Stony Brook University

Arts & Sciences Senate

Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2026

12:30PM - 1:50PM

(Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

1. Meeting called to order at 12:35 PM.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

    a. President F. Jason Torre announced an amendment to the previously circulated agenda: at the Provost's request, the panel discussion with the affiliate Deans regarding space planning and undergraduate enrollment growth (originally requested via Senator True's motion) was postponed to the December 14, 2026 meeting so the Provost can lead the discussion alongside the Deans.

    b. The agenda was approved unanimously with no objections.

3. The October 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes were reviewed & approved as distributed.

4. Welcome & Remarks from A&S Senate President, F. Jason Torre

    a. Provost Meeting (December 14): Provost Lejuez and the affiliate Deans (David Wrobel, Karim Boughida, Karin Wilkins, and Interim VP Benedict Robinson) will join the December 14 meeting for a one-hour discussion on student growth and space planning. Advance questions submitted by Senator John True have been forwarded to the Provost's Office.

    b. Exam Scheduling & Communications: The Executive Committee is coordinating with Interim VP Benedict Robinson and the Provost's Office to send standardized mid-semester/pre-finals reminders regarding exam scheduling policies without overwhelming faculty email inboxes.

    c. P&T Guidelines Coordination: Distribution of the updated A&S PTC Guidelines is being coordinated with the release of the Provost's Stony Brook Guidelines between Thanksgiving and the end of the semester to avoid confusion, taking effect for the 2027 cycle. President F. Jason Torre

affirmed that A&S guidelines remain the primary standard for A&S faculty while aligning with the Provost's baseline expectations.

d. Joint Deans/Executive Committee Meeting: Scheduled for 11/20/26 and will cover curriculum processes/systems, AI impacts on faculty, library updates, and workplace civility/well-being.

e. Standing Committee Restructuring: Previewed plans to transition the Committee for Advocacy and Shared Governance into a Rules Committee to handle bylaws, parliamentary procedure, and jurisdictional review, while ensuring appropriate recognition for committee service.

f. Officer Nominations & Elections: Using Chair's prerogative in consultation with University Senate leadership, officer nominations were opened early (effective this meeting through the first February 2027 meeting). Shyam Sharma has accepted the nomination for A&S Senate President. Nominations remain open to the full body for President and Vice President/President-Elect.

5. Discussion: Stony Brook Guidelines on Promotion & Tenure Impact - 2nd Reading & Voting

    a. A&S PTC Guidelines Updates & Bylaws Amendments
        i. The four proposed amendments distributed in advance were reviewed. One minor editorial item (confirming external letter counts between 5 and 6) will be finalized with the Provost's Office.

        ii. Suggested Amendments
            - PTC-J Expedited Reviews: Proposed expanding PTC-J's charge to review expedited promotion/tenure applications at Associate level to balance workload with PTC-S.
            - PTC-S Associate Member Term: Proposed reducing the term of the associate member on PTC-S from 3 years to 2 years.
            - Section 2.4.3.5 Language & Renumbering: Proposed splitting Section 2.4.3.5 into two sections (2.4.3.5 and 2.4.3.6, renumbering subsequent sections) and re-inserting previously omitted language recognizing excellence and high-impact teaching/curriculum development.
            - Timeline Proposal (Affiliate Deans' Submission Date): Proposed aligning all A&S Senate affiliate Deans' submission deadlines to a single date (September 15) beginning with the 2027–2028 review cycle (moving mandatory associate/tenure reviews from December 15 to

September 15 to allow adequate review time across all levels).

b. Votes on Motions (conducted via zoom polling):
    i. Vote on Motion 1: PTC-J Charge Amendment (to permit PTC-J to review expedited reviews at the associate level) – Approved at 100% (35 In Favor).

    ii. Vote on Motion 2: Article 12 Amendment (PTC-S Term) (to reduce the PTC-S associate member term from 3 years to 2 years) – Approved at 100% (34 In Favor, 1 Abstain).

    iii. Vote on Motion 3: PTC Guidelines Amendment (to amend and split Section 2.4.3.5 and renumber subsequent sections) – Approved at 97.1% (34 In Favor, 1 Opposed).

    iv. Vote on Motion 4: Affiliate Dean's Submission Date (to align all A&S affiliate Deans' submission dates to September 15 starting in the Fall 2027 cycle) – Approved at 94.1% (32 In Favor, 2 Opposed, 1 Abstain).

6. No Old Business

7. New Business

    a. Proposed Transformation of the Advocacy Committee into a Rules Committee
        i. A preliminary draft charge for transitioning the Committee for Advocacy and Shared Governance into a Rules Committee was shared (covering Robert's Rules of Order, jurisdictional review, election integrity, and systemic escalation).

        ii. A senator noted that the draft charge appeared to omit the committee's advocacy and outreach functions—such as educating new senators on their roles and encouraging broader participation—and asked whether those responsibilities would be retained or reassigned.
            - The committee co-chair noted that the committee (now at 4 members) met recently and discussed preserving the advocacy component. The committee will review the draft Rules Committee charge at its next meeting in two weeks, integrate advocacy elements, and present a revised proposal ahead of the December A&S Senate meeting.

b. Course Accessibility & Late Evening Exam Scheduling
    i. President F. Jason Torre presented an item submitted by a student senator regarding transportation challenges for commuter students relying on the LIRR after late evening exams. Discussion highlights included:
        - Departmental Policies & Makeups
            a. A senator noted that equivalent makeups are offered for students with extreme commutes, though in-person exams remain mandatory for academic integrity.
            b. Other senators emphasized that common evening exam dates are posted in registration notes and students are responsible for avoiding course/exam conflicts, though occasional scheduling overlaps with evening classes or Health Sciences courses were noted.
        - Alternative Solutions Discussed: Senators and Deans emphasized that no formal proposals were being adopted and engaged in preliminary brainstorming around potential options, including offering proctored exams at Stony Brook's Manhattan locations, coordinating shuttle service to the Ronkonkoma LIRR station (noting that Stony Brook previously operated hourly evening buses to both Ronkonkoma and New York City), advocating with the LIRR for better Port Jefferson branch schedules, and moving common exams to Saturday.
            a. It was noted that Saturday exams would create religious observance conflicts for observant Jewish students.

8. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM

In Attendance (52)

Adryan Wallace
Ahmad Pratama
Andreas Mayr
Andrew Flescher
Andrew Nicholson
Benedict Robinson
Benjamin Tausig
Braden Brinkman
Carla Caglioti
Caterina Reed
Ceania Gonzales
Chris Bill
Christine Fena
Christopher Percival
David Wrobel
Deirdre Dolan
Diane Bello
Erika Supria Honisch
F. Jason Torre
Frederick Walter
Jacques Keubeung Fokou
James Rossie
Jennifer Young
Joanna Kiryluk
John True
Jonathan Sanders
Kaitlin Giglio
Karim Boughida
Karin Wilkins
Katherine Johnston
Kathleen De Riesthal
Krishna Veeramah
Kristina Lucenko
Laurel Scheinfeld
Marissa Levien
Michael Boerner
Miriam Rafailovich
Moira Chas
Odalis Hernandez
Paula Di Pasquale-Alvarez
Robert Aller
Robert Gerath
Rosabel Ansari
Sara Santos
Shyam Sharma
Sophie Leroy
Sunny Chung
Theresa Spadola
Tracey Iorio
Vick Quezada
Vitaly Citovsky
Zebulon Miletsky