



BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



**University Council Meeting
December 2, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person:

Chair Linda Dobmeier
Mr. Bob Zak
Mr. Mo Sumbundu
Mr. Gary Siddall
Mr. Nicholas Smith

Virtual via Zoom:

Mr. Pete Grum

Excused:

Mr. Kevin Horrigan
Ms. Patricia Farrell

FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT (in person):

Interim President Bonnie R. Durand
Chief Diversity Officer Lisa Morrison-Fronckowiak
Vice President for Institutional Advancement James Finnerty
Vice President for Financial Operations James Thor
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Wayne Brumfield
Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management David Loreto
Buffalo State Senate Chair and Associate Professor Geosciences, Kevin Williams
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences Kelly Frothingham
Dean of Students Elizabeth Ching-Bush
Chief Campus Counsel for Western Campuses Kristin Klein Wheaton
Senior Campus Counsel for Western Campuses Daniel Altieri
Associate Vice President of Budget & Finance Kelly D'Aloisio
Director of Student Success Shawnte' Wilson
ACE Program Director Jude Jayatilleke
Associate Vice President of Government Relations, and secretary to the Council William Benfanti
Administrative Assistant II, President's Office Kristine Kaminsky

CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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 October 2, 2025 meeting. Mr. Bob Zak moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Mo Sumbundu seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was carried by unanimous vote.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dobmeier gave an update on the presidential search. She shared that under the direction of University Council member Pete Grum, Buffalo State University interviewed several search firms and partnered with the WittKiefer search firm to select a search committee. Chair Dobmeier, Secretary to the Council, William Benfanti, Associate Vice Chancellor for Executive Recruitment Zulaika Rodriguez-Awoliyi, and the search firm meet once a week. The search committee met with WittKiefer on December 2.

It was pointed out that initial feedback from the market has been positive. Buffalo State has a good reputation, specifically regarding the commitment to students and its role within the wider Buffalo community. There has been significant interest in this position.

Wittkeifer is working behind the scenes to cultivate and vet prospective candidates. Their focus is precise. They are looking for leaders who possess the right balance of experience, executive presence, and vision to lead Buffalo State forward. Their work will continue to ensure a good slate of candidates.

Chair Dobmeier and William Benfanti were given the profiles of some of the candidates.

Under William Benfanti's direction, input was collected from Buffalo State and the surrounding community. The information was gathered through twelve listening sessions, direct emails, and a community survey. Chair Dobmeier thanked all who participated for their feedback. Representative groups are being created and will participate in the later stages of the interview process. It was agreed that early candidates have expressed appreciation for the representational search style.

Chair Dobmeier pointed out that the search is open to input. She encouraged the nomination of qualified candidates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Durand welcomed the SUNY Western Campus legal team and introduced Senior Campus Counsel Daniel Altieri, whose specialty is contracts. It was pointed out that there is a protocol that must be followed before a contract is delivered to Mr. Altieri.

It is SUNY General Counsel's expectation that one of the SUNY attorneys will attend every council meeting for every SUNY school to give legal advice when needed or if there are topics to be vetted. This is a new process that General Counsel Kapil Longani has implemented. Going forward, either Daniel Altieri or Kristin Klein Wheaton will be attending the University Council meetings.

Over 400 students stayed in the dorms over Thanksgiving break. It was pointed out that this is more than double the number of students that would normally stay, excluding international students. It was mentioned that cost and inability to travel were the main reasons that students stayed on campus. Dr. Durand thanked Residence Life, Interim Vice President Brumfield, and Dean of Students Elizabeth Ching-Bush for their efficient action to ensure that the students were fed, had access to healthcare, and had activities to attend during the long weekend.

There was an uptick in visitors to the Milligan Food Pantry, and a few food drives were held to keep it supplied.

Two persistence and retention programs have been implemented successfully. One of these programs is completely supported by SUNY; the other is completely supported by Buffalo State. It was pointed out that after recruitment, student persistence until graduation grows and maintains Buffalo State's enrollment numbers.

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management David Loreto introduced the Director of Student Success and Retention Shawnte' Wilson and the Director of the ACE program Jude Jayatilleke who were in attendance to give presentations.

After discussion, the following points arose:

- The ACE program was implemented in 2024.
- Roar 2 Success has existed in different iterations, but the current model is the most successful.

Please see the attached presentations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Friday, December 12 there will be an End of Year celebration from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Student Union Social Hall. Please bring non-perishable donations for Milligan's Food Pantry.

The last part of the steam project was completed without any disruption.

COMMITTEES

- **President's Community Advisory Committee (Bonnie Durand, Interim President)**
 - The committee will meet on Friday, December 5, 2025
- **Naming of Buildings and Grounds (Bob Zak, Chair)**
 - No report
- **Facilities (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
 - No report
- **Government Relations (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
 - No report
- **Nominations & Presidential Advisory Committee (Linda Dobmeier, Chair)**
 - No report

- **Budget (Bob Zak, Chair)**

- Met on November 25. Please see attached.

The committee's focus was to review the most recent update to the Financial Stability Plan considering actual experience with the current fiscal year from July through October. It was mentioned that the Financial Stability Plan calls for Buffalo State to eliminate a \$16 million structural deficit by the end of FY 2027-2028. The committee reviewed major revenue and expense items in the institution's income statement with the following highlights:

- The year-to-date statements only include 4 months' worth of experience. This has led to favorable and unfavorable timing differences that Vice President Thor and Associate Vice President D'Aloisio have reconciled.
- The expected revenues for the year will be within a few hundred thousand dollars of the anticipated \$100 million level.

Major expense line items were also reviewed with timing differences reconciled between the four months' actuals and the Financial Sustainability Plan. The progress is projected to be a reduction of the structural deficit by \$5 to \$6 million and will bring the structural deficit to approximately \$10 million for fiscal year 2025-2026. It was pointed out that absent any adverse developments, Buffalo State is on the path to achieve the Financial Stability Plan over the next four fiscal years. Significant work continues to be done, and there is a need for continued focus on personnel expenses.

- **Student Life (Pete Grum, Chair)**

- Met on November 14. Please see attached.

- **Strategic Initiatives (Bob Zak, Chair)**

- Met on December 1. Please see attached.

The committee examined their charge in comparison to the work of other committees to uphold their focus.

Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff were reviewed. This past fall, there were 73 sessions offered with varying participation. Additional workshops will be provided by SUNY from December 8 – December 12.

The SUNY-wide initiative of academic momentum, barriers, and the eight metrics related to persistence and completion were discussed.

Enrollment projections for the spring and fall 2026 semesters were reviewed. Spring enrollment will follow the trend of being slightly lower from fall because of attrition. It will also be approximately 50 students less than spring 2025.

About 1,200 eligible students without financial holds are being contacted regarding registration. A list of 800 students is being collected by Financial Aid to possibly resolve their financial issues so that they can register.

Fall 2026 enrollment is trending positively with applications, admissions, and deposits over the comparable prior year period. International students' enrollment in both SUNY and non-SUNY institutions has been challenged by the geopolitical environment. This creates a higher level of competition for Buffalo State since non-SUNY institutions are broadening their search.

SUNY enrollment projections through 2028 are flat but are based on old data. The new data has improved due to an increase in persistence. There is a possibility that Buffalo State may exceed the flat enrollment projections. Advancements are being made in the process that Buffalo State attracts and retains students. This is offsetting the pending demographic cliff as well as the increased level of competition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to move into Executive Session, pursuant with section 105.f of the New York State Open Meetings Law. Mr. Gary Siddall motioned, and Mr. Nicholas Smith seconded. Interim President Durand was asked to remain.

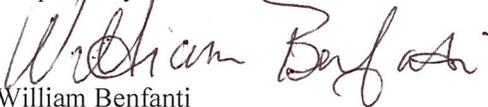
At 5:00 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Mo Sumbundu to adjourn the executive session and return to the public meeting, and Mr. Zak seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mo Sumbundu moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Bob Zak seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



William Benfanti

Secretary to the University Council



Buffalo State University
ACE Program
Advancing Completion
through Engagement



Program Information

Implemented at Buffalo State in the Spring 2024 semester
Advancing Completion through Engagement (ACE) is a SUNY-wide retention initiative and a comprehensive program designed to support students in completing their academic journey to earn a bachelor's degree. The program provides students with clearly mapped programs of study, comprehensive academic advisement, financial assistance, career support services, and access to a wide range of campus resources.



What Makes ACE Unique
We are committed to students' academic success and making college more affordable!



Buffalo State ACE students will receive:

- **Monthly Dining Dollars deposit** upon meeting program requirements \$200 per semester
- **A Dedicated ACE Advisor** and **Career advisor** to guide their progress from entry to graduation
- **Textbook Assistance to reduce** (or eliminate) the cost of the textbook \$ 150 per semester
- **Enhanced Career Development and Academic Support Services**
- **Early Course Registration Options**
- **A Tuition Gap scholarship** (for students in receipt of financial aid) Toward cost of attendance \$275.00 per semester
- **Winter/Summer Course Scholarships**
- **Graduate School Preparation**
- **4 + 1 Pathway options and assistance**

Program Expectations



What students need to do?

- Maintain full-time status (at least 15 credits or 5 courses each semester) **15 X 8 = 120 Credits**
- **Meet individually with an ACE Advisor** at least twice a month or as needed
- Participate in all academic support and career development activities, at least once a month
- Students must study in an **approved ACE major** and **adhere to course schedule outlined by their advisor.**
- All ACE students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**) and the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (**TAP**) application each year.
- Students who receive support through the Senator Jose Peralta NYS Dream Act or the Dream.US scholarship are also eligible.
- Commit to graduating **within four years** (freshmen) and adhere to course schedules and degree maps outlined by your advisor.

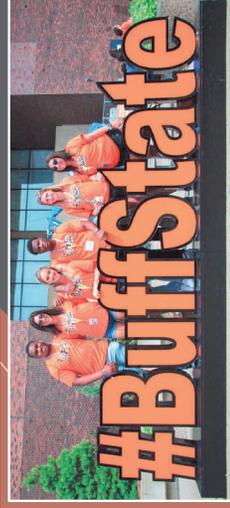
Examples of Programming for the semester

- Month of July/August - Attend ACE overview session, Job Fair
- Month of September - Attend Tech Boot Camp
- Month of October - Attend Financial Wellness workshops in collaboration with M & T Bank, Major and Minor Fair, Study Groups,
- Month of November - Attend CAPE Focus workshop, CAPS Scholarship workshop
- Month of December - Bengal Study night
- Each month connect with tutoring center for assistance with content classes or math and college writing available in Buller Library



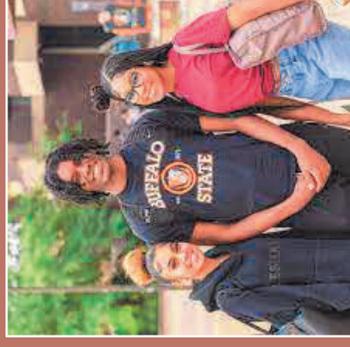
ACE Eligibility

- High School GPA of 82 to 91
- An incoming freshman, continuing student with 21 or less credits **and** a 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Transfer student with an Associate's Degree under 76 credits earned
- A New York State resident and/or eligible for in-state tuition?
- Completed the **FAFSA** using Buffalo State University Code 002842 and the **New York State Tuition Assistance Program application** (TAP) using college code 0905)



Student participation and expectations

- Attend two events as indicated by ACE staff such as advising, workshops, meetings, etc.
- Take advantage of tutoring and referral services.
- Set up meeting with career advisor at CAPE.
- Maintain good academic standing of 2.0 or better.



Curriculum Information

The following majors are included for ACE

Africana Studies (AFS)
Business Administration
Career and Technical Education
Childhood Education
Criminal Justice (CRJ)
Communication (COM)
Computer Information Systems (CIS,CISW)
Economics and Finance (ECO)
Elementary Education
Fashion Textile Technology (FTT)
Health and Wellness (HWP)

Hospitality Administration (HTR)
Individualized Studies (INS)
Journalism (JBS)
Nutrition and Dietetics (NAD)
Psychology (P-SY)
Speech-Language Pathology (SLP)
Special and Childhood Education
Social Work (SWKW, SWK)
Spanish (SPN)
Theater (THA)



Academic Support Resources
Writing, Math, Content classes (ACE center)
Butler Library 143 -145



JOB AND INTERNSHIP POSTINGS



The Career and Professional Education Center posts full-time, part-time, summer or internship opportunities using BengalLink, powered by Symplify-CSM. Employers are highly encouraged to create a free BengalLink employer account to list your openings for more immediate release to students/alumni.

- Employers wanting to post internship opportunities (paid or unpaid) should consult the US Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), as well as the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) guidelines on internships. Below is information about wage requirements for organizations in NYS.
 - Wage Requirements for Interns In For - Profit Businesses
 - Wage Requirements for Interns In Not - For - Profit Businesses

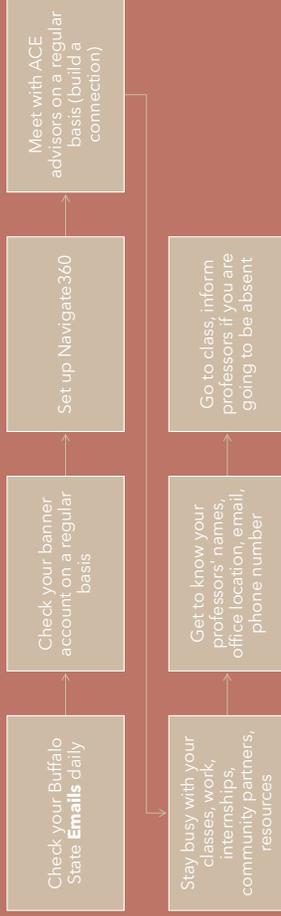
Career and Professional Education



careers@buffalostate.edu

Cleveland Hall 306
Phone: (716) 878-5811

A good Habit



ACE Data

ACE Persistence rate is 83.3 percent. A selected group of students were chosen in spring 2024 to take part in the inaugural term.

Support Services Satisfaction

- **Very Satisfied:** Majority of respondents (~80%)
 - **Satisfied:** Substantial portion (~15%)
 - **Neutral / Unsatisfied:** Few respondents (<5%)
- Overall Satisfaction:**
Approximately **95%** of participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with support services.

Service Accessibility

- Very Accessible: ~90%
- Neutral / Somewhat Accessible: ~5%
- Not Accessible: <5%

Summary: Students rate ACE services as highly accessible, with very few reporting any difficulty.

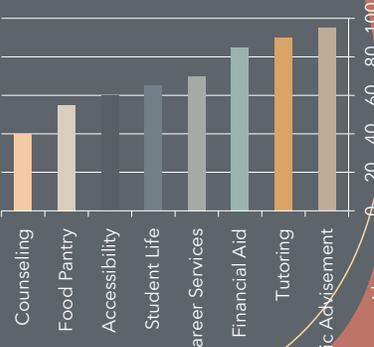
Accessibility



Top Support Services Used

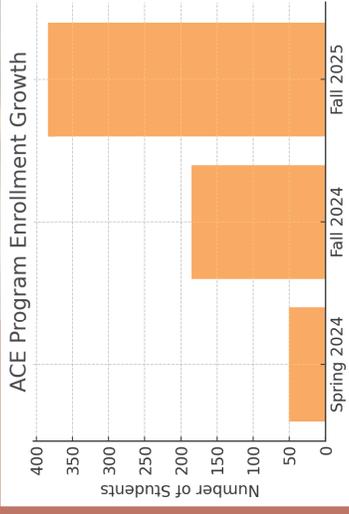
- **Most Frequent:**
 - Academic Advisement
 - Tutoring & Learning Centers
 - Financial Aid Office
- **Frequent:**
 - Career Services (CAPE)
 - Student Life & Engagement
 - Accessibility Services
 - Food Pantry
- **Moderate:**
 - Counseling & Mental Health Services

Usage Level



Summary: Nearly every student engages with Academic Advisement, with strong use of tutoring, financial, and career services

ACE Program Enrollment Goals



ACE Program Student Barriers

Financial and Personal Barriers Impacting Academic Progress

Students often experience financial strain, personal challenges, or outside responsibilities that interfere with class attendance, academic performance, and their ability to fully engage with campus resources. Common barriers include homesickness, food insecurity, transportation limitations, personal problems, and feeling overwhelmed by the demands of completing all registered courses for the semester.

Stay connected with us
We are in Butler Library rooms 110 A, B, F, G

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Josie P. Adamo, Ph.D.

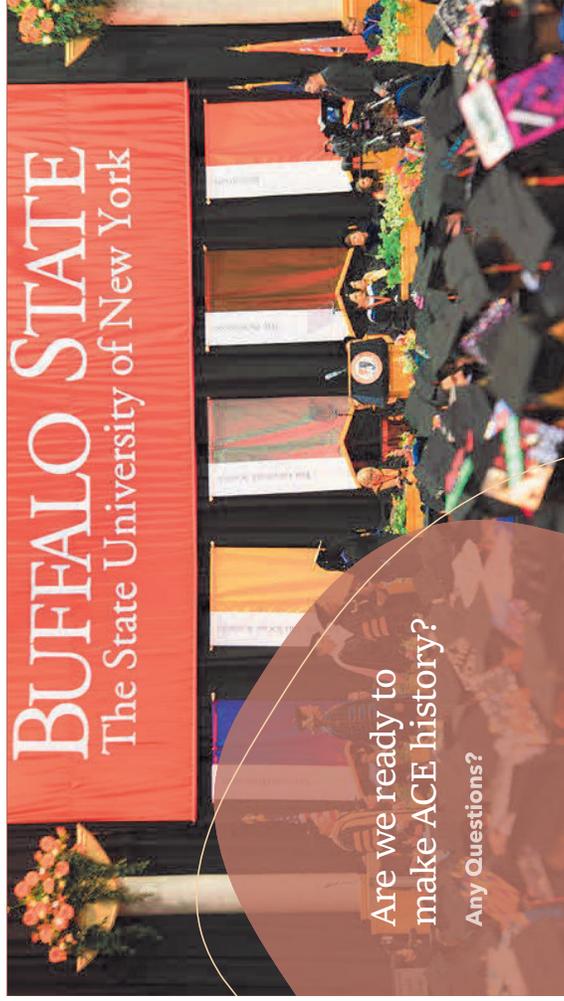
ACE Advisor
E-mail: adamojp@buffalostate.edu
Office Phone (716) 878-3791
E. H. Butler Library 110G



Stay connected with ACE on Instagram: ACE_BSU

BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Are we ready to
make ACE history?
Any Questions?





2025 4th Quarter Report

Presented By:
Shawnte Wilson, Director & Chelsea Allen, Asst Director
Student Success & Retention



What is R2S?

Campus based holistic support program serving FY & SY students who's outgoing high school gpa was 76-81

Services Offered

- 1 Week Summer Bridge
- Book Scholarships
- 1:1 Success Coaching (Registration support, Resource Referral, Goal Mapping)
- Peer Mentoring
- Cohort Course: UNC 100
- Student Support Lounge (Programming, Printing, Computer Access, Late Night math help)
- Financial Literacy Supports via Arbol (workshops, weekly drop ins, virtual and in person 1:1)





2025 Student Stats



The Roar 2 Success Program currently supports **382 students total**.

Formal First Year: 269

Affiliated First Year: 69

Continuing Students: 44



FALL 2025 Support Service Outcomes





2025 Summer Bridge Stats

The Roar 2 Success Summer Bridge program is a 1 week in person experience. **This is the first mandatory step for all incoming FY Roar 2 Success Students.**

This year's summer bridge was held August 13th - August 19th



Registered: 296
Attended: 269
Show Rate: 90.1%



2025 Areas of Focus

Educational Preparedness

- 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students
- Writing Workshops
- Math Workshops
- Professionalism Workshops
- Emotional Intelligence Workshops
- Healthy Relationships Workshop
- Student Conduct Process Workshop
- Tech Talk

Financial Literacy Hosted by Arbol

- What is Financial Literacy
- FAFSA, TAP, & Budgeting for college expenses
- Arbol Services





2025 Areas of Focus



Campus Familiarity

- Educational sessions held in Bulger and Butler
- Meals in Bengal Kitchen
- Open Rac in Houston gym



Community Building

- Nightly Student led engagement activities
- Explore Buffalo



2025 Summer Bridge Makeup

13 students

Completed the course

18.84%

Overall Completion Rate

Digital - 7 Habits w/quizzes

69 students

Invited





Book Scholarships

- Students were eligible to earn up to \$300
- Check in was conducted 2x/day in the morning and afternoon with a QR code and “word of the day”
- Each check in was worth \$20
- In total we awarded \$84,790, approximately \$44,861 was utilized
- Students who completed the makeup were eligible for \$150, \$1,950 was awarded.



1:1 Success Coaching:

- Students are scheduling/meeting an average of 1.8x/ semester
- Weekly drop in averages 35 students/week
- Current Average caseload size is 75

Peer Mentoring:

- Currently Employs 9 continuing students
- 10 hours per week
- All 3.0 better
- Average caseload is 30
- Offer scheduled and drop in supports





UNC 100

- Students currently spread across 10 sections
- "No drop" first semester mandated course for all R2S

Bengal Success Center

- Currently Employs 8 ug students, 1 grad student
- Late night math support 2x/week
- Social programming Wed and Sat (signature programs Midterm check in & Roargiving)
- Average weekly visitors 90-100/week

Financial Literacy

- Pre semester financial aid meetings
- Summer bridge financial literacy course (Arbol)
- Weekly drop in 1:1 financial planning sessions (Arbol)
- Midterm FASFA workshop (Arbol)



Registration Stats

Midterm Check in:

- 86 students attended our Midterm check in. (27.7% show rate)
- This event focused on academic standing, registration, study skills, school/life balance, mentorship, budgeting/financial aid.

Spring 2026 Registration Formally Supported (313 total):

- **Currently Registered:** 158 (50.5% persistence, goal +124 students)
- **Hold:** 64 (20.4%)
- **No Holds, not reg:** 65 (20.8%)
- **Transfers (21), Dismissals (2), W/D (3):** (8.3%)

Spring 2026 Registration Affiliated Group (69 total)

- **Currently Registered:** 17 (24.6%)
- **Hold:** 25 (36.2%)
- **No Holds, not reg:** 26 (37.7%)
- **Transfers (2), Dismissals (0), W/D (1):** (4.3%)





What Students are saying...



Summer Bridge Feedback

Response Rate: 4.8% (13 responses)

As a result of Summer Bridge week, how confident are you that you have a defined college why?

Average Response: 8 out of 10

As a result of summer bridge week, I have a better understanding of my role in shaping my success as a student

Response: YES-84.6% NO-7.7% UNSURE: 7.7%

As a result of summer bridge week, I have a better understanding of how to connect with and differentiate the roles of my Buffalo State support network.

Average Response: 7.8 out of 10

As a result of summer bridge week I have a better understanding of how to identify and locate campus resources (Financial Aid, Academic Help, Career Support)

Average Response: 7.5 out of 10





Summer Bridge Feedback

Response Rate: 4.8% (13 responses)

As a result of summer bridge week I have a better understanding of how to acquire the skills to manage my time and make a success plan for my first 3 semesters

Average Response: 8 out of 10

As a result of summer bridge week I have a better understanding of how to advocate for myself, communicate professionally, and handle a difficult conversation.

Response: YES-84.6% NO-7.7% UNSURE: 7.7%

As a result of summer bridge week I have met at least one new student and feel like I have a "friend"

Response: YES-92.3% NO-7.7%



Roargiving...

85 attendees

• Which topic do you wish you had more information about before starting your first semester?

Campus Resources, Money Management

• How prepared did you feel for the academic workload during your first semester?

Most reported feeling somewhat prepared or neutral about their preparation

• What type of support would have helped you the most before classes began?

Study tips, mentorship, selecting classes, understanding the balance between school and personal life

Which of the following do you wish you had known more about regarding campus life?

Student clubs, building community, meal plans

If you could change one part of your transition into college, what would it be?

Financial guidance, social connection, mental health support





Roargiving...

85 attendees

- How often do you think you should meet with an academic advisor?
1x/month

- Should students be able to use AI to help/assist with assignments
71% replied yes

- Do you currently feel like you are putting in the right amount of effort, to match the results you hope to see at the end of the semester?
68% replied yes

- What is 1 word you would use to express how you feel about your current academic progress this semester?

Top 3 replies-- Hectic, confused, trying, proud

- What additional resources do you feel like should be on campus?
Top replies-- Therapy, Jobs, Friend making services



In closing...





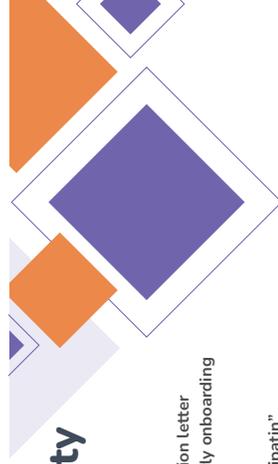
Areas of Opportunity

Onboarding

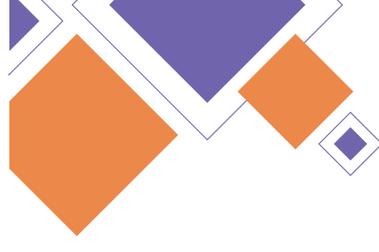
- Fidelity to requirements of student supports per admission letter
- Greater explanation of program expectations during early onboarding
- Clear program cap
- Registration cut off for summer-bridge
- Early remediation for students who show "lack of participation"
- Technology access and practice (school platforms, navigate)

Semester Supports:

- Reimagined Academic plan for cohort course model
- Clear second year experience that differs from the first year
- Improved communication/partnership with other critical campus areas (conduct, resale, veteran affairs, Dean of Students)
- Greater ongoing financial literacy planning
- "How to" mandate auxiliary support services



QUESTIONS?



BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2025 MEETING
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE AT 1:00 P.M.

The Committee, consisting of members Linda Dobmeier, Gary Siddall, Nick Smith and Bob Zak, met with BSU staff members Kelly D'Aloisio, Jim Thor and Jamie Warnes.

The primary focus of the meeting was to review the most recent update to Buffalo State University's ("BSU") Financial Sustainability Plan ("FSP") for fiscal 2025-26, using actual cash basis four-month results through October as a basis for assessment. The FSP is prepared in consultation with SUNY and forecasts the elimination of BSU's \$16.2 million structural deficit (as of FY 24/25) by the end of FY 27/28.

Mr. Thor led the Committee through the major revenue and expense line items in BSU's income statement, highlighting the following points:

- Because the statement contains only four months of actual data, it is subject to timing variances between the budget and actual experience.
- Mr. Thor explained the timing differences in the revenue line items and indicated that revenues for the year should be close to the projected \$100 million in the FSP.
- The major expense line items were also reviewed, with timing difference reconciled between four-month actuals and the FSP. Mr. Thor noted that personnel expense may exceed the FSP by \$300,00 - \$400,000 at year end, and more work needs to be done to reconcile projected FTEs with projected personnel expense.
- It is estimated that the FSP's projected progress in reducing the structural deficit during fiscal 2025-26 will be largely attained through the hard work of many in the BSU community.
- Absent any adverse developments, the structural deficit is projected to be reduced from \$16.2 million to approximately \$10 million for '25-'26.

The Committee members asked a number of questions about the early results for fiscal 2025-26, which were answered to their satisfaction by Mr. Thor and Ms. D'Aloisio.

While noting the significant work done to date, the Committee acknowledged that the path to financial sustainability will require further concerted and sustained effort from all constituents of BSU. It requires improved retention and new enrollment and continued focus on personnel expense.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Zak



BUFFALO STATE

The State University of New York

University Council Student Life, Conduct, Housing, and Safety Committee Meeting Agenda 11/14/2025

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

Guests: Rock Doyle, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs
Anthony Chase, Special Assistant to the Vice President

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

AGENDA

DATE: 11/14/25

TIME: 12:00 PM

Campus House

Boardroom

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

1. Dean of Students- Elizabeth Ching-Bush

- a. Dean of Students organizational structure
- b. Milligan's Food Pantry updates

2. Weigel Health and Wellness- Dr. Rock Doyle

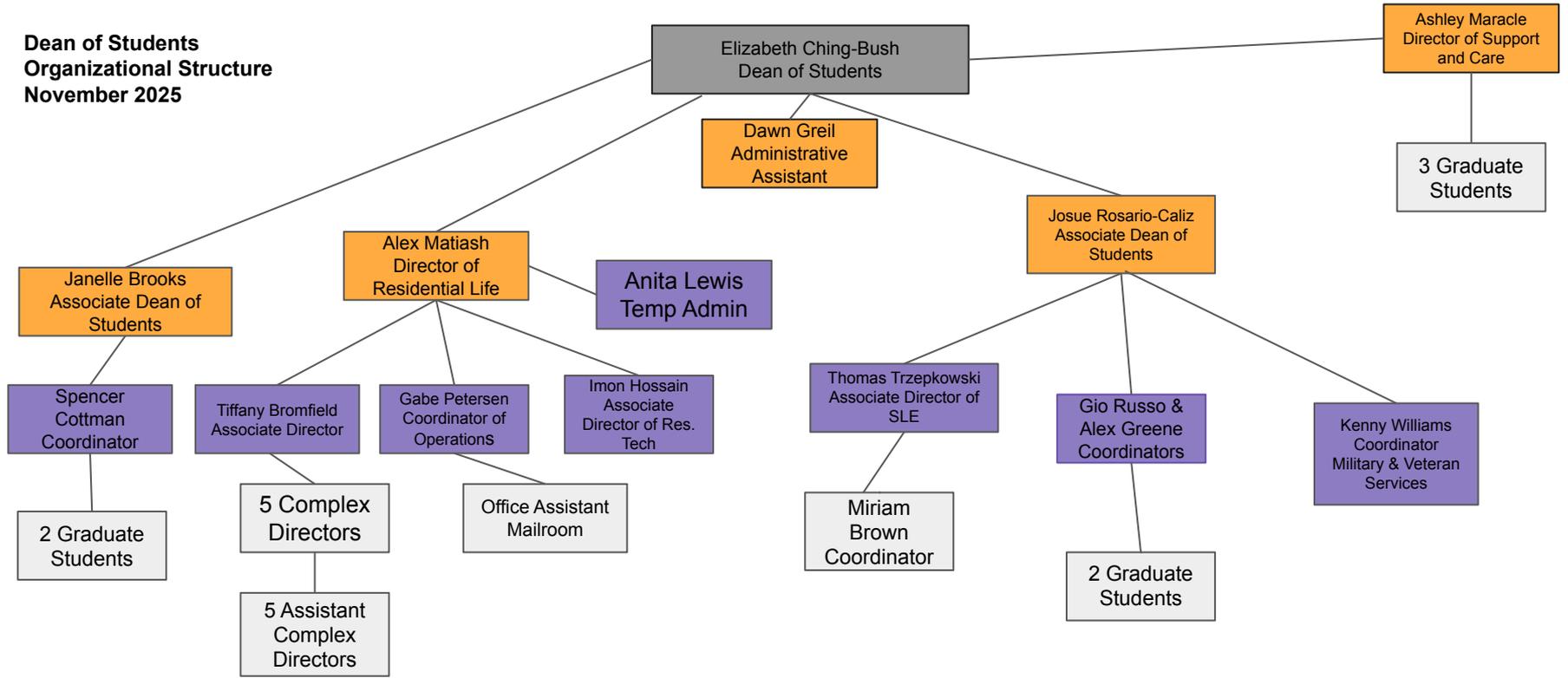
- a. Weigel/counseling statistics and data
- b. Health services
- c. Impact and retention

3. Athletics- Dr. Rock Doyle

- a. SUNYAC- Men's soccer team made it to the semi-finals but lost to Oneonta
- b. Women's volleyball advanced to the quarter finals
- c. Women's Soccer-
 - First playoff win since 2016 in the first round
- d. Winter sports have begun
- e. New Women's Wrestling Coach
 - Thomas Shifflet
- f. Casandra Bean Miner- Interim Lacrosse Head Coach
- g. Victoria Caruso- Interim Women's Soccer Head Coach

- h. Jordan Rodriguez- Interim Track and Field Coach
- i. New Women's Basketball Coach
 - Scott Foster
- 4. Campus Environmental Health and Safety- Jeff Hammer**
 - a. No Report
- 5. University Police- Chief Amy Pedlow**
 - a. Karner Hall- New UPD location
 - Ribbon cutting held on October 24th
- 6. Other Items- Dr. Wayne Brumfield**
 - a. HESAA Professional Development Institute & Alumni Reunion
 - Held on November 7th- well attended by staff, students, and alumni
 - b. Scheduled steam repairs took place over the fall break (October 13th-14th)
 - c. Student Affairs contribution to recruitment, enrollment, and retention
- 7. Adjourn**

**Dean of Students
Organizational Structure
November 2025**





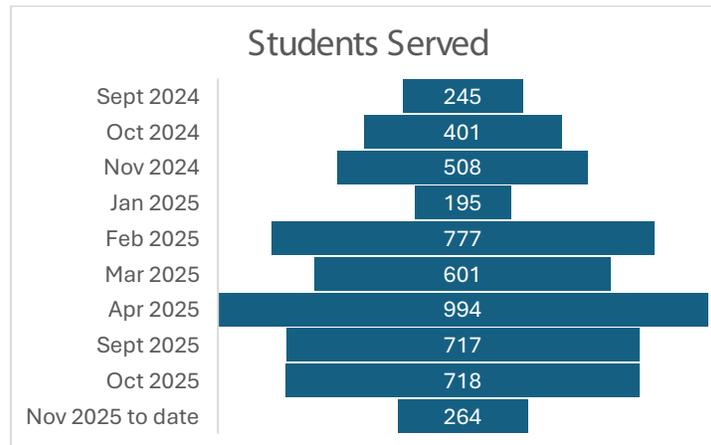
Students are experiencing increased hardship, including food insecurity, and while this has been trending, it has been exacerbated by the recent government shutdown and pause in Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. We can see that in the number of students served this semester to date (11/10/25) by week:

Weekly Reports					
Month	Weeks	Week Start	Week End	Total Pantry Visits	Total unique pantry Visits
Aug.	Week 1	8/25/2025	8/31/2025	115	99
	Week 2	9/1/2025	9/7/2025	122	102
	Week 3	9/8/2025	9/14/2025	163	126
Sept.	Week 4	9/15/2025	9/21/2025	152	121
	Week 5	9/22/2025	9/28/2025	162	133
	Week 6	9/29/2025	10/5/2025	109	90
	Week 7	10/6/2025	10/12/2025	158	123
Oct.	Week 8	10/13/2025	10/19/2025	83	77
	Week 9	10/20/2025	10/26/2025	178	128
	Week 10	10/27/2025	11/2/2025	176	132
	Week 11	11/3/2025	11/9/2025	204	149
Nov.	Week 12	11/10/2025	11/16/2025	46	46
	Week 13	11/17/2025	11/23/2025	0	0
	Week 14	11/24/2025	11/30/2025	0	0
Dec.	Week 15	12/1/2025	12/7/2025	0	0
Semester Totals				1668	1326

Students can visit the pantry daily, so in addition to serving an increasing number of unique individuals, students who utilize the pantry visit more frequently.



We also see the increasing trend in the number of student served by month, since Fall 2024:



To address this need, the Office of Student Care and Support has started a number of initiatives:

- Monthly drives: we have run drives for hygiene items (focusing on inclusivity), kitchen essentials, and cleaning supplies
- Adopt-a-shelf: four departments signed up for the months of October and November to completely fill a selected shelf for the month





- Pop-hours: when able (approximately five times this semester, we have offered expanded hours to increase access to pantry services
- Multiple individual campus community members offices, and alumni have donated pantry staples, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and bags throughout the semester
- Chartwells donates unsold items approximately weekly, as well as a monthly monetary donation of 10% of TruBurger sales
- We increased frequency of donations from FeedMore WNY (formerly the Food Bank of WNY) from bi-weekly to weekly and increased the amount of supplemental stock purchased using SUNY Incremental and Foundation funding
- Increased diversity of vendors with the assistance of Purchasing to include fresh produce vendors and outreached to local farms and markets for both donations and wholesale/bulk purchasing options
- Twice this semester we have brought in a Nutrition Outreach Education Program representative from FeedMore WNY to assist students enrolling in SNAP
- We have worked with FeedMore to offer information about other pantries and social services available to students in the local community and my students have pushed this information out via social media, email lists, conversations with students, and passive marketing
- Partnered with the International Student Office to host a spice drive during their event on 11/18/25
- Created a Holiday Care Package program where students can sign up to receive holiday meals. As of 11/11/25 we have 28 students express interest, 11 of which have been enrolled (we are meeting with each student individually to determine need and connect with additional resources if necessary). We have 19 donors from the campus community

The Office of Student Care and Support and Milligan's Food Pantry remain committed to providing as much assistance as possible to our students and to contribute to the goals and values of our campus community.

BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 1, 2025 MEETING
HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Attendees:

- Committee members Linda Dobmeier, Mo Sumbundu and Bob Zak
- Buffalo State University (“BSU”) leadership members David Loreto and Amitra Wall

Meeting summary:

Amitra and David had provided a presentation and related materials to the Committee members in advance of the meeting.

Amitra began the meeting by commenting on professional development activity for the faculty and staff. The meeting materials included a spreadsheet of available development opportunities, with Amitra noting that participation varied by offering. Though there are no requirements of faculty and staff to participate, she felt opportunities to participate were sufficient. She noted that the Deans, AVP for HR, and the Provost’s office had picked up the work required to continue to provide the offerings when a dedicated position in Academic Affairs was eliminated. She mentioned additional Buffalo State opportunities for professional development during Winterim session in January and Pedagogical week in May. She noted that there are SUNY-system wide workshops available for faculty and staff between December 8-12.

The Committee then reviewed a SUNY-wide initiative, Academic Momentum, designed to improve persistence and completion. Amitra discussed BSU’s performance on eight metrics compiled by SUNY, along with interim improvement targets for BSU on its way to achieving higher targets set by SUNY for comprehensive institutions. David noted the SUNY-provided metrics were from a couple of years ago, and improvement had taken place since then. The Committee then reviewed some of the barriers to persistence and completion, as identified through voluntary “exit” surveys by students. The reasons given for non-completion were varied, including financial capacity and various “life circumstances”. SUNY’s programming targeted at improving persistence and completion will complement BSU’s support and guidance initiatives, which include academic (i.e. Degree Maps) and non-academic (financial aid) tactics. The strategies largely attempt to bridge the readiness gap experience by many new students.

David then reviewed projections for Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 enrollment. Spring enrollment will follow the typical trend of attrition from Fall enrollment, and will be slightly lower than Spring 2025, consistent with the slight decrease in enrollment from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. David noted that BSU continues to attempt to retain the over 1200 Fall 2025 students who are eligible and have not yet registered for Spring 2026. In addition, efforts continue to assist the over 800 students who have financial issues that prevent them from registering.

Fall 2026 enrollment is trending positively, with applications, admissions and deposits up over the comparable prior year period due to a variety of initiatives. Enrollment for both periods has been challenged by the geo-political environment, resulting in significant percentage decreases in international student interest. The challenge in attracting international students is affecting all higher education institutions, including SUNY university centers, and is resulting in a more challenging competitive environment for comprehensive institutions like BSU.

David then reviewed enrollment projections developed by SUNY that project essentially flat enrollment for BSU over the next five years. David was hopeful that based on recent improvements in certain persistence metrics, BSU enrollment could exceed the SUNY projection.

David then reviewed several Direct Admission strategies, including BSU's work with the Buffalo Public Schools and a SUNY program slated for the 2027 year.

It was the sense of the Committee that progress on enrollment continues to be made, enabling BSU to offset the intensification of competition for domestic students and the looming unfavorable demographic trends.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Zak