

**Buffalo State College**  
**College Senate By-Laws and Elections Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Review of Board of Trustees Policies and Governance Structure at**  
**Other SUNY Institutions**

**Preface by Anthony Hotchkiss:**

The following is based on the research carried out by Slade Gellin on the status and structure of the senates at the SUNY institutions. The research was done as part of the BLE reconceptualization subcommittee's effort to review the SUNY Board of Trustees Policies and the composition of the SUNY governance entities at the comprehensive colleges and university centers.

It is clear that there are as many governance structures as there are institutions within SUNY. In particular it has been established that there are no restrictions on the structure and composition of governance entities. For example, it is permissible to include or exclude any unit within the organization. One of the consequences of this is that the CSEA employees may be part of the governance structure. Another consequence is that there are no overarching guidelines to be gleaned from a survey of the other SUNY institutions.

In light of the above, it is incumbent upon us at Buffalo State College to determine our own destiny with regard to restructuring our Senate.

**Introduction:**

This is a preliminary review of the governance structure of the various four-year campuses of SUNY. The review focuses on Senate structure. The sources of information are the various links provided on the website <http://governance.g333.com/bylaws.html>.

There are several general trends:

- College senate function and structure is described as a subset of more general faculty by-laws. Many of these schools have officers elected by the faculty at large, who then serve on the Senate (a separate body). Some schools, particularly the Technology colleges, do not have a separate Senate, but have an executive committee of the faculty.
- Where specific constituencies are defined, the general policy is one person, one constituency.
- Many schools have complex representative formulas for determining numbers of senators from a given constituency.
- Most schools try to echo the BOT policies on voting faculty.
- The university senators are members of the college senate.

**BOT**

**Voting Faculty:** Chancellor  
President of the college  
Academic staff (those holding academic rank + librarians)  
Other officers of administration + staff members of the college as may be specified by the faculty by-laws of the college.

**University Senate:** Representation based on number of staff at individual college; not less than one.

**Albany**

**Voting Faculty:** Professionals included

**College Senate:** President and upper administrators – ex-officio (voting)  
10 At Large – 4 FT teaching, 4 FT professionals, 2 PT teaching  
44 from schools, by a proportionality formula, and library  
15 students – UG/Grad in proportion to enrollment; includes the presidents of the USA, GSA, student senate

**Binghamton**

**Voting Faculty:** Faculty and librarians only

**College Senate:** Formulas based on number of members in a unit  
University senator  
1 Professional – non-voting liaison  
1 Grad student – non-voting liaison  
1 UG student – non-voting liaison

**UB**

**Voting Faculty:** Faculty and librarians only

**College Senate:** 1% of voting faculty, but not less than 15;  
Divided up by units – each deanship, librarians, “other”  
University senators  
Officers of the voting faculty

**Stony Brook:**

**College Senate:** Each department with 6 or more FT faculty – 1 each  
Equal number of At Large, apportioned among 3 schools  
Past president of the Senate  
Upper administration, ex-officio, non-voting  
UG students = 10% of voting faculty senators  
Grad students = 8% of voting faculty senators  
Professionals = 15% of voting faculty senators  
University senators

Any deanship/directorship outside of the 3 schools chooses to be affiliated with one of the 3 schools

**Brockport**

**Voting Faculty:** At least 0.5 FTE as an administrative officer, professional employee, librarian or academic faculty; no grad assistants

**College Senate:** Academic departments – 1 each  
Administrative units – 1 each  
6 At Large  
President – ex-officio, non-voting  
University senator – ex-officio, non-voting (unless elected separately to senate from a constituency)  
UUP president or designee  
Student government president – non-voting  
3 other UG students  
1 other Grad student

**BSC**

**College Senate:** 6 from each school  
6 from professional staff  
1 librarian  
12 students  
9 at large  
2 university senators  
President, 3 VP's – ex-officio, non-voting  
2 presidential appointees – non-voting

**Cortland**

(Source: Report on Ad-Hoc Committee on Restructuring)

**College Senate:** 9 from School 1  
4 from School 2  
2 from School 3  
3 from professional staff  
6 from other FT academics (1 librarian, chair, vice-chair and secretary of faculty, graduate faculty, university senator)  
7 others (treasurer of faculty (a professional staff member), 1 management confidential, 3 students, 1 P/T faculty, 1 CSEA)

**Fredonia**

**College Senate:** Faculty  
Staff (including librarians)  
6 UG students, including president of SA  
Ex-officio: president, upper administration, university senator, "governance officer"

**Geneseo**

**College Senate:** University senator  
President and upper administration  
“Administrative faculty” – 8 from different administrative units  
16 students  
Teaching faculty – formulas based on numbers in individual departments  
Total – between 85 & 100

**New Paltz**

**Voting Faculty:** Chancellor, president, FT academic staff (including librarians), FT professional staff

**College Senate:** Divided by school (5) but not uniformly  
1 librarian  
6 professional staff  
5 students (1 from each school)  
Administration, ex-officio  
University senator, ex-officio

**Old Westbury**

**College Senate:** 1 from each academic program  
1 librarian  
5 at large from voting faculty  
University senator  
1 from each faculty committee, elected from that committee  
3 students  
3 professional  
President and VPs – ex-officio, non-voting

**Oneonta:**

**College Senate:** 1 for every 5 members in a department (both faculty and professional staff)  
President (voting)  
President of SA (voting)  
Students = 11% of faculty membership

**Oswego**

Cannot get into their Senate website.

**Plattsburgh**

**College Senate:** 1 from each academic department  
1 from each “professional” department  
2 At Large  
Chair of the Senate

Ex-officio, non-voting: presiding officer of the faculty (separate office), President, 3 VP's, SA representative

**Potsdam**

**Voting Faculty:** BOT list + anyone in "unclassified" service

**College Senate:** Representatives down to the department level based on number of faculty, with PT faculty counting as 0.5  
10 At large: 5 with > 5 years experience, 5 with < 5 years experience  
University senator  
Chairs of standing committees of faculty

**Purchase**

**Voting Faculty:** Faculty only; executive committee of the faculty includes University senator

**College Senate:** 10 Faculty  
2 students  
2 professional staff  
3 VP's (ex-officio)  
4 Deans  
1 CSEA  
CSEA president (ex-officio)  
UUP president (ex-officio)  
1 Alumni (non-voting)  
President (ex-officio)  
2 Directors of "related agencies" (ex-officio)

**Alfred State**

**College Senate:** Note: Professionals embedded with faculty  
Representatives of each academic department, number depending on size, with adjuncts and PT faculty pro-rated  
4 At Large  
Chief academic officers, ex-officio  
University senator  
Chairs of standing committees of the faculty

**Canton**

**Voting Faculty:** BOT, including professional staff

**Executive Committee:** includes 6 non-voting students, university senator

**Cobleskill**

**Voting Faculty:** Chancellor, President, All members of the professional staff except assistant instructors, PT instructors, technical assistants and interns

**SUNYIT**

**Voting Faculty:** Chancellor, President, FT teaching faculty & librarians, VP Academic & Student Affairs, Heads of academic schools and administrative departments

**Executive Committee:** University senator (non-voting)