



The State University
of New York

**Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee
of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York
September 16, 2025**

Pursuant to a notice of a meeting duly given on September 11, 2025 (as revised), a meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York was held on September 16, 2025 at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and via video.

Committee Members Present:

Stanley Litow, Chair

Trustee Lewin
Trustee Staller
Trustee Vacin
Trustee Varlack

Other Trustees Present:

Chairman Tisch
Vice Chairman Perales
Trustee Belluck
Trustee Burke
Trustee Corngold
Trustee Duffy
Trustee Haddon
Trustee Katz
Trustee Rallis
Trustee Simon
Trustee Spiro

Others Present:

Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor
Melur K. "Ram" Ramasubramanian, **Committee Liaison**, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost
Nisha Atre, Executive Director of the SUNY Impact Foundation
Cassie Barron, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Beth Berlin, Senior Vice Chancellor for Operations and Management and Chief Operating Officer
Kaitlyn Bertleff, Director of Healthcare Workforce and Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Jennifer Cano, Associate Professor, State University of New York at Stony Brook
Valerie Dent, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges
Stephanie Fagnoli, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Health and Hospital Affairs
Jamie Frank, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Access Initiatives
Gary Ginsburg, Chief Communications Officer
Valerie Grey, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Health and Hospital Affairs and Chief Hospital and Healthcare Operations Officer
Robert Haelen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Capital Facilities

Cheryl Hamilton, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Opportunity Programs and Student Advocate

Adam Haney, Deputy General Counsel

Julie Hartley-Moore, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Juliana Hernandez-Commisso, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Deputy Chief of Staff

Jahnice Letts, State University of New York at Stony Brook Student

Donna Linderman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Success

Kapil Longani, Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

Jennifer Mero, Secretary of the University

Ricardo Nazario-Colón, Senior Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer

Ian Rosenblum, Senior Vice Chancellor for Policy Implementation and Chief of Staff

Josh Sager, Chief Financial Officer

Shadi Sandvik, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Economic Development

Cara Palumbo Schrantz, Deputy General Counsel

Carter Strickland, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Director of Climate Action

Christopher White, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Upward Mobility

MEETING CONVENED

Trustee Litow convened the meeting at 2:15 p.m., confirming a quorum of members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Litow called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Committee's June 3, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Trustee Litow opened by sharing an overview of the committee meeting's agenda.

Trustee Litow noted that artificial intelligence is a balancing act with both serious questions and huge potential. He shared that it can create positive opportunities for both students and faculty members and expand avenues for learning.

Trustee Litow also shared that the Office of Community Colleges is investigating potential partnerships with corporations to leverage their retirees who are highly skilled and experienced to potentially serve as adjunct faculty in high-demand fields.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Provost Ramasubramanian greeted the Committee and opened with Master Plan amendments for both Alfred State University and Farmingdale State College.

Both requests were approved unanimously, moving the requests to the full Board. He then provided a short update on SUNY's submission to NYSED's request for a Master Plan for Higher Education, which includes plans to align P-20 education.

The Provost then provided an in-depth update on SUNY's continuing development of AI platform tools for students and faculty. He shared that:

- An AI Tutor pilot program has launched testing six AI products across 42 SUNY campuses. The purpose of the pilot is to ensure that SUNY's eventual AI Tutor system:
 - Is faculty led and fully rooted in pedagogy and instructional design.
 - Is easy and accessible students.
 - Protects data and follows SUNY technological protocols.
 - Can be scaled to across the SUNY system.
- SUNY is also developing an AI-advising platform(s).
- Finally, SUNY is working to implement Lumi, the artificial intelligence functionality in Brightspace which we are making available for faculty on all SUNY campuses. This AI capability will support faculty workflows in their development of learning activities.

The Provost also provided an update on the Faculty Advisory Council in Teaching and Technology (FACT²). The group will publish another guidebook for using AI in higher education in the fall.

Following the Provost's update on artificial intelligence, Senior Vice Chancellor Julie Hartley-Moore shared that all four Academic Affairs Fellows cohorts (DEISJ, Civics, AI, and Sustainability) are selected and seated. The Fellows represent a wide variety of campuses and disciplines. An announcement will be issued shortly.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Professor Jennifer Cano then provided an update on her research on superconductors.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Jahnice Lett, a senior at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and member of the SUNY Empire State Service Corps, shared her experience as an undergraduate.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Litow adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.