



Stony Brook
University

Office of the Provost

University Senate Report
February 5, 2024

Initiatives

- **Resource Guide for Navigating Academic Harassment:** The Provost's Office and Enterprise Risk Management partner closely when faculty and academics are targeted for their scholarship. Often known as trolling, these events take the form of harassment and doxxing across multiple venues – usually on social media, email, forums, and watchlist websites. As a further measure to support the academic community when they are targeted, these two offices are engaging a faculty work group to partner in creating a resource guide that will be publicly available on the Provost's Office website. Faculty who are interested in participating are encouraged to email provost@stonybrook.edu. The group will meet a few times over the course of the spring semester to consider what resources are most useful and how the university can best promote awareness about these resources in the academic community.
- **Time Periods:** The Fall 2024 schedule building is under way, using the model developed through the Time Vectors Committee. The Office of the Registrar is working with campus partners, including Mobility & Parking Services, and FSA on any adjustments needed to their services based on the new time periods. The Registrar's Office will begin reviewing department schedule entries to determine any other further adjustments needed based on adapting to the revised time periods.

Leadership Appointments

- **Senior Associate Provosts:** Following extensive consultation with multiple leadership bodies, including University Senate, the Provost's Office announced that the interim leaders of the provostial divisions of Enrollment Management, Global Affairs, and Undergraduate Education would take on the permanent leadership role for their respective divisions. Each leader will take on the title of Senior Associate Provost: Richard Beatty, Senior Associate Provost for Enrollment Management; Rachelle Germana, Senior Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education; and Lindsy Walker, Senior Associate Provost for Global Affairs. These leaders have demonstrated exceptional skill in managing the activities of their respective areas; appointing them as the permanent leaders of their respective divisions allows Stony Brook to maintain current trajectory and strategy in their areas and retain institutional knowledge each of these leaders possesses. Further, the budgetary savings from not filling the vacant vice provost roles will be re-invested fully in each unit to address crucial service needs.

Academic Programs

- **Recently approved programs:**
 - Biochemistry BS Revision (01/24)
- The Provost's Office has received several departmental requests to formally deactivate the programs listed below. Deactivations are internal to SUNY and limited in duration to no more than three years, by which time the programs must be reactivated or discontinued.
 - BA in Ecosystems and Human Impact
 - BA in Environmental Humanities
 - MS & AGC in Medical Molecular Biology
 - AGC in Nutrition
 - MS in Occupational Therapy

Faculty Development

- **Provost's Lectures Series:** As previously announced, the [Provost's Lecture Series](#) now features SUNY Distinguished Academy faculty members to share their research and scholarship with the Stony Brook University community. The second event of the academic year is on February 6 at 3:30 p.m. (Wang Center Theatre). The lectures will highlight Professors Mary Jo Bona of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Judith Crowell of Psychiatry. We encourage the University community to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in upcoming events.

Please also consider the other two new programs to invite scholarly guest speakers, the [Provost Spotlight Talk](#), and Provost-Sponsored Talks. Please visit our [Provost's Lectures and Talks webpage](#) to learn about these programs and how to engage in them.

- **Emerging Leaders:** This program created to foster the development of the next generation of higher-education leaders in research, education, and administration had its networking event with Dean Marshik from the Graduate School as guest speaker on December 5. Upcoming events include a second workshop on Communication: Navigating Difficult Conversations.
- **Excellence in Teaching Program:** This program includes a series of workshops and hands-on activities focusing on teaching and learning. The next session about Innovative and Experiential Teaching will take place on March 1.
- **Navigating Stony Brook University:** This program for early career faculty, will offer a networking event on February 8 with Dr. García Díaz, Interim Vice President for OVP as guest speaker.
- **Academic Staff Workshop on Reappointments Process:** A workshop on the reappointment process was held on January 25. This workshop was an opportunity to present new features, updates and advantages of the process and talk about best

practices and receive feedback from the academic units.

- **COACHE** (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education): The [six subcommittees](#) have prepared and submitted a report with the findings and recommendations about each of the identified topics. We are in a phase of compiling a final report that should be finalized and shared later in the Spring semester. For more information, please visit the [SBU COACHE webpage](#).

