Middle States.” At the same time, Tamrowski said, “Not all courses and programs should be assessed with competency-based criteria. Not everything can be quantified using those metrics.”

The Faculty Council resolution in support of the working group’s green paper emphasized several key recommendations, including the idea that whatever gen ed policy is ultimately adopted, it should allow for “innovation, review and revision without undue bureaucratic obstruction” and that SUNY system administration should support and “encourage campus creativity and innovation” with conferences, grant monies, and additional resources. The Faculty Council resolution also backed the recommendation to reduce the gen ed credit requirement for the A.A. and A.S. degrees from 30 to 21 in seven of the ten gen ed categories while maintaining the 30 credit requirement for those in baccalaureate

programs. The resolution notes that AAS and AOS programs should maintain their exemption from SUNY gen ed requirements.

Last, the resolution reinforced the Faculty Council and UFS positions that SUNY policy should support “campus-based, faculty and faculty-governance driven development . . . of rigorous gen ed programs” and that reviews of gen ed requirements should mirror the five to seven year SUNY requirement for all program reviews.

Fogal and Tamrowski anticipate that Laursen will be announcing the make-up of the new task force in the coming weeks.

Tamrowski is a  
“Friend of the Senate”



Outgoing President Nina Tamrowski was honored with the “Friend of the Senate” award at the University Faculty Senate April plenary at SUNY Potsdam.



# Roadshows: Now with a menu of flavors

*By Cynthia Lonsbary  
Communications and  
Professional Development  
Chair, FCCC*

Is your campus hungry to learn more about making shared governance work effectively? Are the faculty on your campus excited about expanding their palates by savoring new topics about shared governance? Are you bemused, bothered, and bewildered about SUNY initiatives and policy? Then the Faculty Council Roadshow series has just the thing,

Roadshows are a way to personalize Faculty Council information shared with delegates at plenaries by bringing it directly to campuses and making it available for all stakeholders. Think Uber Eats, but for shared governance! The presentations are usually led by the Faculty Council president or other officers and can be on a range of topics. We have recently expanded our menu of topics and we are eager to share them with you (see menu on right).

Scheduling, registration, and logistics for roadshows are coordinated by the Communication and Professional Development Committee in collaboration with campus delegates and campus governance leaders. All of the programs can be tailored for an exclusive event just for members of your campus, or you can invite other campuses in the region for a more broadly focused, collaborative discussion.

We encourage campuses to invite neighboring campuses to attend whenever possible for the broadest conversation and to forge effective connections between campuses.

To arrange for a roadshow, please contact Cynthia Lonsbary, Communications and Professional Development chair at the address below.

## Roadshow Menu

### **Shared Governance 101**

Our classic program focuses on the models of effective shared governance, the role of faculty, and topics such as sustainability and increasing participation. We suggest finishing with our ever-popular “updates on emerging issues and trends in higher education” and “SUNY Initiatives and policy.” This option can be personalized for your campus with the inclusion of additional topics like Robert’s Rules of Order, and encouraging civil discourse.

### **Transition and Change: So You Have a New ....**

This is a program designed for campuses in the midst of change: new presidents, new provosts, new campus governance leaders, etc. Topics focus on shared governance as a scaffold to support the college through the transition period and introduce the new leadership to the Faculty Council. Topics include succession planning and passing the torch, as well as “updates on emerging issues” and “SUNY Initiatives.”

### **Shared Governance 201**

For those campuses ready to level-up. This program may include a refresher on shared governance basics, followed by topics like how to use the shared governance rubric, democratizing shared governance (the philosophy of shared governance), encouraging civil discourse, sustainability, and encouraging participation. We also suggest finishing with “updates on emerging issues and trends in higher education” and “SUNY Initiatives and policy.”

### **Build Your Own**

You can always choose your own topics, a la carte. Or, if you would like to suggest a topic, please let us know and we will see what might be possible.

Contact:

Cynthia Lonsbary

<clonsbary@sunyjefferson.edu>





## Pictures from our outgoing president's last plenary

Nina Tamrowski's last plenary as president was celebrated with an '80s themed dinner.



# SUNY Online scales up with pilot program

By Charles Hoffman  
Academic and Student Affairs  
Committee Chair, FCCC

The pilot for the SUNY Online scale-up was launched in the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester, with advertising and outreach efforts occurring throughout the summer. This scale-up features seven programs offered at five different SUNY campuses which are offered as fully online programs.

Last year the SUNY Online White Paper stated that the SUNY system offers more than 800 complete online degrees and certificates yet only six percent of the enrolled students at SUNY are completely online students. Based on demographic information from students in other states, this indicates that there are several thousand New York residents who are seeking online degree programs offered

## Programs participating in the SUNY Online pilot:

- *Health Care Management*, SUNY Canton
- *Health Care Studies*, Finger Lakes Community College
- *Networking and Cybersecurity*, Finger Lakes Community College
- *Criminal Justice: Crime and Intelligence Analysis*, Herkimer Community College
- *Business Administration*, Monroe Community College
- *Psychology*, Monroe Community College
- *Accounting*, SUNY Plattsburgh

from out-of-state institutions. These students could be served by already existing programs within the SUNY system and this matches the mission of SUNY to provide the people of New York access to the highest quality educational services.

With the goal of this scale-up being to meet the needs of the students, programs have been identified where there is high demand both from interested students and employers. As a result, there will be more programs developed in the coming years to be offered completely online and clearer

pathways from associate degrees to advance degrees will be developed and/or identified so that students have an easier time navigating SUNY's programs to be able to achieve their educational and career goals.

The experiences from this pilot will be analyzed in the coming academic year to identify best practices going forward and areas where there is room for improvement. These efforts will allow the SUNY system to be prepared for the phase 1 roll-out of more programs in the Fall 2020.

## Honoring Art Lundahl, Distinguished Service Award winner

By Michael Delaney  
Treasurer, FCCC

At our 2019 spring plenary in Ithaca, N.Y., the Faculty Council honored S. Arthur Lundahl (Art), with our Distinguished Service Award.

Lundahl is a Chancellor's Award honoree and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor from Suffolk County Community College and was a 30-year delegate to the Faculty

Council. The Faculty Council's Distinguished Service Award is given annually to an individual who has provided extraordinary service to the SUNY community colleges. From 1986 to 2016, Lundahl held a variety of positions in the Faculty Council, sometimes several at once.

Lundahl has been our wise counselor, our voice of reason, our institutional memory (of both the Faculty Council and



Awards Committee Chair Iris Cook presents Lundahl with the Distinguished Service Award.

SUNY), our mentor, and our friend. He exemplifies the informal Faculty Council motto

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# Delegates Matter



## Meet Ethel Weeks, Nassau Community College

*By Cynthia Lonsbary  
Communications and  
Professional Development  
Chair, FCCC*

Ethel Weeks, professor of economics at Nassau Community College, values flexibility and innovation. She enthusiastically seeks out new ways to improve her teaching skills.

Weeks was born and raised in Lima, Peru. Her father was an officer in the air force so she and her family moved several times while she was growing up. This allowed her the opportunity to attend several private all-girls schools and private universities, which she credits as contributing a large part to who she is today.

Weeks earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Lima, and began her teaching career there. She came to Stony Brook University on an exchange program and completed her masters degree and Ph.D. in economics while teaching undergraduate courses. She took a full-time teaching position at

Nassau Community College after graduating and has been there ever since.

Weeks' first experience in governance was as secretary of Nassau's academic senate in 2000, mentored by her colleague, former Faculty Council President Michael Steuer. From 2005 to 2009, Weeks served as second vice chair of the academic senate. She worked hard to support initiatives like expanding online course offerings and creating Nassau's website.

Weeks has been serving as vice chair since 2017, which she says has been "challenging and rewarding." She especially likes working alongside senate chair and longtime colleague, Anissa Moore. Moore and Weeks realized the importance of the Faculty Council when they attended the Spring 2018 plenary as campus governance leaders. "There was so much going on," Weeks said. "We realized the need to inform our campus of what was happening at SUNY System and other SUNY community colleges." Weeks became the Nassau delegate that fall, joining the Education Initiatives Committee. This year she is bringing her passion and energy to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee as vice chair.

Being a delegate has "prompted me to learn a lot more about my campus, and about what other colleges are doing," Weeks said. "This has also been an amazing opportunity for me to work with outstanding faculty from across all our institutions." She said she believes delegates matter because of "the willingness we have to work together to make sure faculty perspectives and key roles are taken into consideration by

SUNY any time a new idea that will affect our campuses is proposed. We stand firm for shared governance."

Something you may not know about Weeks is she is an avid sports enthusiast, especially for football ("Go Raiders!"), which amuses her male students. She is also a passionate bird watcher and amateur nature photographer (ask about her hummingbird picture). Weeks and husband Charles have been married for 32 years and have two children: Lauren, a University of Buffalo alumna, and Malcolm, who recently graduated from SUNY Maritime College and is currently working on a ship in Alaska. Weeks likes to swim in the Sound and walk along the beach near their home on the north shore of Long Island.

## Lundahl

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of "work hard, play hard" and he does not seem to require sleep for peak performance. Both his stamina and his talent for friendship are legendary. And he has often made us laugh. Difficult situations are still described as "kerfuffles" because of Lundahl.

Lundahl said the Faculty Council has matured since he started: "By mature I mean the ability to solve problems. Delegates seem to have expanded their role and scope in college matters – we have become woven into our campus cultures and influence positive outcomes for our students. Our influence and contributions have been profound."