



Stony Brook
University

Office of the Provost

University Senate Report

December 2, 2024

Provost's Initiatives and Updates

- **AI & Society Proposal:** Stony Brook has submitted a proposal to SUNY in response to an RFP to create a department of AI and Society. The proposed structure builds on the current Department of Technology and Society (DTS) in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), leveraging this opportunity and support to reshape the department's focus and interconnectivity across SBU. The Department of Technology, AI, and Society (TAS) would build on Stony Brook's role as a state flagship public university and its strong commitment to social responsibility and interdisciplinary research, establishing a department where the lens of equity and access is central to a study of applications of AI across the spectrum of research and education at SBU. Housed in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), TAS would leverage expertise from across SBU's full range of colleges and schools. The Provost's Office hosted a forum on November 15 to gather interested stakeholders to envision possibilities for this new department, helping to shape the proposal to SUNY. Nearly 80 faculty and staff engaged in the forum.
- **Textbook Adoptions:** The Provost's Office recently sent a reminder to faculty and instructors to submit information about their required course materials for winter and spring classes. Faculty and instructors are asked to update their requirements in the [eCampus portal](#) as soon as possible. This ensures students can see their course material information on SOLAR and use different financial aid sources to purchase their course materials. It also helps to ensure the university is in compliance with the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act by submitting information about your required course materials.

Academic Programs

- **Recently approved programs:**
 - Economics BA (Revision, 11/2024)
 - Political Psychology MA (New Program, 11/2024)

Faculty Development

- **Emerging Leaders:** This program provides development opportunities for the next generation of higher education leaders in research, education, and administration. A

networking with the Dean of Graduate School took place on November 19 and a Communications Workshop with the Alda Center for Science Communication on November 22. A follow up session of the Science Communication will take place on February 14, 2025.

- **Excellence in Teaching Program:** This program features a series of workshops and hands-on activities centered on teaching and learning. The new cohorts had sessions on Inclusive Pedagogy on November 13 and 15, respectively. They too were invited to attend the networking event with the Dean of Graduate School on November 19. The past cohort of Excellence in Teaching faculty attended a reflection activity on November 18. Upcoming events next semester include workshops on Experiential and Innovative Pedagogy and AI tools for the classroom for the new cohorts and on Assessment Fundamentals and Aligning Course Outcomes and Assessment for past cohorts.
- **[Provost Lecture Series](#):** The first lecture of this academic year took place in the Wang Center on November 12 and featured SUNY Distinguished Professor Anissa Abi-Dargham from Psychiatry and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor J. Peter Gergen from Biochemistry and Cell Biology. Prior to the lecture, there was a Distinguished Faculty Council hosted by the Provost. The next Provost Lecture Series will take place on February 11, 2025, and will feature SUNY Distinguished Faculty Patricia Wright from Anthropology and Lawrence Martin from Anthropology.
- **Upcoming Nominations Deadlines:** January 3, 2025 - [Chancellor's Award in Excellence in Classified Service](#)

Academic Affairs

- **Save the Date!** [The Learning and Teaching Symposium: A New Era of Inclusivity and Innovation in Higher Education](#) is on Friday, April 11, 2025. Add your name to the [Symposium Email List](#) and we will notify you when registration is open. **Interested in being a part of the symposium?** We invite faculty to deliver a 10-minute presentation during our afternoon session. Showcase how you use emerging technology (ie. AI, VR, etc.) to support diverse student populations and enhance learning experiences. Share your innovative strategies and inspire others! [Submit your proposal today!](#)

Enrollment Management

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services:

- The FAFSA and TAP applications are expected to open on December 1. We are preparing targeted campaigns to encourage students to complete their applications promptly. Our priority deadline remains February 15.

Office of the Registrar:

- Fall 2024:
 - Mon, Dec. 9 - Classes End: Last day of classes
 - Deadline for semester Leave of Absence/Term Withdrawal
 - Tue, Dec. 10 - Reading Day
 - Wed, Dec. 11-Fri, Dec 13 - Finals

- Sat, Dec. 14 - Final Exams for Saturday Classes/Reading Day
- Mon, Dec. 16- Thurs, Dec. 19 - Finals
- Thur, Dec. 19 - Semester End: Official End of Term
- Winter 2025:
 - Tue, Jan. 7, 2025 - Classes Begin
- Spring 2025:
 - Mon, Jan. 27 - Semester Start: First day of classes

Undergraduate Admissions:

- Spring 2025 applications across first year and transfer students have increased 18.5%. Decisions continue to be shared with students and programs are occurring to yield students.
- Fall 2025 applications across first year and transfer students have also increased YTD by over 35% with healthy growth in out-of-state and international applicants. Our final application deadline is January 15, 2025 for first year students. Application reading is in full swing with the addition of 13 external application readers who are working up to 20 hours a week to help us manage volume increase. Our first round of decisions for the fall 2025 is scheduled for December 13.
- Fall Seawolf Preview Days have concluded. A total of 1,388 guests (575 students) were able to visit campus to learn about opportunities the university provides. Our next large campus open house programs, Admitted Seawolf Days, will take place in March and April.

Undergraduate Education

- **Call for Applications for the Faculty Fellows Program**: The Faculty Fellowship program offers professors the opportunity to develop and implement creative, innovative, and/or experimental teaching strategies at Stony Brook. By providing teaching replacement funds each semester (four semesters, over a two-year period), Faculty Fellows will be able to dedicate time to honing their pedagogical skills and produce a polished, peer-reviewed work of scholarship based on their teaching.

We will be offering four fellowships for the 2025-2027 cohort. One of the fellowship lines will be dedicated for a professor specifically seeking to develop and implement high impact practices for first-year students. Faculty interested in applying should submit a formal proposal for committee review. **The deadline for the 2025-2027 cohort is Friday, January 10, 2025.** More information on eligibility and application details can be found on the Faculty Fellows website [here](#).

Graduate School

- **Guiding Difficult Conversations Workshop**: this new workshop promotes skillful navigation of difficult conversations that are critical for mentoring success. Understanding when, why, and how difficult conversations should be used in a mentoring relationship will create a better experience for the mentor and the mentee. Participants will leave equipped with the tools needed to have difficult conversations that

are productive and safe, creating a positive outcome for the mentee. The next workshop will be Monday and Tuesday, December 9 and 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. [Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

- We will be hosting a **New Postdoc Welcome** on Thursday, December 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. The Welcome offers an introduction to Stony Brook to help recently arrived postdocs maximize their postdoctoral experience and make the most of their time at Stony Brook. All postdocs who have joined us in the past six months are particularly encouraged to attend. [Click here for more information and to RSVP](#)

Institutional and Educational Effectiveness

- [International Love Data Week, February 10 to 14, 2025](#)
International Love Data Week will be celebrated in 2025 during the week of February 10 to 14. The Division of Educational and Institutional Effectiveness will be coordinating a number of activities and workshops during the week. If your area has interest in collaborating, conducting a workshop, or other activity, please contact Braden Hosch (Braden.Hosch@stonybrook.edu)
- The Division of Educational and Institutional Effectiveness has a new website, with resources and links to our three major units:
Division of Educational and Institutional Effectiveness
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/effectiveness/>
 - Office of Educational Effectiveness
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/oeef/>
 - Enterprise Data and Analytics
<https://it.stonybrook.edu/pages/enterprise-data-analytics>
 - Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/irpe/>

Continuing, Professional, and Online Education

- