



Stony Brook University

Arts & Sciences Senate Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025

11:30AM - 1:00PM

Virtual Meeting

- Call To Order at 11:30am.
- Acceptance of the Agenda
The motion to accept the agenda is carried.
- Approval of April 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
The approval of the minutes is carried.
- Opening Remarks & Welcome (J. Torre):
 - Welcomed everyone to the A&S Senate meeting.
 - Arts and Sciences will revise P&T guidelines over the summer.
 - Fall 2025-2026 Elections:
 - o VP - Shyam Sharma
 - o Pres. - Jason Torre.Since there were no other nominations for either position, both F. Jason Torre as President and Shyam Sharma as Vice President were confirmed by unanimous consent, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- Report from Dean of Libraries, K. Boughida
 - Discussed the recent changes in the Library of Congress and the Copyright Office, which he believes are part of a larger trend of defunding research.
 - Mentioned the hiring of several new staff members and the acquisition of a large endowment.
 - Expressed concern about the underfunding of libraries and the need for collective pressure to address this issue.
 - Mentioned the restoration of WorldCat FirstSearch and the completion of the strategic planning process.
- Report from Dean of SoMAS, P. Shepson:
 - Dean Shepson delivered a presentation (can be viewed [here](#)) outlining SoMAS's mission and future plans, including a forthcoming name change.

- He highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the department, its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the current challenges of operating across multiple locations, including Southampton and Flax Pond, while expressing a desire for more centralized space on the main campus.
 - Updates were provided on new faculty hires, research vessels, facilities, and partnerships.
 - Dean Shepson emphasized the importance of climate change research, growth in research expenditures, and the need to protect student support amid federal funding shifts.
 - He introduced new academic offerings, including a minor in climate solutions and a course on energy, climate, and society.
 - Strategic initiatives such as the NY Climate Exchange, the proposed Governor's Island Environmental Observatory, and the Clean Energy Master Plan were discussed.
 - Transportation inefficiencies were also noted, with a call for improved bus service.
 - The report concluded with optimism about Stony Brook's leadership potential in climate action.
- Old Business:
 - a. [Resolution in Support of Recognizing Diverse Forms of Scholarship in Consideration for Tenure and Promotion](#)
The resolution was deferred for further discussion and clarification in the fall.
 - New Business:
 - a. [Resolution on Supporting Faculty Leadership in Senate Standing Committees](#)
The resolution was deferred for further discussion and clarification in the fall.
 - Adjournment at 1:00pm.