



From the Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions, September 4, 2024

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 | VOL 71 ISSUE 5 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-5](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-5)) |
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The following is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Among other purposes, the publication of SEC actions is intended to stimulate discussion among the constituencies and their representatives. Please communicate your comments to Patrick Walsh, executive assistant to the Senate Office, by email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu (<mailto:senate@pobox.upenn.edu>).

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Welcome and Introductions. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman offered a brief review of the Senate and its structure. Professor Feldman discussed the priorities of the tri-chairs in the year ahead, which are also detailed in an August 27, 2024, letter published in *Almanac* (<https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-3/#welcome-back-from-the-faculty-senate-chair-v71-n3>).

Issues Requiring a Vote. Following discussion and vote, the following matters were adopted:

- The 2024-2025 Hearing List for the Center for Community Standards and Accountability, by a vote of 44 in favor and 2 opposed;
- The 2024-2025 Hearing List for the Faculty Grievance Commission, by a vote of 44 in favor and 2 opposed;
- The Faculty Membership on the 2024-2025 Committee on Open Expression, by a vote of 40 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions; and
- The Draft Charges for Senate Standing Committees, 2024-2025, by unanimous vote.

In addition, SEC members voted unanimously to add the newly established department of cinema and media studies to constituency 7 of the Senate Executive Committee, which also includes the departments of classical studies, French & Francophone, Italian, & German studies, Russian & East European studies, and Spanish & Portuguese.

SEC members were notified about the status of two select committees. CIRCE (the Committee on the Institutional Response to the Climate Emergency) will remain active during 2024-2025 to be chaired by William Braham. CIRCE: Medicine, previously a subcommittee of CIRCE, will be an independent select committee co-chaired by Misha Rosenbach and associated faculty members Farah Hussain and Hari Shankar.

Fall and Spring Symposium Ideas. Professor Feldman invited ideas on how to build upon the spring 2024 “roundtables” (<https://facultysenate.upenn.edu/events/2023-2024-events/>) on issues of fundamental

importance to higher education. (A summary of the April 2024 event was featured in a recent *Penn Gazette* article (<https://thepenngazette.com/open-or-closed-expression/>)). Ideas may be shared via the Senate Office (<http://senate@pobox.upenn.edu>).

Update from the Office of the Senior Executive Vice President. Senior Executive Vice President Craig Carnaroli and Vice President for Budget Planning and Analysis Trevor Lewis discussed the context and potential implications of Penn's relationships with federal and state governments.

Update from the Office of the General Counsel. Senior Vice President and General Counsel Wendy White and Associate General Counsel Sean Burke discussed the ways that Penn is responding to information requests from the U.S. Congress.



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From the Faculty Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions, October 16, 2024

OCTOBER 22, 2024 | VOL 71 ISSUE 11 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-11](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-11)) |
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Tri-Chairs' Report. Professor Feldman reported that, upon request from the Center for Community Standards and Accountability (CSA), a supplemental Hearing List of 39 faculty names was conveyed to CSA earlier this month. Professor Feldman also announced that candidates for the 2025 Senate Nominating Committee are sought.

Update from the Office of the Provost. Provost John Jackson discussed the recently concluded search for a Vice Provost for Climate Science, Policy, and Action (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/michael-mann-appointed-vice-provost-climate-science-policy-and-action-penn>), the ongoing search for a Vice Provost for the Arts, and upcoming searches for Vice Provosts for Education and Research. He also discussed the current searches for a dean of Arts & Sciences as well as a dean of the Perelman School of Medicine and EVP of UPHS. Provost Jackson then discussed the recently established Penn AI Council (<https://research.upenn.edu/news/provosts-office-announces-penn-ai-council/>), offered a progress report from the Task Force on Open Expression (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/faculty-led-task-force-charged-reviewing-guidelines-open-expression>), and invited applications for Draw Down the Lightning grants (<https://president.upenn.edu/initiatives/draw-down-lightning-grants>). He responded to questions posed by SEC members.

Moderated Internal Discussion. Professor Feldman led SEC members in discussion on several topics, including planning for a series of spring 2025 seminars on "The Future of American Universities: Finance, Politics, and the Value of Higher Education." Discussion then turned to the impact that artificial intelligence is having on university life, within the classroom, and on the environment.



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From the Faculty Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions

NOVEMBER 26, 2024 | **VOL 71 ISSUE 16 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-16](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-16))** | **GOVERNANCE** | **PRINT**

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman sought suggestions for areas of focus at upcoming meetings.

Update from the Office of the President. Interim President J. Larry Jameson offered progress reports on several matters: the implementation of *In Principle and Practice* (<https://in-principle-and-practice.upenn.edu/>), the recent groundbreaking for the Student Performing Arts Center, the dedication of Amy Gutmann Hall (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/dedication-penn-amy-gutmann-hall-celebrated>), and construction of the Ott Center for Track and Field (<https://facilities.upenn.edu/maps/locations/Ott-Center-for-Track-and-Field>). He discussed the University Values (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/announcements/words-guide-us>) statement resulting from the recommendations of both the Presidential Commission on Countering Hate and Building Community (<https://president.upenn.edu/initiatives/presidential-commission>) and the University Task Force on Antisemitism (<https://antisemitism-action-plan.upenn.edu/home>). Interim President Jameson then responded to questions.

Issues Requiring a Vote. Professor Emily Steinlight, chair of the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF), presented three proposals to SEC following unanimous endorsement of each proposal within SCOF.

- *Proposal to add the advanced senior lecturer track and increase the cumulative cap on advanced senior lecturers, senior lecturers, and lecturers in Educational Practice to 40% of the standing faculty in the Graduate School of Education.* Following discussion, a straw poll was taken, which indicated that a vote on the proposal should proceed. The final vote on the proposal, among those present, was 34 in favor and two opposed, with four abstentions.
- *Proposal to increase the cap on senior lecturers from 20% to 30% of the standing faculty in the Weitzman School of Design.* Following discussion, a straw poll was taken, which indicated that a vote on the proposal should proceed. The final vote on the proposal, among those present, was 32

in favor and two opposed, with six abstentions.

- *Proposal to increase the cap on clinician educators from 50% to 60% of the standing faculty in the School of Veterinary Medicine.* Following discussion, a straw poll was taken, which indicated that additional information was needed before a vote on the proposal could proceed. Discussion on the proposal will continue at a future meeting.

Penn Police Operations and Procedures. Kathleen Shields Anderson, Vice President for Public Safety, and Craig Carnaroli, Senior Executive Vice President, discussed the University of Pennsylvania Police Department's role in law enforcement in its designated patrol zone, its relationship with the Philadelphia Police Department, and the process by which search warrants are obtained and executed within the patrol zone. They responded to questions regarding the execution of a search warrant that occurred in October 2024.



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From the Faculty Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions

DECEMBER 17, 2024 | VOL 71 ISSUE 18 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-18](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-18)) |
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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate Chair Eric Feldman announced dates for three spring 2025 colloquia organized by the Faculty Senate on "The Future of American Universities." The first, on January 30 at 4 p.m., will examine "Higher Education and the State: Are Politicians Reshaping America's Great Universities?" The second, on February 26 at 4:30 p.m., will consider "The Value of Higher Education: Are Four Years of College Worth the Cost?" The third, on April 9 at 4:30 p.m., will address "The Future of Higher Education." More information is available on the Faculty Senate website (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities-finance-politics-and-the-value-of-higher-education/>).

Update from the Penn Libraries. H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries Brigitte Weinstein and Assistant University Librarian for Collection Strategy Holly Zerbe discussed the Libraries' strategic priorities, including expanding access to Penn scholarship by making Penn researchers' publications openly accessible at no cost to authors or readers (at the option of the author). These efforts are intended to ensure wider dissemination and citation of Penn scholarship, aid in the democratization of access to knowledge, enhance global research collaboration, and comply with mandates from funding agencies. Libraries staff welcome opportunities (<https://www.library.upenn.edu/services/navigate-publishing-process>) to support faculty members in understanding Open Access, navigating the publishing process, identifying journals and publishers with which to publish, and transitioning journals from commercial to nonprofit publishers. A list of open access agreements (<https://guides.library.upenn.edu/penn-oa-agreements>) is available on the Penn Libraries website.

Update from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Senior vice provost for research Dawn Bonnell and associate vice provost for research Michael Borda discussed strategic initiatives in data science and artificial intelligence. In Principle and Practice (<https://in-principle-and-practice.upenn.edu/>), Penn's strategic framework, describes Penn's goal to "lead in data-driven research, teaching, and applications while cultivating leading expertise on how society can develop and deploy powerful technologies beneficially and justly." This year, the Penn AI Council (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/>

introducing-penn-ai-council) was launched, Amy Gutmann Hall (<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/dedication-penn-amy-gutmann-hall-celebrated>), dedicated to data science and AI, was opened, the Exploring New Frontiers in AI at Penn (<https://ai.upenn.edu/>) website was introduced, and the Penn Advanced Research Computing Center (<https://research.upenn.edu/parcc/>) (PARCC) was created as a shared generalist research computing center for all twelve schools.



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JANUARY 28, 2025 | **VOL 71 ISSUE 21 ([HTTPS://ALMANAC.UPENN.EDU/VOLUME-71-NUMBER-21](https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-71-number-21))** |
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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman reminded Faculty Senate members of three spring 2025 colloquia organized by the Faculty Senate on "The Future of American Universities." The first, on January 30 at 4 p.m., will examine "Higher Education and the State: Are Politicians Reshaping America's Great Universities?" The second, on February 26 at 4:30 p.m., will consider "The Value of Higher Education: Are Four Years of College Worth the Cost?" The third, on April 9, at 4:30 p.m., will address "The Future of Higher Education." More information is available on the Faculty Senate website (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities-finance-politics-and-the-value-of-higher-education/>).

Proposal from the School of Veterinary Medicine to Increase the Cap on Clinician Educators in the School from 50% to 60% of the Standing Faculty. Olena Jacenko, associate dean of faculty affairs at the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), elaborated on the school's proposal, which was first raised during the November 2024 SEC meeting.

Following a robust discussion, the proposal was called to question. SEC members rejected the proposal, by vote among those present of one in favor without conditions added, 14 in favor with a condition added that the school's faculty numbers be audited every five years, and 25 opposed, with one abstention.

Discussion of the Challenges Facing Higher Education and How to Respond. SEC members identified a set of challenges currently facing Penn and higher education and expressed a commitment to work with University administration and with peer institutions to combat threats posed by those challenges. Issues identified included threats to academic freedom and pedagogical independence; federal defunding of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; reduction in research funding opportunities from federal agencies; changes in immigration policies affecting students and faculty; increasing attack on faculty protections through tenure; and effectively communicating the value of higher education to the public.



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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate Chair Eric Feldman reminded Faculty Senate members that the second of three spring 2025 colloquia on "The Future of American Universities" will be held on February 26 at 4:30 p.m. and will focus on "The Price of Knowledge: Is a College Degree Worth the Cost?" A recording of the first colloquium, "Higher Education and the State: Are Politicians Reshaping America's Great Universities?," is now available on the Faculty Senate website (<https://facultysenate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities-finance-politics-and-the-value-of-higher-education/>).

2025 Senate Nominating Committee. A slate of proposed members of the 2025 Senate Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

Update from David Asch, Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, and Beth Winkelstein, Deputy Provost. Vice President Asch and Deputy Provost Winkelstein shared progress updates on the *In Principle and Practice* strategic framework and the recommendations of the Task Force on Antisemitism and the Presidential Commission on Building Community and Countering Hate.

Open Expression Task Force. Task Force co-chairs Lisa Bellini and Sigal Ben-Porath shared recommended revisions to the Guidelines on Open Expression that are currently in draft form. Similar discussions will soon take place with other campus stakeholder groups. The principles have been endorsed both by the Task Force and the Committee on Open Expression.



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From the Faculty Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Special Meeting

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Special Meeting Friday, February 28, 2025

Meeting Announcement. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman announced a special meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee by email on Thursday, February 20, 2025, to be held on Friday, February 28, 2025, for the purposes of information exchange and discussion of current events on campus.

Meeting Discussion. Professor Feldman led Senate Executive Committee members in a wide-ranging discussion of the most immediate challenges facing the Penn community and higher education.



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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman reminded Faculty Senate members that the third of three spring 2025 colloquia on "The Future of American Universities" is on April 9 at 4:30 p.m. and will focus on "[Higher Education Under Siege: The Future of the Four-Year Degree](https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/the-opening-of-the-american-mind-higher-education-in-the-future/) (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/the-opening-of-the-american-mind-higher-education-in-the-future/>). Attendance is open to the public, and Penn faculty and students are especially encouraged to participate. Recordings of the first two colloquia, "[Higher Education and the State: Are Politicians Reshaping America's Great Universities?](https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/higher-education-and-the-state-are-politicians-reshaping-americas-great-universities/)" (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/higher-education-and-the-state-are-politicians-reshaping-americas-great-universities/>) and "[The Price of Knowledge: Is a College Degree Worth the Cost?](https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/the-price-of-knowledge-is-a-college-degree-worth-the-cost/)" (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-american-universities/the-price-of-knowledge-is-a-college-degree-worth-the-cost/>), are available on the Faculty Senate website.

2025 Senate Nominating Committee. A slate of proposed members of the 2025 Senate Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted.

Proposed Resolution on Shared Governance and Graduate Admissions. Seven SEC members submitted via email and with sufficient notice in advance of the meeting a proposed "Resolution on Shared Governance and Graduate Admissions." Upon motion and second made, SEC members debated the proposal. Following debate, the proposal will be revised and resubmitted to SEC for its further consideration.

Discussion with Ramanan Raghavendran, Chair of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Penn Trustees chair Ramanan Raghavendran responded to questions posed by SEC members.

Update from the Office of the President. President J. Larry Jameson offered remarks on several topics, including the new Quaker Commitment financial aid initiative, advocacy efforts for Penn and for higher education, and the ways in which [Penn is monitoring federal policy changes](https://university-penn.edu/penn-is-monitoring-federal-policy-changes) ([https://university-](https://university-penn.edu/penn-is-monitoring-federal-policy-changes)

communications.upenn.edu/federal-government-updates) affecting higher education institutions and academic health systems. President Jameson also responded to questions from SEC members.



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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions **Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate chair Eric Feldman informed SEC members of a statement issued by the American Association of Colleges and Universities, "A Call for Constructive Engagement (<https://www.aacu.org/newsroom/a-call-for-constructive-engagement>)," which was signed by several college and university leaders, including Penn President J. Larry Jameson.

Update from the Office of the Provost. Provost John L. Jackson, Jr., responded to questions from SEC members on funding cuts, academic freedom, impacts on graduate student funding, faculty governance, the impact of attacks on DEI on students and faculty, and providing support for international students.

Proposed Resolution on Shared Governance and Graduate Admissions. A revised proposal for a "Resolution on Shared Governance and Graduate Admissions" was considered by SEC members. Following debate, a vote was conducted. The motion failed with 17 in favor, 23 against, and one abstention, by a show of hands vote.

Impact of Federal Research Funding Cuts. Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) Dean Jonathan Epstein informed SEC members about the impact that federal research funding cuts are having on the financial health of PSOM and the broader University. Penn Medicine is in a relatively strong financial position compared to many of its peers, and the unified structure of Penn Medicine with the University provides some resilience in that regard. In several instances, it is unclear why specific Federal grants have been discontinued, and it is not known to what extent additional actions may occur making financial planning difficult. PSOM officials are continuing to advocate for the protection of research funding and are in communication with peer institutions and national organizations. They are also keeping abreast of potential changes to healthcare reimbursements and are developing strategies to mitigate the impact of these changes on the Health System and the University.



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From the Faculty Senate Office: Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions **Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

Tri-Chairs' Report. Faculty Senate Chair Eric Feldman discussed the potential impacts on the University of recent political events.

Call for 2025-2026 University Council Steering Committee Representatives. SEC members were invited to self-nominate to serve as faculty representatives for the 2025-2026 University Council Steering Committee.

Senate Committee Reports. SEC members heard and discussed reports given by chairs of certain Senate committees. Committee reports will be published in a future edition of *Almanac*.

Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (SCAFR). Professor Karen Tani reported on an interpretive guidance document circulated to members of school Committees on Academic Freedom.

Joint report from the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF) and the Senate Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity (SCFDDE). Professor Emily Steinlight (for SCOF) and Professor Nelson Flores (for SCFDDE) reported on their collaborative work to address the collective interests of associated faculty and academic support staff in shared governance and professional pathways within their respective areas.

Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy (SCSEP). Professor Seema Bhatnagar reported on its review of the Charter of the Student Disciplinary System and impacts of recent federal court opinions and legislation on Penn's admissions processes.

Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty (SCESF). Professor Iouri Manovskii reported on its review of faculty compensation data it received from University leaders, including recommendations to improve the economic status of Penn faculty based on information derived from the data and their limitations.

Appreciation for Outgoing Past Chair Vivian Gadsden and Welcome and Introduction of Chair-Elect

Roy Hamilton. Professor Feldman recognized Professor Gadsden for her four years of service as a tri-chair of the Faculty Senate and presented her with a Statement of Appreciation signed individually by many SEC members. The statement is produced in full below. Professor Feldman then announced that Professor Roy Hamilton has accepted the nomination to serve as chair-elect of the Faculty Senate in 2025-2026.

Passing the Gavel. Professor Feldman introduced Professor Kathleen Brown as chair of the Faculty Senate and yielded the floor to her.

New Business. Nine SEC members introduced a proposal that SEC formally endorse a letter to President Larry Jameson and initiated by Andrea Liu, the Hepburn Professor of Physics, that had been signed by at least 650 faculty members and was delivered to the President on April 22, 2025. A brief discussion ensued about the appropriateness and timing of such an endorsement, after which Professor Brown (as Senate chair) ended discussion because of limited meeting time.

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In Appreciation of Vivian L. Gadsden's Contributions to the University of Pennsylvania Faculty Senate

Whereas the American Association of University Professors' 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities declares that "a college or university in which all the components are aware of their interdependence, of the usefulness of communication among themselves, and of the force of joint action will enjoy increased capacity to solve educational problems[;]"

Whereas the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania established a Faculty Senate in 1952 with the "power to make recommendations directly to the President, the Provost, and the Trustees, and to request reports from the University administration;"

Whereas Vivian L. Gadsden, the William T. Carter Professor of Child Development and Education, has faithfully and tirelessly served the University of Pennsylvania faculty for decades;

Whereas Professor Gadsden has not only represented the faculty but has also made important contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the areas of literacy and at-risk youth, fathers and families, intergenerational learning, and parental engagement, and has mentored countless students and junior faculty;

Whereas Professor Gadsden has gone well beyond the expectations of faculty governance by extending her term a full year and serving as past chair of the Faculty Senate twice;

Whereas Professor Gadsden's service has occurred during momentarily challenging times, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the forced resignation of Penn's president, and an historic attack on higher education;

Therefore, be it resolved, that:

We, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee of the University of Pennsylvania (<https://faculty senate.upenn.edu/governance/committees/sec/>), express our deepest gratitude to Professor Gadsden for her dedication to and stewardship of the University of Pennsylvania Faculty Senate as a tri-chair from 2021 to 2025; and

We commend Professor Gadsden for strengthening the University of Pennsylvania's commitment to public education in Philadelphia and improving the quality of life for children and families in our urban

communities.

Proposed:

Eric Feldman, Chair of the Faculty Senate [April 25, 2025]

Kathleen Brown, Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate [April 25, 2025]

Endorsed:

Faculty Senate Executive Committee [May 14, 2025]



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