

# **BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**



# University Council Meeting October 7, 2025 MINUTES

# **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

# In person:

Chair Linda Dobmeier

Mr. Gary Siddall

Mr. Kevin Horrigan

Mr. Mo Sumbundu

Ms. Patricia Farrell

Mr. Pete Grum

Mr. Bob Zak

Mr. Nicholas Smith

# **Faculty and Staff Present:**

Interim President Bonita R. Durand

Provost Amitra Wall

Chief Diversity Officer, Lisa Morrison-Fronckowiak

Interim Vice President for Management and Operations, Lisa Krieger

Interim Vice President for Finance and Controller, James Thor

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Wayne Brumfield

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, David Loreto

Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Kelly Frothingham

Dean of Students, Elizabeth Ching-Bush

Interim Dean, School of Education and Applied Professions, Wendy Paterson

Buffalo State Senate Chair and Associate Professor, Geosciences, Kevin Williams

Associate Vice President, Budget and Finance, Kelly D'Aloisio

Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs, Scott Goodman

Associate Professor, Creativity and Change Leadership, Susan Keller-Mathers

Associate Vice President for Government Relations, Secretary to the Council, William Benfanti

Administrative Assistant II, Kristine Kaminsky

# CALL TO ORDER

Chair Linda Dobmeier called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

# **ACTION ITEM**

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting.

Mr. Bob Zak moved to approve the minutes with amendments. On the third page of the minutes, fourth paragraph down, Dr. Durand's title is noted as "Interim Vice President Durand," when her title should be "Interim President Durand." The motion to approve the minutes with modifications was carried by unanimous vote.

# **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Dobmeier announced that she would like the University Council to explore different aspects of the campus this year, starting with the current meeting being held in the Alex F. Osborn Brainstorming Room. A presentation will follow the President's report.

The student representative of the University Council, Nicholas Smith, was introduced.

Mr. Nicholas Smith is the current United Students Government (USG) President. He began his USG career as a senator in September 2024 and was quickly promoted to Executive Vice President in November. In March, he stepped into the role of President and was re-elected in September 2025. He is a sophomore in Political Science, with minors in Math and Writing. He hopes to go to law school and then to become a politician.

Chair Dobmeier announced that Buffalo State University has engaged WittKeiffer as the search firm for the Presidential Search. They held initial on-site listening sessions with various campus and community constituents. The Presidential Search Committee has been selected. Chair Dobmeier will keep the Council informed throughout the process.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began by announcing that the hot water on Buffalo State University campus has been fixed for about a week and a half. There are pictures on the website of the construction process. Some additional maintenance is to be done to ensure safety. The cause of the hot water disruption was 50-year-old underground infrastructure.

Affected students with a residence hall contract received a 50% refund applied to their accounts for each day that they were without hot water. Interim President Durand, SUNY, including their staff, Interim Vice President Thor, Associate Vice President Kelly D'Aloisio, and her staff worked diligently to process this. It was pointed out that if Buffalo State University had chosen

to provide reimbursements in hand, certain requirements would have had to be met, and the process would have been less streamlined.

The intermediate construction fix will be done while there are the lowest number of students on campus over Indigenous Peoples weekend. On the Friday after Thanksgiving, the concrete will be restored. Interim Assistant Vice President for Finance and Management, Wayne Spary, has been very helpful in this process.

There are rented trailers with showers and water heated by propane tanks for student use. A vacant residence hall has been made available, as well. Hot water heaters are in Houston Gym for students, especially those with accessibility needs.

After discussion, the following points arose:

- The cost of this repair is unknown currently, but it is being tracked and will be shared once there is a confirmed total.
- Overtime will be paid to Facilities, Custodial, and University Police staff.
- Facilities worked around the clock.
- University Police foot and car-patrolled outside of the trailers to make sure that the students were safe.
- The trailer company would fill the propane tanks daily, but Residence Life staff were trained in how to switch them out and was a backup if needed.
- Extra contractors were hired.

Interim President Durand spoke with Chancellor King and Chief Financial Officer Josh Sager to affirm the necessity of the expenditure toward fixing the hot water pipes.

The campus will be notified of the hot water status on Wednesday, October 8. Another status update is scheduled for a later date.

It was pointed out that the students who are practicing civil disobedience and having constructive conversations are acting in accordance with the education that they are receiving here at Buffalo State University.

The Chancellor, SUNY, and Interim Vice President Brumfield and his team were thanked for the management of this situation.

Buffalo State University has a record breaking 27,000 applications for 2025. This is the largest in our history, but applications do not equal acceptance. Buffalo State University has the largest freshmen class of all the SUNY comprehensives equaling more than 1300 freshmen first

time/full time students and over 400 transfer students. The Muriel A. Howard Honors Program had the second largest cohort since the pandemic, and the third in its history.

Our enrollment is slowly starting to increase. The official numbers will be shared after the senate report.

Buffalo State's ACE program has almost doubled in size. Through SUNY-provided funds, Buffalo State University has been able to hire enough advisors, coaches and navigators to support 350 students.

Buffalo State's Roar 2 Success program has almost 350 students, an increase of 65%, and a significant increase in persistence rate. Buffalo State University is attracting more qualified students and ensuring that those who are enrolled persist until graduation.

Provost Amitra Wall introduced Dr. Susan Keller-Mathers, Associate Professor for the Center for Applied Imagination. Her credentials are as follows:

- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- Master of Science n Creativity
- Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Susan Keller-Mathers teaches graduate courses in creativity, chairs the curriculum committee, and is a member of leadership teams in various departments. Please see attached presentation.

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Strategic Initiatives (Bob Zak, Chair)
  - o Please see attached.

The Strategic Initiatives Committee met in early September 2025. The work of the Academic Affairs team was reviewed to strive to offer programs that are in demand. Some tough decisions were made to achieve efficiency gains in how programs are being delivered.

The work completed during the 2024-2025 school year was consistent with the plan set forth by Provost Wall at the start of the year.

Provost Wall also presented priorities for 2025-2026 which include:

- To continue to restructure academic units to align with enrollment and workforce needs.
- To review programs to eliminate duplication and enhance interdisciplinary opportunities.
- to expand online offerings.

- To ensure all students participate in applied or community engaged learning experiences.
- Continued engagement through the Provost's Advisory Council and open Provost's hours.

Interim Vice President David Loreto provided detailed information on the fall 2025 enrollment. We were on a downslope, but we are starting to bend the curve upward as a campus.

Interim Vice President David Loreto also reviewed some of the programs that are designed to help the students be successful and keep them enrolled.

- Budget (Bob Zak, Chair)
  - o Met on October 2. Please see attached.

The Budget Committee's primary focus was to review the most recent version of the financial sustainability plan which is prepared in consultation with SUNY and forecasts the elimination of the 16.2-million-dollar structural deficit by the end of 2027-2028. Comparing this with our 100-million-dollar annual revenue budget, it seems a little bit smaller.

The committee reviewed the major assumptions supporting the financial sustainability plan. These include:

- Reduction of personnel expense including continued attrition target over the next three years.
- The impact of future salary increases, including those required by collective bargaining agreements.
- A conservative projection for level tuition and state support from centrally unchanged enrollment but with increased dormitory occupancy over the next three years.
- Continued control of non-personnel expenses.

The path to financial sustainability is consistent with the work of Academic Affairs and will require concerted and sustained effort from all constituents of Buffalo State. This requires improved retention, to which student support programs and the community of Buffalo State University can contribute.

The results of the hiring freeze, the voluntary, and phased voluntary separation programs were reviewed.

The ratio of student FTEs to employee FTEs is currently 5.8. The goal is to bring the ratio back to 7.3. Continued focus on personnel expenses and enrollment enhancement is necessary.

Mr. Bob Zak called the Buffalo State University community to action. If each person were able to prompt one student to enroll or to decide to stay enrolled over the next 3 years, that would contribute 8-million-dollars toward eliminating the 16-million-dollar deficit.

 President's Community Advisory Committee (Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Chair)

It was pointed out that this committee is required under education law. It meets two times per year, and the first meeting of this fiscal year will be on Friday, December 5, 2025, via Zoom. The members of this committee are dedicated and willing to help raise the image of Buffalo State University and to recruit students. The members of this committee do not need to be alum.

It was mentioned that if someone needs to step away from the committee, they usually suggest someone else from their location to take their place.

To create this committee, invitations were sent to members of the community from organizations that Buffalo State University intersects with.

- Naming of Buildings and Grounds (Bob Zak, Chair)
  - o No report.
- Facilities (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)
  - Last August, the committee did its annual campus tour. The focus was on the outside of the buildings and the whole campus was covered. Please see attached.
- Government Relations (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)
  - o No report.
- Nominations & Presidential Advisory Committee (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)
  - o No report.
- Student Life (Pete Grum, Chair)
  - O The committee met in the last week of September. Please see attached. Pete Grum agreed that the hot water situation was handled well. A report from SUNY Office of General Council was received regarding changes in the sexual assault laws. Due to these changes, Buffalo State's laws had to be updated, as well. The updated codes are:
    - Conduct Board Composition and Limitations
    - Sexual Assault

- Hearing the Case
- Appeals Review Board

Mr. Pete Grum put these changes forward to the Council for approval. Chair Dobmeier called for a motion. Ms. Patricia Farrell moved to approve, and Mr. Bob Zak seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Anne Frank Project opened on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. The previous weekend was Homecoming where there were many great activities on campus. A group of alums from the 1980s and 1990s organized a speed mentoring event where current students met with alums who had graduated with the same major and were successful in their field.

# **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair called for a motion to move into Executive Session, pursuant with section 105 of the New York State Open Meetings Law for the purpose of discussing a matter that involves information relating to a criminal investigation and records protected under the family educational rights and privacy act. Mr. Mo Sumbundu motioned, and Mr. Pete Grum seconded.

The Chair called for a motion to move out of Executive Session. Mr. Gary Siddall moved. Mr. Mo Sumbundu seconded the motion.

No action was taken.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kevin Horrigan moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Bob Zak seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Benfanti

Secretary to the University Council







Alex F. Osborn







Sidney J. Parnes



Ruth B. Noller

Thriving in today's reality requires sharpening our creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

# **Innovation Suite**

**Osborn Brainstorming Room** 

**Parnes Creative Studies Collection** 

**Reimel Mentor Space** 

**Puccio Small Business Incubator** 



# C = fa(K, I, E)

Creativity is a function of an attitude toward Knowledge, Imagination & Evaluation (Ruth Noller)

Foundations in	<b>Applied Creative</b>	<b>Creativity Research</b>	<b>Leading Change</b>
<b>Creativity Studies</b>	Thinking	& Scholarship	
The Knowledge Strand	The Imagination Strand	The Evaluation Strand	The Attitude Capstone
Students master domain	Students apply creative	Students use evaluation skills	Students demonstrate
relevant knowledge in:	process skills in personal	to develop a scholarly product	the attitude necessary to
	and professional contexts in:	in:	serve as creative change
CRS 560, 625, 705,706,			leaders in:
725	CRS 559,610,614,670,680	CRS 620, 689,730/731 or	
		740/741, 899	CRS 619, 635,735

**Doctorate in Professional Studies (DPS) Creativity & Change Leadership** 

# SUNY Buffalo State University Council - Strategic Initiatives Committee

# **Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 12, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Teams

## Attendees:

Robert Zak, Strategic Initiatives Committee Chair
Linda Dobmeier, University Council Chair
Mo Sumbundu, University Council Member
Dr. Amitra Wall, Provost
David Loreto, Interim VP, Enrollment Management
William Benfanti, AVP, Institutional Advancement, Secretary to the Council

## **Presenters:**

Dr. Amitra Wall, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Loreto, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management

# Academic Affairs Update – Dr. Wall

Dr. Wall provided a summary of recent organizational changes and fiscal conditions. The 2024–2025 fiscal year closed with a \$16.2 million deficit, consistent with the Framework for Financial Sustainability, with a balanced budget projected by FY 2027–28. Departmental mergers and service consolidations have been implemented to increase efficiency.

Key planning factors include the state's financial literacy instruction mandate, the Portrait of a Graduate framework (full implementation by 2029), and the SUNY Reconnect initiative supporting adult learners in high-demand fields.

- Academic Affairs 2025–2026 Priorities:
  - Restructure academic units to align with enrollment and workforce needs.
  - Review programs to eliminate duplication and enhance interdisciplinary opportunities.
  - Expand online offerings (e.g., CRJ MS, Creativity and Change Leadership DPS, CTE, Social Work).
  - Ensure all students participate in applied or community-engaged learning experiences.

Ongoing work includes review of academic program KPIs, collaboration with Enrollment Management and Marketing, and continued engagement through Provost Advisory Council and open "Provost Hours."

# Enrollment Management Update - David Loreto, IVP, Enrollment Management

Mr. Loreto reported strong Fall 2025 outcomes with 27,000 applications and over 1,300 first-time full-time students, marking the largest freshman class among SUNY comprehensive colleges. Retention (65%) and persistence (83.4%) reached their highest levels since 2017–2018.

The Roar to Success program achieved significant gains, including a 77% reduction in academic dismissals and an average GPA of 2.79. The ACE program now serves 350 students with 72% meeting engagement benchmarks.

New initiatives include EAB Financial Aid Optimization (yielding \$630K in net tuition revenue) and the Navigate360 Student Success Platform launching in Spring 2025. Transfer enrollment remains a strategic focus guided by The Transfer Playbook best practices.

# **Next Steps**

- Continue program realignment and KPI analysis.
- Advance applied learning integration across all programs.
- Review First-Year Experience curriculum and advising models.
- Improve communication and marketing of departmental initiatives.

Adjournment: Meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Zak

Recorder, Chair, Strategic Initiatives Committee

# **Academic Affairs**

## Amitra Wall

Academic Affairs 2024-2025 Recap Key Factors Shaping AA Planning Academic Affairs 2025-2026 Priorities Academic Affairs 2025-2026 Work to be Done Deactivation: Definition & Process Focus of Task Forces Academic Affairs Organizational Structure

# **Enrollment Management**

### **David Loreto**

Roar to Success Update Persistence and Retention Rates

# University Council: Strategic Initiatives Committee Meeting

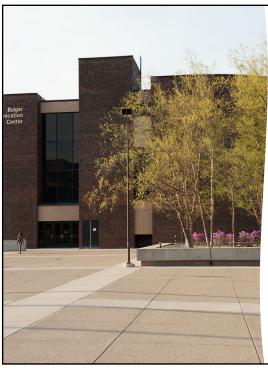
Academic Affairs & Enrollment Management Updates

Teams

September 12, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.



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# 2024-2025 Recap

- Merged Departments
- Merged School of Education and School of Professions
- Merged Tutoring Services
- Dissolution of the Graduate School
- Dissolution of ICHP and CHSR
- Dissolution of Teaching and Learning Center
- Dissolution of Civic and Community Engagement Office
- Eliminated Global Engagement Director
- Sharing of Administrative Assistants and Department Chairs

# Key Factors Shaping Academic Affairs Planning

- Structural Deficit
- <u>Financial Literacy Emphasis for College Students</u>
- Alignment with NYS-Portrait-ofa-Graduate Framework
- State-Funded Free Community College Program Initiatives for High-Demand Fields



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# Academic Affairs 2025-2026 Priorities

- Restructure Academic Depts and Units to better reflect the current patterns of enrollment and the current programs in highest demand [Strategic priority 2.3, Pillar 3, Pillar 5.1]
- Review academic and general education programs to eliminate duplication of courses with similar Student Learning Outcomes and content [Strategic priority 2.3, Pillar 3, SUNY Priority Pillars 3.b and 5.1]

- Match the number of undergraduate and graduate programs to enrollment trends and student market demands [Strategic priority 2.3, Pillar 3, Pillar 5.1]
- Ensure every student engages in applied learning, service learning, community engaged projects, or similar high impact practice [Pillar 2, 3, 1, and 3.3, Buffalo State Mission Statement; SUNY Priority Pillar 2.c., 2.e]



# 2025-2026 Work to Be Done

- KPI Review of Academic Programs
- Task Force Work
- Collaborations
  - o Enrollment Management
  - o Marketing and Communications
  - o SUNY Erie
- Comment Box Provost Advisory Council
- Provost Hours in the Dining Hall
  - o Sept 5, October 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5
  - o 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.



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## **Definition of Program Deactivation**

- No new students may enroll in a deactivation program, and current students are not permitted to change their major to a deactivated program.
- The program remains registered with the New York State Education Department (NYSED).
- Deactivation allows the campus to:
  - Reassess the program's relevance and demand;
  - $\circ \quad \text{Redesign or restructure the program as needed;} \\$
  - Allow currently enrolled students to complete the program and graduate with the associated degree.
- Deactivation is an internal SUNY process and is limited to a maximum duration of three years. By the end of this period, the program must either be reactivated or formally discontinued.

# Deactivation of Degree Programs Workflow: Provost → Dean's Office → CSCC → SUNY

- At the beginning of the semester, the provost will send a Change in Program Status: Deactivation memo to the academic deans.
- 2. The associate dean will submit the Change in Program Status: Deactivation form to the College Senate Curriculum Committee (CSCC).
- 3. Upon approval by the CSCC, the provost, and the president, the provost will submit the *Deactivation and/or Discontinuance proposal* to SUNY for processing.
- Once approved by SUNY, Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management will remove the program from the Catalog and list of recruitable programs.

# Deactivation of Concentrations

Workflow: Department → CSCC → SUNY → NYSED

Concentration deactivations follow the program revision process:

- 1. At the beginning of the semester, the department will submit a *Program Revision* form to CSCC.
- Upon approval by the CSCC, the provost, and the president, the provost will submit a Program Revision Proposal: Changes to an Existing Program form to SUNY.
- Upon SUNY's approval, SUNY will forward the proposal to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for final approval.
- Once approved by NYSED, Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management will reflect the revised program in the Catalog and Degree Works.

# Deactivation of Minors

### Workflow: Department → CSCC

- At the beginning of the semester, the department will submit a Change in Program Status: Deactivation form to CSCC.
- Upon approval by the CSCC, the provost, and the president, Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management will remove the program from the Catalog and list of recruitable programs.

# **Focus of AA Task Forces**

- Academic Affairs Department & **Curriculum Synergies** 
  - · Cross-Listing Credit
  - Model for Large Introduction Classes
- Process Improvement
  - · Directory of Policy Statements
  - Handbooks
    - Faculty and Librarian
    - · Professional Staff
- Student Success
  - Experiential, Career/Professional, Major Map
  - First Year Experience



# **Provost & VPAA**

VP Graduate, Research & Special Programs School of Arts and Sciences School of Education and Applied Professions Academic Planning & Technology

Academic Standards & Intervention

Anne Frank Project **Butler Library** 

Catalogs, Curriculum, DOPS

Commencement Operations & Ceremonial Events

**Educational Opportunity Program** 

Individualized Studies and Multidisciplinary Studies

Instructional Design & Distance Learning

Muriel A Howard Honors Program

# **AVP Graduate, Research & Special Programs**

**Burchfield Penney Art Center** 

Center for China Studies

**Community Partnerships and Engagement** 

Continuing and Professional Studies

Global Engagement

**Graduate Studies** Great Lakes Center

International Student and Scholar Services

Research Centers & Multidisciplinary Research Programs

Research Foundation

Small Business Development Center

Undergraduate and Graduate Research

# School of Education & **Applied Professions** (SEP)

Business, Economics, and Public

Administration

Campus House

Career, Tech., & Science Education Computer Information Systems

Creativity and Change Leadership

Criminal Justice\*

Elementary Education, Literacy, and Ed

Leadership

Engineering Technology

Exceptional Education

Fashion and Textile Technology Health, Hospitality, Nutrition, & Dietetics

Higher Education Admin & Adult Education International Graduate Programs for Edu.

Social and Psychological Foundations of Ed. Social Work

Speech-Language Pathology Speech-Language Hearing Clinic

Teacher Certification Office

# School of Arts and **Sciences** (SAS)

Africana Studies

Anthropology

Art and Design Art Conservation

Biology

Chemistry

Communication

English

Geosciences

### Government, Planning and Philosophy Great Lakes Center

History and Social Studies Education

Modern and Classical Languages

Music

**Physics** Psychology

Sociology

Theater

TV and Film Arts

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Writing Program

**Academic Affairs Organizational Structure** 

# **Change and Discomfort with Purpose**

Our responsibility is not to prepare students for the world we knew, but for the one they are entering. That requires us to evolve with courage, teach with foresight, and lead with integrity. If we wait for the moment when everything is ready, we shall never begin—because meaningful change rarely comes in perfect conditions.

— Inspired by Ivan Turgenev



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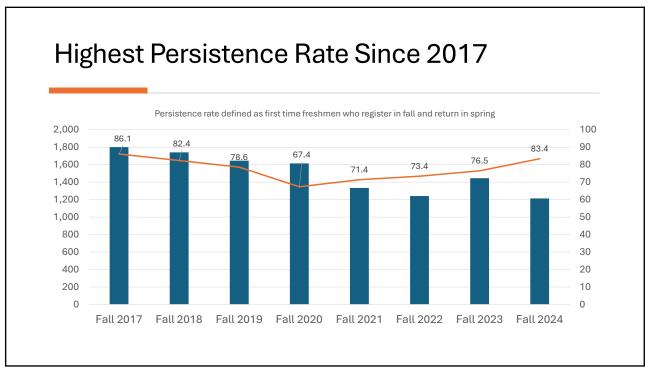
# Enrollment Management Updates

David Loreto
Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management

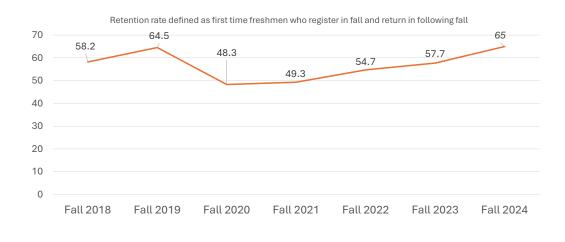
# Fall 2025 Class Snapshot

- 27K Applications
- 1300+ First time full-time students
  - Largest freshman class in comprehensive sector
- 400+ Transfer students
- 3rd largest Muriel A. Howard Honors class
- 53% are first generation
- Speak 39 different languages
- Hail from 640 high schools in 30 states
- ACE program grows by 175
- Roar 2 Success will have almost 350 this fall

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# **Persistence and Retention**

- Fall '25 Retention Rate projected at 65% (increase of 7.3%)
- Persistence figures overall 83.4%
  - Residential Students 84.4% (Increase of 10%)
  - Commuter Students 81.1% (flat)
  - EOP 91.7% (6.7% increase)
  - SAY YES 81.7% (3.7% increase)
  - Roar 2 Success 89.7% (21% increase)



# Roar to Success

# Support Model

- 1 week Summer Bridge
- 2 year Success Navigator
- Holistic Support Model
  - UNC 100 Mastering the Academic Environment
  - 1:1 Coaching Sessions
  - Advisement/Registration Support
  - Monthly Check-ins
  - Academic Learning Community
  - · Academic Mentor Meet-ups

# **Impact 24-25**

- 99% attended Summer Bridge or makeup
- 79% finished in good academic standing
- Avg. GPA 2.79
- Academic dismissals decreased by 77%
- Preliminary retention 66%
- 25K awarded in book scholarships

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# Real Voices, Real Impact...

"ROAR 2 Success made the transition to college so much easier—I found resources, met mentors, and felt like I belonged from day one." – Leighton, Freshman Student

"Thank you so, so much for helping Kobe. We will always be thankful for all of your support and help over the years. He promises to make you all proud." – Carmen, Mother of 2025 Graduate Kobe

# ACE (Advancing Completion through Engagement)

# **Program Benefits**

- Provides financial, academic and personal support
- Bengal bucks, text book assistance, scholarships for winter/summer classes

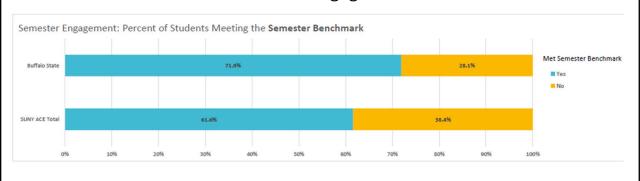
# **Expectations**

- 15 credits per semester
- Meet advisor 2x month
- Participate in academic support and career development
- Complete FAFSA/TAP/Excelsior

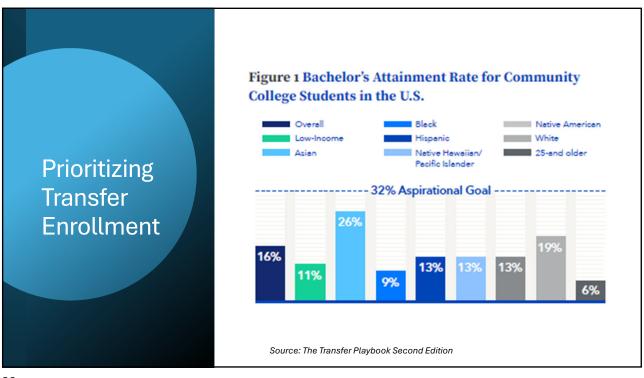
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# **ACE Outcomes**

- Fall 2025 350 ACE students
- SUNY Funded 3.5 FTE positions
- 72% of students met semester engagement benchmark





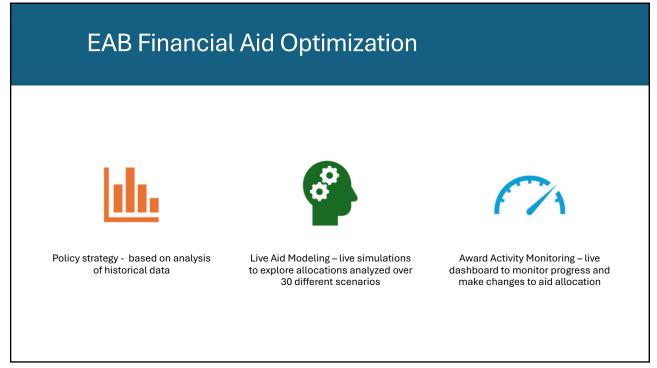


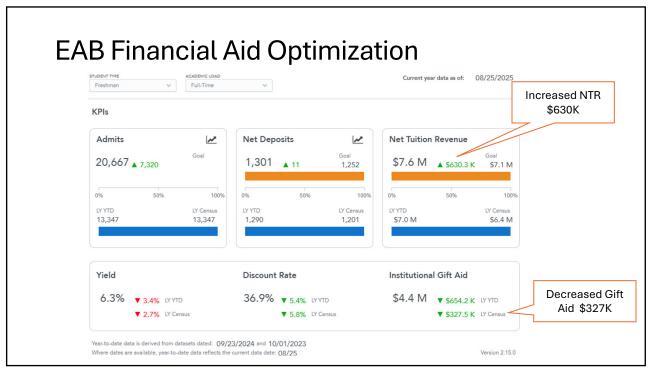
Transfer Enrollment Best Practices

O1
Prioritize Transfer at executive level to achieve sustainable success at scale

O2
Align program pathways to promote timely bachelor's completion within a major

Source: The Transfer Playbook Second Edition



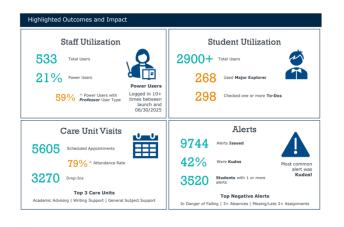


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# Navigate 360 – Student Success Platform

# **Soft Launch Spring 2025**

- Early alert and predictive analytics software platform
- Historical and predictive analytics
- Journeys, progress reports, enhanced communication



# SUNY Buffalo State University Council - Budget Committee Report

# **Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 2, 2025

Time: 3:00 p.m.

## **Attendees:**

Robert Zak, Chair Linda Dobmeier, University Council Member Gary Siddall, University Council Member James Thor, Interim Vice President, Financial Operations Kelly D'Aloisio, Associate Vice President, Budget and Finance

# **Overview of Budget Approach and Result**

The overall approach to addressing budget concerns includes short-term and long-term actions to address **enrollment concerns**, identify and address **spend**, and address the **workforce** by aligning it with campus needs. The goal of these actions is a **balanced budget in 2027/2028**.

# **Key Budget Initiatives and Findings**

## **Enrollment**

- **Plan Update:** The updated plan includes increased scholarship spending to meet enrollment goals, aligning with Student Success expectations.
- Scholarship Funding: The Buffalo State Foundation will partner to provide \$1.5 million in increased scholarship funding for 2025/2026 above Plan levels and share future year funding.
- Existing Initiatives: Continued support is planned for Enrollment Initiatives already in the budget, such as EOP, ACE, Roar 2 Success, and Say Yes.
- Enrollment Trend: Enrollment has decreased by 43% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2024.

# **Spending Trends and Actions**

- Salary Spend:
  - Increase: A one-time increase of \$1.3 million is noted for Collective Bargaining (UUP Bonus).
  - Decreases/Savings: Decreases resulted from the success of the Hiring Freeze (68 Employee FTE) and the Voluntary Separation Plan (VSP) (51 Employee FTE, saving \$3.7 million). An additional Phased VSP included 7 Employee FTE with \$700K in gross salary savings.
- **Non-Salary Spending:** The reduction goal is **\$1.4 million**. Actions include:
  - Spending controls on purchases of \$1,000 and over.
  - o Deactivation of non-mission critical Travel & Non-Employee Travel cards.
  - Early year-end close out of 2024/2025 purchases.

 Salary and Employee Actions: The goal for "Also Receives, Extra Service & Overtime" reduction is \$300K

Active Position Management will achieve 54.2 Employee FTE and \$3.8 million in gross savings.

# **Sustainability Plan Assumptions**

The positive balance at the end of 2027/2028 is based on assumptions subject to change, including:

- **Revenue:** Enrollment projections approved by SUNY, dormitory occupancy increases, and other sources (fees, state support).
- **Expenses:** Mandated collective bargaining increases, attrition from retirements/separations, and workforce reinvestment.
- **OTPS:** Campus scholarship funding and reduction in discretionary spending (travel, supplies).

Adjournment: Meeting concluded at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Zak

Recorder, Chair, Budget Committee

# SUNY Buffalo State University



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

College Council – Budget Committee October 2, 2025

# Overview of Approach

- Address Enrollment Concerns
- Identifying & Addressing SpendShort TermLong Term
- Address Workforce
- Alignment of the workforce with campus needs
   Vigorous actions to impact acceleration of the plan in 2025/2026 & beyond
- Result: Balanced budget in 2027/2028

# Enrollment

- Updated Plan to include increased scholarship spend in line with Student Success expectations to meet enrollment goals
- Partnership with Buffalo State Foundation for Scholarship Support
  - Providing funding for 2025/2026 increase of \$1.5M from Plan levels
- Sharing of future year scholarship funding between Buffalo State and Foundation
- Continued Support for Enrollment Initiatives Already In Plan
  - EOP, ACE, Roar 2 Success, and Say Yes

# **Identifying Spending Trends**

- Increases in Salary Spend
- One-time Collective Bargaining (UUP Bonus) + \$1.3M  $\,$
- Decreases in Salary Spend
- Success of Hiring Freeze and VSP
- Hiring Freeze 68 Employee FTE
- Voluntary Separation Plan (VSP) 51 Employee FTE & Gross Salary Savings of \$3.7M
- Phased Voluntary Separation Plan
- Seven (7) Employee FTE & Gross Salary Savings of \$700K

# Addressing Spending Trends

- Non-Salary Spending Reduction Goal: \$1.4M
- Spending controls on purchases \$1,000 and over approved by Cabinet member & Budget/Finance
   Deactivation of non-mission critical Travel & Non-Employee Travel cards
   Early year end close out of 2024/2025 purchases

# Salary and Employee Actions

- Also Receives, Extra Service & Overtime Goal: \$300K
  Audit of all appointments, reduction & policy establishment to standardize & control
  Active Position Management: 54.2 Employee FTE & Gross Savings of \$3.8M
  Expedite timing of notifications of non-continuing term appointments
  Focus on direct reductions of force, shared services & academic alignment of offerings
  Data informed actions, utilizing analysis of peer comparison, SUNY & Non-SUNY

# Addressing Workforce

Function	FTE Reductions & Savings	Review Process	Investments
Administrative	28 FTE \$1,700,000	Review all units for work that is not critical and opportunities for shared services	Business continuity
Student Service/ Student Experience	8 FTE \$634,000	Review all programs, prioritizing enrollment & retention	Retention & recruitment
	12.8 FTE \$1,243,000	SUNY Pilot Program (Phase 1)  19 Programs being deactivated Impacting 215 students	Refreshed Academic
Academic	5.4 FTE \$242,000 Adjunct Analysis	Adjunct Analysis	programs
	5.8 FTE \$638,000	5.8 FTE \$638,000 Phased Retirement Program	Q

# Workforce Review by Function

\$ 634,000

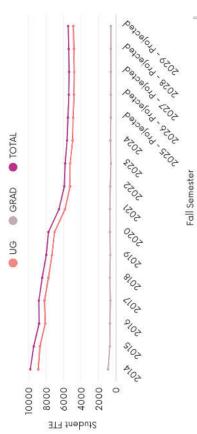
\$ 175,000

\$ 178,000

Function	Ħ	Salary	Function	표
Administrative	28.00 \$	\$ 1,700,000	Student Service/Student Experience	8.00
Facilities	18.00 \$	\$ 683,000	Athletics	3.00
Executive Level	2.00 \$	\$ 307,000	Athletics Satary Realignment Savings	
Advancement/Communication Services	3.50 \$	\$ 269,000	Student Programming	3.00
UPD	1.00 \$	49,000	Health	2.00
President Support	0.50	27,000		
Public Service	2.00 \$	\$ 135,000		
School Consolidation	1.00 \$	\$ 130,000		
Salary Realignment Savings		\$ 100,000		

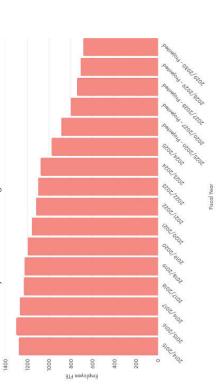
# Enrollment

Enrollment has decreased by 43% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2024. Projected enrollment from Fall 2024 to Fall 2027, down 4%. Projected enrollment from Fall 2024 to Fall 2029, down 2%.



# **Employees**

Enrollment has decreased by 24% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2024. Projected enrollment through Fall 2029 is flat.



# September 2025

		Base	Adi	Adiustments in		Projected	Ad	Adiustments in		Projected	Ad	Adiustments in		Projected
•		2024/25		Plan		2025/26		Plan		2026/27	ì	Plan		2027/28
Opening Cash														
Collections Account	s,	1,602,690			٧,	129,308			s,	(870,693)			٧,	(1,344,075)
Academi c Enterprise		9,313,159				(3,594,417)				(14,162,948)				(23, 147, 220)
Dormitory		5,149,050				3,343,873				4,557,380				5,892,397
Total Cash	s	16,064,899	s	,	s	(121,237)	s		s	(10,476,261)	s		s	(18, 598, 898)
Revenue														
Collections Account	45	(1,473,382)	4S	473,382	45	(1,000,000)	45	1,000,000	45	(473,382)	40	973,382	45	(500,000)
Direct State Tax Support		29,816,608		2,649,000		32,465,608		2,649,000		32,465,608		2,649,000		32,465,608
Tuition and Fees		55,062,237		(1,249,186)		53,813,051		(1,873,706)		53,188,531		(2,074,806)		52,987,431
Scholarships		(7,956,746)				(7,956,746)				(7,956,746)				(7,956,746)
Assessments		4,516,377		,		4,516,377		,		4,516,377		,		4,516,377
Food Service		4,583,449		6,159,000		10,742,449		6,436,000		11,019,449		6,721,000		11,304,449
Room Rents		9,264,849		3,012,000		12,276,849		3,320,000		12,584,849		3,720,000		12,984,849
Debt Service Payments		(4,312,272)		85,700		(4,226,572)		58,400		(4, 253, 872)		161,300		(4, 150, 972)
Other		672,429		(2,095,669)		(1,423,240)		(1,892,445)		(1,220,016)		(1,700,445)		(1,028,016)
Fotal Revenue	ss.	90,173,549	ss.	9,034,227	ss	99,207,776	s>	9,697,249	vs.	99,870,798	ss.	10,449,431	ss	100,622,980
Expense														
Personnel	s).	80,446,121	s)	(3,705,885)	s)	76,740,236	s)	(7,552,250)	s)	72,893,871	47)	(13,663,678)	s)	66, 782, 443
Contractual		11,906,485		6,159,000		18,065,485		6,436,000		18,342,485		6,721,000		18,627,485
Scholarships		(952,521)		1,500,000		547,479		3,500,000		2,547,479		1,950,000		997,479
Utilities		4,506,608		,		4,506,608		,		4, 506, 608		,		4,506,608
General Non-Personal Service		10,452,992		(750,000)		9,702,992		(750,000)		9,702,992		(750,000)		9,702,992
Total Expense	·s	\$ 106,359,685	v)·	3,203,115	v)·	109,562,800	v)	1,633,750	vs-	107,993,435	·s	(5,742,678)	v)·	100,617,008
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	40-	\$ (16,186,136) \$	₩.	5,831,112	₩.	5,831,112 \$ (10,355,024) \$	40-	8,063,499	₩.	8,063,499 \$ (8,122,637) \$	₩.	16,192,109	₩.	5,972
Closing Cash														
Collections Account	s,	129,308	s,		s,	(870,693)	s,		v,	(1,344,075)	s,		s,	(1,844,075)
Academic Enterprise		(3,594,417)				(14,162,948)				(23, 147, 220)				(24, 494, 973)
Dormitory		3,343,873				4,557,380				5,892,397				7,746,123
Total Closing Cash	s,	(121,237)	s,		s,	(10,476,261)	ss.		s,	(18, 598, 898)	s,		s,	(18, 592, 925)
(23H sobularilar 20 balan Basis Basis Jan anna langus		370				000				2007				067
Student FTE (Fall Based)		5.613.3				5.501.5				5.404.7				5,375.9
Batio		5.8				6.2				6.8				7.3

# Appendix: Sustainability Plan Assumptions

- Positive balance at the end of 2027/2028 based upon assumptions, which are subject to change
   Provide updated plans to SUNY at the end of each semester, beginning of each fiscal year

- o Enrollment projections approved by SUNY Enrollment Management, as our Student Success Plan
  - Dormitory occupancy increases
- o Other revenue sources, fees, 3rd party commissions, rentals, state support, etc.

- Workforce
- Salary agreements, mandated collective bargaining increases
   Attrition from retirements & separations
- Workforce Reinvestment from hiring freeze, attrition and active position management o OTPS
- Reduction in discretionary spending, such as, travel, supplies, printing, etc. Strategic investments

Scholarships funding by the campus

# Facilities Committee Report to the University Council Campus Tour, August 13, 2025

**University Council Members and Facilities Committee Members in Attendance:** 

- 1. Linda Dobmeier, Chairman
- 2. Gary Siddall
- 3. Patricia Farrell

# Administrators and Staff in Attendance:

- 1. Dr. Bonita Durand, Interim President
- 2. Amitra Wall, Provost
- 3. James Thor, Interim Vice President, Financial Operations
- 4. William Benfanti, Secretary to the Council, Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement
- 5. Sarah Reid, Campus Planner
- 6. Kristine Kaminsky, Administrative Assistant 2

The Facilities, Buildings, and Grounds Committee participated in the annual Buffalo State University campus tour from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, which was facilitated by the Office of Finance and Management. The tour provided a comprehensive overview of the campus's facilities and grounds to the committee members, including three council members.

The tour commenced with a "meet and greet" in Cleveland Hall 418. Afterward, University Council members Linda Dobmeier, Gary Siddall, and Patricia Farrell were joined by Dr. Bonita Durand, William Benfanti, Sarah Reid, and Kristine Kaminsky and began a general tour of the campus grounds, making stops at several notable locations and buildings. The sites visited included:

Building /Site	Building and Development Status
Hank Mann Quad	Bacon Hall
	Rockwell Hall
	Ketchum Hall - Planning
	Donald Savage
Bengal Quad	Bishop Hall
	Neumann Hall – Planning
	Bengal Hall – design – elevators
Bengal Walk	Elms Hall – construction
	Technology Building
Bengal Walk	Sports Arena – construction – scoreboards/sound system
	Buckham Hall – design – DaVinci High School
Karner Hall	Recently completed
Tower Rd.	Moore Hall - construction
Upton Quad	SAMC
	Upton Hall
	Perry Hall – Planning
	Cassety Hall

Our guide, Sarah Reid, Campus Planner, provided insightful commentary throughout the tour.

The annual facilities tour is an integral part of our efforts to familiarize Council members with the campus and its facilities. Feedback from participants is always appreciated, as it helps us improve future tours and ensures we address any areas of interest that may have been missed.

The Facilities, Buildings, and Grounds Committee extends its gratitude to all who attended and contributed to the success of this year's tour. We look forward to your continued support and participation in our future activities.



# University Council Student Life, Conduct, Housing, and Safety Committee Meeting Agenda 10/2/2025

Committee members: Peter Grum (chair)

Kevin Horrigan Patricia Farrell

Staff: Wayne Brumfield, Interim Vice President, Student

Affairs Amy Pedlow, Chief of Police

Jeffrey Hammer, Senior Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Elizabeth Ching-Bush, Dean of Students

<u>Guests:</u> Rock Doyle, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs

Anthony Chase, Special Assistant to the Vice President, Student

**Affairs** 

University Council Student Life, Conduct, Housing, and Safety Committee

**AGENDA** 

DATE:10/2/2025 TIME: 12:00PM Campus House Boardroom

Student Affairs, Student Life, Conduct, Housing, and Safety Committee

- 1. Dean of Students- Elizabeth Ching-Bush
  - a. Student Conduct code review
    - Conduct Board Composition & Quorum:
    - Old Setup: 7-person conduct board with a quorum of 5.
    - New Setup: 3-person conduct board
    - No quorum requirement
    - Must include 1 student, and 2 faculty/staff members.
  - b. Appeal Review Board Language Update
    - Language made consistent across the student conduct documents.
    - Eliminated outdated restrictions
    - Previously prohibited considering evidence not presented at hearings.
    - No longer excludes written statements from individuals not present at the hearing.
  - c. Sexual Assault Definitions (Compliance Update)
    - Updates required by SUNY added as an addendum to policy documentation.
  - d. Orientation
    - New Orientation Model rolled out this year
    - Previous years had orientation sessions starting in June (6-7 sessions).

- This year, sessions were condensed to 8 sessions total, all held in July and August.
- This shift was made because June students are often still in high school and less engaged.
- The change improved student engagement and attendance.
- Orientation now includes all cohort groups in every session
- Over 300 parents and families attended parent/family orientation sessions this year.
- New York City-based Orientation for commuter or city-based students
  - One-day sessions held at the SUNY Global building.

# e. Census housing number

- Residence hall occupancy growth
  - Sept 13, 2024: 1,875 students living on campus.
  - 2023 was 1,908 students.
  - This year, surpassed 2,000 students in residence halls
  - Final census in residence life was 1,962 students as of September 12<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- Some students delayed moving in, opting to live off-campus.
- The university has opened North Wing as overflow housing due to increased demand.
- Improvements in residence halls are positively impacting student decisions to live on campus.
- Commuter Lounge
  - New space created for commuter students in the Student Union
- Family Housing
  - Approximately 5 apartments are available for students with families, mostly single parents.
- Housing policy reminder
  - Two-year on-campus residency is required for students that meet the requirements, after which they may choose to live off campus

# 2. Weigel Health and Wellness- Dr. Rock Doyle

# a. Mental Health Resources

- Significant funding invested in mental health over the past year.
- Hired a mental health assessment psychologist for disability assessments.
- Assessments typically cost students \$1,000–\$5,000 in the community.
- Two doctoral student interns hired at the counseling center to expand service hours.
- Contracted telehealth services with Bettermynds for 24/7 counselor access.
- Buffalo State listed on the American Psychological Association credentialing site

# 3. Athletics- Dr. Rock Doyle

- a. Men's soccer team has a strong start: 10-1 overall, 2-0 in SUNYAC play.
- b. Senior All-American Diego Rivera leads the nation with 19 goals in 11 games.
- c. Women's soccer: 5-4-2 overall, 2-0 in league under interim coach Victoria Caruso.
- d. Women's volleyball to begin SUNYAC play this week.
- e. Football won first game last Saturday; homecoming game vs. Union College on Saturday at 4 p.m.
- f. Cross Country preparing for SUNYAC Championships on Nov. 1.

# g. Facilities update

- Former Kissinger Pool conversion on track for completion by spring semester.
- Will serve as dedicated home facility for women's wrestling and acrobatics & tumbling.

### 4. Childcare Center

- a. Working through internal audit
- b. Lease renewed for 1 year

# 5. Campus Environmental Health and Safety- Jeff Hammer

- a. EH&S provided campus support for (facilities and students) during the steam shutdown. EH&S works behind the scenes making sure all federal, state and local rules and regulations are followed to keep the campus community safe.
- EH&S provides many trainings to the campus community which includes, Fire and Life Safety, Fire Extinguisher Training, Radiation Safety, Respiratory Protection, Laboratory/Chemical Safety, MS4 Stormwater Awareness and NYS Right-to-know/HAZCOM.
- c. EH&S conducts fire drills ensuring the evacuation of buildings and making sure the buildings fire systems function correctly in accordance with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

# 6. University Police- Chief Amy Pedlow

- Moved into our new police station- Karner Hall, located on Grant Street- still working out some issues that came up, but we are in full operation effective start of Fall semester
- b. Our department is facing the same staffing challenges that most of America is facing critically short handed. In process of filling 2 officer positions but they won't count as manpower until around this time next year.
- c. Our fleet is aging, and we need a plan to replace at least 1 vehicle per year- working on how to tackle this in our current budget crisis.

# 7. Other Items- Dr. Wayne Brumfield

## a. Steam Update and timeline

- Temporary disruption was about 7 days on the south side, and about 21 days on the north side. Interruption began on September 4th
- The construction company (Danforth) worked around the clock to restore service quickly.
- The university is working on contingency plans to quickly relocate students off-campus if steam outages occur again.
- Students affected by the loss of hot water are being compensated.
- The campus is still facing an upcoming steam shutdown for final repairs, hopefully timed to minimize student impact (possibly during the fall break in October)

# b. Homecoming (September 29–October 5, 2025)

- c. Football Game: Buffalo State vs. Union College on Saturday at 4 p.m.
- d. Theme: Ignite the Roar
  - Campus community is enthusiastic, and participation has been high.
- e. Events: Multiple well-attended activities throughout the week; weather has been beautiful.
- f. Campus Involvement:
  - University Police providing extra coverage due to increased events.
- g. Student Engagement: Positive turnout and energy around campus.

	,
2024	2025
Conduct Board Composition and Limitations	Conduct Board Composition and Limitations
The Student Conduct Board will consist of volunteer members of the	The Student Conduct Board will consist of volunteer members of the campus
campus community who are current faculty members, staff	community who are current faculty members, staff members, or students. Each
members, or students <mark>. Each board panel will consist of seven</mark>	board panel will consist of three persons: one student, one faculty, and one
persons: three students, two faculty members, and two staff	staff member. Board members will hear cases on a rotating basis.
members. Each board will also consist of two students, one faculty	The following persons may not serve on the Student Conduct Board: the dean of
member, and one staff member serving as alternates. Board	students; University Police officers and staff members.
members will hear cases on a rotating basis.	Any board member who has a personal or professional interest in the outcome
The following persons may not serve on the Student Conduct Board:	of a case must disqualify him or herself from hearing the case. Where the
the dean of students; University Police officers and staff members.	designated student conduct official has reason to suspect that such an interest
Any board member who has a personal or professional interest in the	exists, the designated student conduct official must request that the board
outcome of a case must disqualify him or herself from hearing the	member disqualify him or herself and inform the board of that request. A simple
case. Where the designated student conduct official has reason to	majority of the board may elect to exclude a board member from participating
suspect that such an interest exists, the designated student conduct	where the board believes a personal or professional interest exists.
official must request that the board member disqualify him or herself	
and inform the board of that request. A simple majority of the board	
may elect to exclude a board member from participating where the	
board believes a personal or professional interest exists.	
A quorum shall consist of three members, including the chair, at least	
<mark>one of whom must be a student.</mark>	
Sexual assault Any sexual act directed against another person,	Sexual assault -Any sexual act directed against another person, without
without consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is	consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving
incapable of giving consent.	consent.
a. Rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, of	a. Rape: Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or
the vagina or anus, with any body part or object,	anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a
or oral penetration by a sex organ of another	sex organ of another person, without the consent of the
person, without the consent of the victim. This	victim. This offense includes the rape of both males and
offense includes the rape of both males and	females.
females.	b. criminal sexual contact: The intentional touching of the clothed or
	unclothed body parts without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual

including instances where the victim is gratification, or sexual humiliation. incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental capacity.

b. Fondling: Touching of the private body parts of degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation; or the forced another person for the purpose of sexual touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, gratification, without the consent of the victim, without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual

#### Hearing the Case

#### **Hearing the Case**

Accused students and complainants may each bring a studentAccused students and complainants may each bring a student conduct adviser conduct adviser of their choice at their own expense. This person may of their choice at their own expense. This person may assist them during the assist them during the hearing. Student conduct advisers take no hearing. Student conduct advisers take no direct part in the proceedings unless direct part in the proceedings unless permitted to do so by the chair, permitted to do so by the chair, although they may advise students during the although they may advise students during the proceedings. Allproceedings. All hearings are closed to the public. Only individuals directly hearings are closed to the public. Only individuals directly concerned concerned with the existing case may be present during a hearing, e.g., with the existing case may be present during a hearing, e.g.,complainant(s), witnesses, the accused, and student conduct adviser(s). complainant(s), witnesses, the accused, and student conductObservers are not allowed. Complainants and accused students are adviser(s). Observers are not allowed. Complainants and accused responsible for presenting their cases, with the assistance of a student conduct students are responsible for presenting their cases, with the adviser if desired, and have the right to present witnesses on their behalf and to assistance of a student conduct adviser if desired, and have the right ask questions of witnesses presented by the opposing party or parties. It is the to present witnesses on their behalf and to ask questions of responsibility of both accused student(s) and complainant(s) to notify witnesses witnesses presented by the opposing party or parties. It is theof the time and place of the student conduct hearing.

responsibility of both accused student(s) and complainant(s) to notify witnesses of the time and place of the student conduct hearing. No evidence other than that received at the hearing may be considered by the Student Conduct Board. Written statements by anyone not present at the hearing are not acceptable.

#### Appeals Review Board

#### Appeals Review Board

The Appeals Review Board will consist of five members: one faculty The Appeals Review Board will consist of three members: one faculty member, one staff member, two students, and <mark>one member of the</mark>member, one staff member and one student. The chair of the Appeals Review University Council. The chair of the Appeals Review Board shall be Board shall be any faculty or staff member who serves as a member of the any faculty or staff member who serves as a member of the Student Student Conduct Board. The chair formally presents all information on the case Conduct Board. The chair formally presents all information on the being appealed, participates in board discussions, and votes on all matters case being appealed, participates in board discussions, and votes on all matters before the board. Members of the Appeals Review Board list of volunteers of faculty, staff, and students.

will be assigned from a list of volunteers of faculty, staff, and students; the University Council member will be appointed by the chair of the University Council. A quorum shall consist of three members, including the chair, at least one of whom must be a student.

# New Bengal Orientation Summer 2025



#### **FAST FACTS**

Summer New Bengal Orientation is a two day experience for our first-year students and a one day experience for our transfer students that bring together our new Bengals to familiarize themselves with the Buffalo State community, learn about opportunities on campus, and to meet with current students, faculty, and staff.



# IN PERSON SESSIONS

3 FY Summer Sessions

- 2 Transfer Summer Sessions
- 2 NYC Based NSO Sessions
- 1 Last Chance Session for FY and Transfer Students

# Sessions Presented at Summer NBO

- Academic Department Time (Transfer Students)
- . UNITY with the Anne Frank Project
- Financing your Education
- The Buffalo State University Compact
- Inclusion & Equity
- Community Standards and Safety
- Resource Fair
- Lunch with current student leaders
- Becoming a Bengal with your OL
- Career and Professional Education
- · Athletics and Recreation
- First Year Academic Success
- Campus Tours
- Bengals that CARE
- · Academic Advisement
- · Get Registered to Vote!



of survey respondents felt satisfied with their Orientation Leader and their New Bengal Orientation experience.



of survey respondents shared that the New Bengal Orientation Program has met their expectations/goals.

#### The Numbers

#### First Year Students

**1,385** deposited

1,312 registered for NBO

1,302 enrolled students

1,234 attended NBO

95% attendance rate

#### **Transfer Students**

429 deposited

394 registered for NBO

388 enrolled students

350 attended NBO

90% attendance rate

#### What Participants are Saying

"You guys really made me feel welcomed, thanks for the experience!"

"I really appreciated the student leaders we had to bring us around campus, they made it very inclusive."

"The Orientation Leaders went over everything and everyone's concerns and it was a very laidback and relaxing experience."

"Loved the way the OLs were introduced with the music. Really lightened the mood and my daughter warmed up and felt less stressed "

"I appreciate the time and efforts of the students, faculty, and administrators. Thank you for making me feel more confident in my child coming here."

#### **Communications**

#### **Call Campaigns**

 670 Calls were made to students between May and August who were acknowledged but had not registered for orientation to assist with getting students registered.

#### Text Messages

2,042 text messages were sent to students between April and August who
were acknowledged but had not registered for orientation to assist with
getting students registered.

#### **Emails**

- 8,940 email invites were sent to students between April and August who
  were acknowledged but had not registered for orientation to assist with
  getting students registered.
- 1,278 were received to the Orientation email inbox (Slate) and were triaged by OTFP staff.

#### **Orientation Team**

The Orientation Team consists of 1 professional staff member, 1 temp summer staff member (NODA Intern), and 21 Orientation Leaders



# Homecoming and Family Weekend: September 29-October 5 >





# HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND



**Events Hotel Information Homecoming Committee** 



# September 29-October 5, 2025

"Ignite the Roar" is this year's Homecoming theme—and we invite the entire Buffalo State community to roar as one as we celebrate all things Buffalo State!

Join us for a full week of exciting events and activities, all leading up to the big Homecoming tailgate and football game on Saturday, October 4.

# **Events**

View All

Saturday, September 27

Homecoming Chess Tournament 9:30 a.m.

#### Bacon Hall

#### Monday, September 29

#### **Commuter Connections Brunch**

8:00-10:30 a.m.

Perry Quad

#### Poetry Slam at the Planetarium: "Stars Can't Shine Without Darkness"

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium

Co-hosted by Africana Studies and the Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium

#### Tuesday, September 30

#### Benji's Birthday

Campbell Student Union Upper Lobby noon-2:00 p.m.

#### **Roar & Pour**

Campus House

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Buffalo State faculty and staff are invited to celebrate Homecoming with our Elmwood Village Association neighbors during happy hour at Campus House. \$5.50 per person includes 1 drink and appetizers.

#### Registration

#### Wednesday, October 1

#### **Homecoming Door Decorating Contest**

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Judging Campuswide

#### Women's Soccer Game vs. Morrisville

4:00 p.m.

Coyer Field

#### **AASO's Apollo Night/Talent Show**

7:00 p.m.

Campbell Student Union Social Hall

#### Thursday, October 2

#### Guest Speaker: Nate Evans Jr.

noon-2:00 p.m.

Campbell Student Union Social Hall

#### **Alumni Concert and Reception**

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Ciminelli Recital Hall

#### Midnight Madness Recreation Night and 3-on-3 Student Basketball Tournament

10:00 p.m.-midnight

Sports Arena

#### Friday, October 3

#### **Africana Studies Event**

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Campbell Student Union Assembly Hall

#### **Homecoming Alumni Welcome Back Reception**

5:00-7:00 p.m.

JVL Alumni & Visitor Center

#### **BSU Homecoming 2025 Comedy Night: Preacher Lawson**

7:00 p.m.

Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall

#### Benji's Block Party

7:00-11:00 p.m.

The Plaza

#### Saturday, October 4

#### Bengals, Bagels, & Buffalo Tours

10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Science and Mathematics Complex Atrium, Parking in Lot I-37

Enjoy breakfast and games inside of the SAMC Atrium before heading out on a guided bus tour of Buffalo/Elmwood Village, hosted by 716 Limosine. Tours starting every hour. \$5.50 per person includes bagel breakfast and free tour of Buffalo hosted by 716 Limos.

#### Registration

#### Men's Soccer Game vs. SUNY Canton

11:00 a.m.

Coyer Field

#### **Buffalo State Tailgate Event**

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Sports Arena

#### Registration

# Homecoming Football Game: Buffalo State vs. Union College with Buffalo State Homecoming Royal Court at Halftime

4:00 p.m.

Coyer Field

#### **Homecoming Royal Court**

#### AASO Y2K Undergraduate Homecoming Party

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Houston Gym

#### Sunday, October 5

Information on event times and locations will be provided soon.

#### **Community Events**

Please note: events listed below are hosted by community members and organizations. They are not university-sponsored events.

#### **Thursday, October 2**

#### Welcome Back Mixer

6:00 p.m.

Venue TBD

# Friday, October 3 Community Clean Up

9:30 a.m.

Meet at corner of Bailey Avenue and Winspear Avenue

#### **M&T First Fridays**

10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Buffalo AKG Art Museum

https://buffaloakg.org/events/mt-first-fridays

#### The Falliday Market

5:00-9:00 p.m.

Richardson Olmsted Campus

https://www.buffaloholidaymarket.com/falliday

#### The Return II Party

8:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.

Poize Restaurant & Lounge

#### Saturday, October 4

#### Farmers Market

7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Bidwell Parkway at Elmwood Avenue

#### R&B Buffet Brunch

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

John Henry's

#### The Falliday Market

11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Richardson Olmsted Campus** 

https://www.buffaloholidaymarket.com/falliday

Sunday, October 5

#### Sunday Worship and Homecoming Reception

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Elim Christian Fellowship

#### The Falliday Market

11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

**Richardson Olmsted Campus** 

https://www.buffaloholidaymarket.com/falliday

#### Hotel Information

### Best Western on the Avenue

510 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Last Day to Book: Monday, September 8, 2025

Please reserve your room by calling (716) 886-8333. Code: Buffalo State Homecoming

Rate: \$129 Thursday, Friday, Sunday/per night and \$199 on Saturday plus applicable taxes and surcharges.

Beginning date: Thursday, October 2, 2025. End date: Sunday, October 5, 2025

# Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Buffalo Airport

4271 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Last Day to Book: Monday, September 1, 2025

Please reserve your room by calling (716) 633-2488. Code: Buffalo State Homecoming

Rate: \$129 per night plus applicable taxes and surcharges.

Beginning date: Thursday, October 2, 2025. End date: Sunday, October 5, 2025.

# Richardson Hotel

444 Forest Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14213

Last Day to Book: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Reserve your room by calling (716) 493-2610. Code: Buffalo State Homecoming

Rate: \$309 per night plus applicable taxes and surcharges.

Beginning date: Thursday, October 2, 2025. End date: Sunday, October 5, 2025...

# Hampton by Hilton

220 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Last Day to Book: Thursday, August 28, 2025

Reserve your room by calling (716) 855-2223. Code: Buffalo State University

Rate: \$209 per night plus applicable taxes and surcharges.

Beginning date: Thursday, October 2, 2025. End date: Sunday, October 5, 2025.

View All

#### 2025 Homecoming Committee













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# Homecoming and Family Weekend: September 29-October 5 >





# HOT WATER UPDATES

### [ Event Timeline ]

**Sept. 22, 2025:** We are pleased to report that hot water has been restored to all campus buildings today. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this repair process, and apologize for the inconvenience caused by this unanticipated interruption.

It may take time for the hot water flow to reach all showers and faucets. If you do not immediately have hot water, please allow your hot water to run for 10 minutes.

Though hot water has been restored to all buildings, as noted previously, an additional planned, shorter shutdown in the coming weeks will be necessary to fully complete the repair. The time for this planned outage is not expected to be extensive; advance notice will be provided to all impacted residents once this timeline is finalized.

A credit will be issued to impacted student residents based upon the duration of time that hot water was not available in the residence halls during the initial interruption. As Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., announced during Thursday's open meeting, further information will be made available to impacted residents once all details have been finalized.

**Sept. 20-21, 2025:** Work continued on repairs. It is still anticipated that steam service will be restored to the remainder of campus early next week. **View a photo below of the repair area.** 

**Sept. 19, 2025:** As Interim President Bonita R. Durand, Ph.D., announced during Thursday's open meeting, a credit will be issued to impacted student residents based upon the duration of time that hot water was not available in the residence halls. Further information will be made available once all details have been finalized.

In response to feedback from impacted residents, 24-hour coverage from Custodial Operations and Services is being implemented for the shower trailers near Moore Complex and the Towers. This will lead to increased frequency in the cleaning of the portable showers.

**Sept. 18, 2025:** Work is completed to restore hot water availability to Houston Gym, where ADA-accessible individual shower stalls are located in the first-floor locker rooms. These are open to all students. A communication is sent campuswide.

In response to feedback, University Police is providing additional monitoring outside the shower trailers located near Moore Complex and the Towers.

It is still anticipated that steam service will be restored to the remainder of campus early next week. The repair is complex, and if anything changes about the timeline, the campus community will be updated immediately.

**Sept. 17, 2025:** A communication is sent campuswide. The first of two open meetings about the hot water outage is held. Valuable feedback is received.

**Sept. 11, 2025:** Perry Hall is made available for hot showers for impacted residents, in addition to the shower trailers. A communication is sent campuswide.

**Sept. 10, 2025:** A repair is completed, restoring hot water to many buildings on campus, reducing the number of impacted residents to 655. Repairs continue on the underground steam infrastructure to restore hot water to all campus buildings.

**Sept. 8, 2025:** As repairs continue, shower trailers with hot water remain available in locations adjacent to Bengal Hall and Moore Complex. All campus dining operations, other than Café 1871 and PlanetariYUM, are open. A communication is sent campuswide.

It is determined a blank cap can be used to isolate the steam line heading north, which would allow the Central Heating Plant to provide steam to buildings east, west, and south of the work area.

**Sept. 5, 2025:** A larger excavator and shoring equipment are delivered. Digging begins at a second location to explore for the leak. A leak is discovered at a 16-inch-diameter transition elbow. Evidence of structural damage to a box tunnel is also discovered; it will require repairs.

**Sept. 4, 2025:** The campus underground steam infrastructure experiences an unanticipated interruption of steam near the corner of Academic Drive and Union Place. This forces the Central Heating Plant to temporarily shut down its boilers so that repairs could be safely accomplished. All campus buildings—except Student Apartment Complex, the Alumni Center and Burchfield Penney Art Center—are without hot water. Water in the impacted buildings is safe to use, but is not hot. Facilities and contractor teams begin working around the clock to resolve the issue.

A communication is sent campuswide, alerting the community of the hot water outage caused by the steam interruption. Residence Life begins the process of procuring portable showers.

A 4-foot section of the steam tunnel is opened up, but attempts to locate the leak are unsuccessful. Additional equipment and materials are ordered to continue exploratory work.



**Underground steam infrastructure** 

A look at the campus underground steam infrastructure in an area where repairs are taking place.

[ Past Meetings ]

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 12:15 p.m.

Warren Enters Theater

With Interim President Bonita R. Durand and members of the Cabinet, and Residence Life staff

Open to residents of Moore Complex and Towers 1, 3, and 4

Thursday, Sept. 18, 12:15 p.m.

Campbell Student Union Social Hall

With Interim President Bonita R. Durand and members of the Cabinet

*Open to the campus community.* 

# Are you a resident student?

Do you have questions?

Email Us >

# [Frequently Asked Questions]

#### When will the hot water outage be fixed for the entire campus?

Steam service is expected to be restored to the rest of campus early next week, provided no unforeseen challenges arise. Once service is restored, repairs will continue, and no additional long-term shutdowns are anticipated. Our Facilities and contractor teams remain on site and are working around the clock to complete the repairs safely and efficiently.

#### How many residential students are currently impacted?

There are 653 residents in Moore Complex and Towers 1, 3 and 4 that are currently impacted by the hot water outage.

#### Are there non-residential buildings that are impacted?

Yes, those buildings include Bulger Communication Center, Caudell Hall, the Science and Mathematics Complex, Upton Hall and the athletics complex. Work anticipated to be complete Sept. 17 is expected to restore hot water to Houston Gym.

#### Is the water in the impacted buildings safe to use?

Yes, the water is safe to use, but it will not be hot.

#### When did the hot water outage begin?

It started Thursday, Sept. 4, and work began immediately to identify the problem and restore hot water. View a timeline of updates and repairs above.

#### What caused the hot water outage?

The campus underground steam infrastructure experienced an unanticipated interruption of steam Sept. 4 due to a leak. This initially resulted in the Central Heating Plant temporarily shutting down its boilers so repairs could be safely accomplished. A repair completed Sept. 10 restored hot water to many buildings on campus. Our Facilities and contractor teams are working around the clock to restore hot water to all campus buildings.

#### Will impacted residential students receive payment credit?

Yes, a credit will be issued to impacted student residents based upon the duration of time that hot water was not available in the residence halls. Further information will be made available once all details have been finalized.

#### How can impacted residents access the showers in Perry Hall?

Perry Hall is available for impacted residents to use for hot showers between 7 and 10 a.m., and between 5 and 10 p.m. daily. Impacted residents can use the north entrance facing the Planetarium and Science and Mathematics Complex or the south entrance facing Chase Hall and Weigel Health Center, by using ID cards during the available times and signing in with an attendant. Additional staff has been added to this location for impacted residents' convenience.

#### What is the status of the temporary showers?

The temporary showers that were located outside Bengal Hall are in the process of being moved to a location near Tower 1. Existing temporary showers remain near Moore Complex. The temporary showers are available to impacted residents at any time. Increased patrols from University Police have been implemented.

#### Will there be any other options for showering in the near future?

It is anticipated that work will be completed Sept. 17 to restore hot water to Houston Gym, where ADA-accessible individual shower stalls are located in the first-floor locker rooms.

#### Are any of the impacted residents being moved to other residential locations?

Various options are being explored to give impacted residents the option to move to other buildings on campus, including Perry Hall, and other locations near campus.













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# Housing Occupancy Comparison Fall 2024 - Fall 2025

Report Date: September 12, 2025

		P	RIOR YEAR	₹	C	URRENT Y	EAR							
	_				Cu	rrent Repo	ort	Curr	ent Repor	t	C	alculated Diff	erences	
			T T	13-Sep-24			5-Sep-25			12-Sep-25		Current Rep	ort vs. Prior R	eport
	Notes	DIFR	STAC	Total	DIFR	STAC	Total	DIFR	STAC	Total	Year to Year	DIFR	STAC	Total
Design Beds		2,335	507	2,842	2,358	507	2,865	2,358	507	2,865	23	- y		0
Less: Unassignable Beds in RA rooms		(60)	- 4	(60)	(54)	25	(54)	(54)		(54)	6	-	15	
Less. Unassignable Beds in Fulltime Staff Rooms		(2)	(2)	(4)	(17)	(2)	(19)	(17)	(2)	(19)	(15)	15	1,00	28
Less: ADA Accommodations, Admin Holds, Conversion to Single, Beds in FC units		=	33	-	(76)	(8)	(76)	(76)	28	(76)				
Less: Off-line (renovation)		0	(8)	(8)	(35)		(35)	(35)		(35)				
Less: Off-line (closure, Perry, Cassety, Tower 2 & Northwing)		(787)	3	(787)	(711)	3	(711)	(711)	- 2	(711)				
Total Beds Available	-	1,486	497	1,983	1,465	505	1,970	1,465	505	1,970	(13)	<u>s</u>		- 4
Beds Assigned on Campus							221			1911				
Returning Residents Assigned		393	463	856	495	480	975	488	484	972	116	(7)	4	(3)
Fall License (pending assignment)														
	_			-			180			- 13		<u>it</u>	- 4	
Total Returning (A)		393	463	856	495	480	975	488	484	972	116	(7)	4	(3)
New Resident Applications			- 1											
Transfers		90	8	98	69	6	75	67	7	74	(24)	(2)	1	(1)
First Years		834	-	834	845		845	840	14	840	6	(5)	181	(5)
Total New (8)		924	8	932	914	6	920	907	7	914	(18)	(7)	1	(6
Total Beds Assigned on Campus		1,317	471	1,788	1,409	486	1,895	1,395	491	1,886	98	(14)	5	(9
Total Beds Assigned to Student Staff (C)		79	8	87	67	9	76	67	9	76	(11)	:81	S ( )	
Total Beds Assigned (A + 8 + C)		1,396	479	1,875	1,476	495	1,971	1,462	500	1,962	87	(14)	5	(9
Percent Beds Assigned		93.9%	96.4%	94.6%	100.8%	98.0%	100.1%	99 8%	99 0%	99.6%	0	(0)	0	(0
											2			
Bed Availability Remaining		90	18	108	(11)	10	(1)	3	5	8	(100)	14	(5)	9
Percentage. Total Beds Assigned / Total Beds Available*		93.9%	96.4%	94.6%	100.8%	98.0%	100.1%	99.8%	99.0%	99.6%				
Percentage: Total Beds Assigned / Design Beds Available		59.79%	94.48%	65.97%	62.60%	97.63%	68.80%	62.00%	98.62%	68.48%				

Cancellation Requests		284	295
Requests Approved	0	260	270
Transfe	erring	13	13
Study Al			
Student Tea	ching		
Withdo	rawal	24	26
Leave of Ab	sence	5	5
Medical I	.eave		
Gradu	ation		
Disn	nissal	23	23
Financial Bu	urden	29	29
	Other	166	174
Requests Denied	0	24	25
Required to Live On Ca	mpus	24	25
No Reason Pro			
	Other		
- Office			

Available Space by Hall (in use)					
Hall	Avail. Sp.	% Occupied			
Bengal	17	95.00%			
Bishop	15	92.00%			
Moore Comple	3	97.00%			
Neumann	9	95.00%			
STAC	4	99.00%			
Tower 1	3	98.00%			
Tower 3	3	98.00%			
Tower 4	9	95.00%			
NorthWing	79	42.00%			
Total	142	90.11%			

Avail Space by I	Hall (billable)
Hall	Avail. Sp.
Bengal	16
Bishop	14
Cassety	76
Moore Complex	2
Neumann	9
Perry	184
NorthWing	78
STAC	2
Tower 1	2
Tower 2	200
Tower 3	2
Tower 4	8
Total	593



Student Conduct and Community Standards Office

BENG 14- Lower Level 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222-1095 Tel: (716) 878-3051 Fax: (716) 878-3821

To: Dr. Wayne Brumfield, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

From: Janelle Brooks, Associate Dean of Students

Cc: Elizabeth Ching-Bush, Interim Dean of Students

Kristin Klein-Wheaton, Associate Counsel

Re: University Council Meeting- October 7,2025

Date: October 2, 2025

Please allow the attached document to serve as a formal explanation of changes to the Code of Conduct. The document includes changes requested for the student Code of Conduct. The changes address adjustments to the required composition of the conduct and appeals review board, updates to language for hearing a case and updates to definitions for TIX associated violations per SUNY memo (8.18.2025). We are seeking to present the noted changes at the Student Affairs sub-committee on October 2, 2025 for review and recommendation to be approved by the University Council meeting on October 7, 2025. for their review and approval.



#### Office of General Counsel

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building 353 Broadway, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Albany, New York 12246 general.counsel@suny.edu

(518)320-1400

#### MEMORANDUM

**To:** SUNY Title IX Coordinators, State Operated and Community Colleges

From: Andrew Stammel, Associate Counsel, OGC Student Affairs Practice Group

**Re:** Title IX Definition Update – "Sexual Assault" Expanded to Include Criminal

Sexual Conduct

**Date:** August 18, 2025

#### **Summary**

A recent update to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) User Manual now classifies "criminal sexual contact" as a sex offense. This change broadens the Title IX definition of "Sexual Assault".

#### **Background**

Under the once again applicable 2020 Title IX Final Rule and an institution's Title IX Grievance Process, covered sexual harassment includes (1) Quid Pro Quo, (2) Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment, and (3) the specific offenses of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, as defined in Federal Law.

Hostile environment sexual harassment must be severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive. By contrast, conduct that falls under one of the specific offenses must only meet the definition of the offense and need not also be "severe" and/or "pervasive."

#### Definitions

The Title IX definition of sexual assault incorporates the Clery/VAWA definition, which classifies sexual assault as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense. That phrase is further defined by FBI's NIBRS to include rape (sodomy and sexual assault with an object), criminal sexual contact (forcible), and incest and statutory rape (non-forcible) sex offenses.

The recent update replaces "fondling" with "criminal sexual contact."

• (old definition) Forcible Fondling: was defined as "The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, forcibly and/or against that person's will or not forcibly or against the person's will in instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her youth or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity."

• (new definition) Criminal Sexual Contact: is defined as "The intentional touching of the clothed or unclothed body parts without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation; or the forced touching by the victim of the actor's clothed or unclothed body parts, without consent of the victim for the purpose of sexual degradation, sexual gratification, or sexual humiliation."

#### **Changes/Next Steps**

Replacing "fondling" with "criminal sexual contact" expands the scope of sexual assault under Title IX in three ways:

- **Body Parts:** "fondling" pertained only to the touching of "private body parts"; "criminal sexual contact" includes any clothed or unclothed body parts.
- **Intent:** Includes not only conduct for the purpose of "sexual gratification," but also conduct for the purpose of "sexual degradation" or "sexual humiliation".
- **Forced touching:** Clarifies that forced touching by the victim of the actor's body is also included.

Taken together, these changes significantly broaden the range of conduct that must be treated as sexual assault under Title IX.

Next Steps for State-Operated Campuses

Campuses should work with OGC to update Codes of Conduct with the new definitions, as necessary. Training should also be provided to relevant staff on the new definition, including investigators, hearing board members, and other staff involved in Title IX cases. Please also ensure that you distribute this information to your Campus Security Authority (CSA) for Clery Act Compliance. You will need to work with that individual to ensure compliance across both Clery, VAWA, and Title IX going forward.

OGC will release an updated 2020 Title IX Grievance Procedure imminently that will incorporate these changes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the OGC Student Affairs Practice Group.

Next Steps for Community Colleges

Community colleges should consult with their institutional legal counsel to incorporate the new definitions into their institutional policies and training. Institutions may also rely on the SUNY Student Conduct Institute (SCI) for resources and implementation support. All community colleges should also consider alerting their Clery Campus Security Authority (CSA) contact about this change.

CC: Attorneys, SUNY Office of General Counsel