

# SUNY University Faculty Senate Newsletter

FALL  
2024

## UFS Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee host Graduate Research Conference

The third SUNY Graduate Research Conference was held virtually on April 26, 2024. This annual conference series celebrates the research and scholarly achievements of graduate students across the SUNY system, fostering collaboration and promoting cross-campus knowledge exchange. The event was organized by the University Faculty Senate (UFS) Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee, in partnership with the Center for Professional Development (CPD), with generous support from the UFS.

This year's conference centered on the theme "Research for the Common Good in Public Higher Education" and featured two thought-provoking panels. The first panel, moderated by Distinguished Professor Tiantian Zheng, explored topics related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, while the second, moderated by Trustee Keith Landa, focused on Health and Wellness. The keynote address was delivered by Distinguished Professor Steve Faraone, and the conference included six parallel poster sessions.

The 2024 Graduate Research Conference showcased how SUNY's graduate students' research and scholarship contribute to the Common Good and their Communities in very meaningful ways. We were all amazed to see their passion for research, their academic excellence and dedication, and how much they cared for the Common Good across New York and the world. For many it was a culminating experience and for all a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue and networking in research across disciplines and across the SUNY System."- Isabelle Bichindaritz, Committee Chair

## Fall 2024 UFS Plenary

On Thursday, October 24 SUNY UFS kicked off the 198th Plenary in Plattsburgh.

It was an opportunity for members of SUNY UFS to gather and learn about important SUNY updates and share about ongoing efforts from their units.

UFS President Keith Landa shared, "I want to thank Chancellor King and other members of SUNY System Administration for their presentations and discussions; our colleagues from other governance and union organizations for their updates; Plattsburgh President Enyedi and his staff for their excellent hosting of our meeting; and our members for their discussions of academic freedom, campus climate, and other critical issues facing our campuses."

A special thank you to SUNY Plattsburgh for hosting the Fall 2024 Plenary.

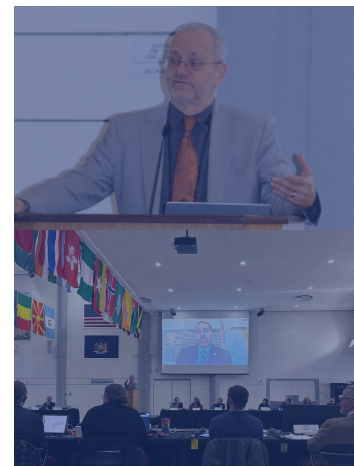


## Okanagan Charter Approved

The Okanagan Charter, introduced across SUNY (State University of New York) campuses, is a transformative framework designed to promote health and wellness within university communities. Originating from the University of British Columbia in 2015, the Charter focuses on embedding health-promoting policies, practices, and environments into the fabric of university life. It encourages the creation of a culture that supports the physical, mental, and social well-being of students, staff, and faculty.

By adopting the Okanagan Charter, SUNY Universities have committed to fostering environments that prioritize health at multiple levels—from promoting active lifestyles to enhancing access to mental health resources and creating spaces conducive to learning and personal growth. It emphasizes the importance of integrating health across all aspects of university policy and programming, including food, physical activity, mental health services, and social connections.

The benefits of this initiative are far-reaching. It helps reduce stress, improve overall academic performance, and create a more inclusive and supportive campus community. Additionally, it cultivates resilience, mental clarity, and a sense of belonging. Ultimately, the Okanagan Charter enhances the educational experience by ensuring students and faculty thrive not only academically but also in their overall health and well-being.



*Photos from Peter Knuepfer*