Academic Affairs

- **Promotion & Tenure:** We recently published new [Provost's Guidelines on Promotion and Tenure](#), including the four areas of change discussed in this body and elsewhere.
- **Course Evaluation Review:** Last spring, a group of faculty were convened to review and potentially modify our course evaluation questions. We are collecting feedback from faculty and instructors to inform this process. Please [share your thoughts on our course evaluation questions](#).
- **CELT's Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium** will be held on Friday, April 12th. The theme is Innovative Pedagogy and [registration](#) is now open!
- The [Teaching Milestone Program](#) is a CELT initiative that offers a diverse range of workshops, courses, and experiences that provide teaching development for faculty and instructional staff. Email celt@stonybrook.edu for more information.
- **AI Events:** Join CELT for a panel on [AI and Ethics](#) or another [upcoming event!](#)

Enrollment Management

- **Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services:**
 - Changes with the FAFSA and the US Department of Education's ability to provide FAFSA information to schools will delay financial aid packages to students. Current target is mid to late March.
- **Registrar's Office:**
 - Spring 2024 semester start date was January 22
 - Late Registration ended February 2
 - Final Enrollment (snap shot) for Spring 2024, Day 15 (close of business), February 9
 - Spring Recess, March 11-17
- **Undergraduate Admissions :**
 - Our regular decision application deadline was January 15, 2024. As of the writing of this update we have exceeded the total number of applications received last year. Of the growth, we have seen growth in domestic out of state residents, and international residents also exceeding where we ended last year. All colleges

have experienced growth in applications year to date. While our systems and SUNY systems continue to update we anticipate that there will be nominal changes to these counts in the coming weeks.

- Planning is underway for two on campus 'Admitted Seawolf Day' programs, formerly called Admitted Student Visit Day. This year these programs will be held on March 23 and April 6.
- Planning is also underway for new programs designed for admitted students in select non-resident and international markets.

Undergraduate Education

- **Spring 2024 Student Progress Reports** will launch on Wednesday, February 21 and will run through Wednesday, March 20. Faculty feedback through progress reports is important for activating a network of support for students who may be having difficulty in class. Fall 2023 represented the highest faculty participation rate (67%) since the University began progress reports nearly 9 years ago. Not all instructors will receive a progress report request every semester, but you can provide feedback on students at any time. More information can be found in the [progress report FAQs](#).

Graduate School

- **Mentor-Mentee compacts** will be piloted in the spring semester. These documents guide research mentors and their graduate students through structured conversations to develop agreements around the working relationship and to surface assumptions that might otherwise cause friction. Degree programs interested in joining the pilot are encouraged to contact Elizabeth Boon, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives
- Students who take **TA Training**, offered in cooperation with CELT, now have the option to register for GRD 697, a 0-credit course, and thus have their pedagogical training recorded on their transcript.
- A retreat on **Supporting Underrepresented Students in STEM Graduate Programs** was held on January 16. Sessions included a presentation on the SBU graduate student experience, a panel highlighting interventions by programs on campus, and a closing workshop on developing an action item to improve program climates.

Global Affairs

- OGA hosted a **delegation from the Stony Brook Institute at Anhui University**, where SBIAHU faculty, deans, and administrators had an opportunity to see our campus, meet with relevant faculty and administrators, and engage with our 43 SBIAHU students at SBU.
- Approximately **75 students studied abroad for the winter 2024** term through IAP in countries such as Ireland, Italy, Tanzania, Ecuador, Madagascar, Korea. Students studying in Tanzania were delighted to spend time with the Provost during his visit to our

program in Tanzania.

- Visa and Immigration Services successfully facilitated a **visit and campus review from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)** within the US Department of Homeland Security.

Institutional and Educational Effectiveness

- **Middle States Accreditation Site Visit, April 7-10:** The site visit team will be on campus Sunday April 7 through Wednesday, April 10. Please be alert for information requests and also please be flexible with your schedule to accommodate meeting requests before and during this time.
- **Program Assessment Reports** are due on February 23, 2024. Programs should assess one program learning objective and report assessment data in their pre-populated report templates.
 - Because of the upcoming Middle State Re-Accreditation visit in April, it is of great importance to the University that all reports are submitted on time.
 - For more information, visit the [OEE website](#).
- Nominate a colleague for the **Excellence in Educational Effectiveness award!** In collaboration with the Provost's Office and the OEE, the SBU Assessment Council is currently accepting nominations for faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants who demonstrate a commitment to educational effectiveness. Learn more about the [nomination requirements here](#). Nominations are due by March 1, 2024. Award recipients will be recognized at the annual Assessment Recognition Event later in the Spring semester.
- Eight departments/programs are participating in the [Department/Program Review process](#) during the 2023-24 academic year. As part of this process, non-accredited programs submit a self-study and conduct a site visit with selected external evaluators, as required by [university policy](#). We are grateful to the areas that have agreed to serve as our inaugural participants in Cohort 1: Applied Health Informatics, Applied Mathematics & Statistics, Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Biomedical Informatics, Economics, English, Marine Sciences, and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies.