

**University Faculty Senate**  
152<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting  
University at Buffalo  
May 1-2, 2009

Report of the Committee on Professional Behavior, Ethical Conduct  
and Institutional Integrity

**Committee Charge:**

*The committee will study and make recommendations to the SUNY University Faculty Senate President regarding issues of professional behavior, ethical conduct and institutional integrity as they relate to faculty, students, administrators and other personnel in SUNY and higher education. The committee will gather information and serve as a resource for the Senate and the University.*

*The Committee will not serve as a disciplinary body nor will it take part in judicial proceedings.*

*The Committee's area of activity and interest will be quite broad and will include but not be limited to the following areas as they pertain to the State University of New York:*

- *Curriculum*
- *Academic honesty*
- *Research, scholarship and creative activity*
- *Instructional, institutional and operational policies and practices*
- *Personal integrity*
- *Electronic communication*
- *Confidentiality*
- *Use of university resources*
- *Conflicts of interest and commitment*
- *Financial transactions*
- *Impact on the environment*
- *Hiring and admissions practices*

**Report:**

The Committee on Professional Behavior, Ethical Conduct and Institutional Integrity has completed its qualitative survey on Existing Ethics Concerns and Policies at SUNY.

Results of the survey will be presented at the May 1-2 Plenary.

The survey identified areas of SUNY faculty and administrative interest and concern, as well as topics to be considered by the committee for future seminar/webinars.

Due to the continuing need for research and recommendations regarding ethics policies, practices and curricula, the committee will make a motion that it be granted status as a

standing committee. If Standing Committee status is granted, the committee suggests that the committee name be changed to “UFS Ethics Committee.”

Two additional projects are recommended for future work:

**Project 2 – Survey to Identify Existing Ethics Policies**

At the present time, there is no central source of information about existing Ethics policies or curricula on SUNY campuses. The committee suggests consideration of a survey to be distributed to Chief Academic Officers to identify existing SUNY policies on Ethics (other than State of New York policies and rules of licensure that may govern certain curricula). The committee would also like to identify existing SUNY curricula that include a study of ethics.

**Project 3 – Establishment of SUNY Ethics Institute**

The Committee will recommend the establishment of an Institute of Ethics, with possible partners from other institutions of higher education and/or other entities.

The Institute may be a SUNY Institute, a University Faculty Senate Institute, or an organization of shared interest, activity and responsibility between SUNY and the University Faculty Senate.

**Committee members:**

Janet Nepkie, Chair	SUNY Oneonta
Charles Moran	SUNY Cobleskill
Father John Cremins	former SUNY Board of Trustees
Peter Thomas	SUNY System Administration
Kate VanArnam, Administrative Liaison	SUNY System Administration
Pamela Schnell	SUNY Optometry
William Baumer	University at Buffalo
Jim Greenberg	SUNY Oneonta
Sara Grethlein	Upstate Medical University
Carl Wiezalis, President	SUNY University Faculty Senate

Advisor: Marti Ellermann, Counsel’s Office                      SUNY System Administration