

To: SACUA

From: Luke McCarthy, Director, Faculty Senate Office

Subject: Director's Report on Faculty Senate Office Activities

Date: January 30, 2026

Faculty Senate Office Activities

Since the last report on January 9, 2026, the FSO continues to be productive:

- Assisted the 18 SA committee chairs with committee meetings.
- Managed a number of ongoing nomination processes, including the following:
 - SACUA vacancy election
 - SACUA general election
 - SA committee chair nominations
 - SA committee member nominations
- Provided logistical support for the following events:
 - Two on-campus faculty retreats
 - A Faculty Senate welcome reception for President-Elect Kent Syverud
- Worked on the logistical details for several upcoming events:
 - Two possible events related to protections of faculty being explored for the winter term in support of the work of the Protections for Faculty Working Group
 - Two additional sessions of the “Clinical Faculty / Faculty Senate Dialogues” to occur later this term with one being in person (on 2/20) and the other on Zoom.
 - Additional faculty work retreats being organized for the coming term.
 - The Ruthven Building annual “Mardi Gras Madness” charity event.
- Maintained the Faculty Senate website.
- Continued assisting two working groups that were organized over the summer:
 - The CTP Task Force
 - The Protections for Faculty Working Group
- Continued exploring the potential of a year publication that might gather and publicize the activities of the Faculty Senate.
- Assisted the Senate Assembly nominations committee with collecting nominations of chairs and members to serve on the SA’s committees next year.
- Continued work on reviewing Faculty Senate Office processes, documents, and webpages in light of accessibility, such as by developing draft templates for documents that the FSO produces and the Faculty Senate webpage in order to better address accessibility concerns.

FSO Director Activities

- Assisted the SACUA Chair with Senate Chair communications to the Faculty Senate.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair in various meetings

- Continued work on developing a new fundraising campaign connected Faculty Senate efforts to support for academic freedom.
- Attended the Wallenberg Institute event “Can we Move from October 7 to Peacemaking?” on January 27th.
- With the SACUA Chair, toured the DPSS “Emergency Operations Center.”
- Communicated with all the units with representatives in the Senate Assembly regarding a recent tri-annual reapportionment of seats and upcoming Senate Assembly member elections.
- Assisted the SACUA Chair in efforts to replace the chair of the AAAC due to the resignation (for personal reasons) of that committee’s chair.
- Engaged in discussions with HR regarding revised rules to govern faculty seats on the Police Department Oversight Committee.

Senate Assembly Actions

Between regular meetings, the Senate Assembly has performed the following actions by electronic vote that should be included in the Senate Assembly minutes:

- On January 29, 2026, the Senate Assembly approved the following faculty appointments to the SACUA Nominations Committee:
 - Outgoing SACUA Members:
 - **Vilma Mesa**, Professor of Education, Marsal Family School of Education and Professor of Mathematics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - **Susan Najita**, Associate Professor of American Culture, Associate Professor of English Language and Literature and Director Graduate Studies, American Culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
 - Outgoing Senate Assembly Members:
 - **Sybil Biermann**, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education, Medical School
 - **Shahzad Mian**, F Bruce Fralick Legacy Professor of Ophthalmology, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Medical School
 - **Kevin Joiner**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing
 - **Ashu Tripathi**, Associate Research Scientist, Life Sciences Institute and Research Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy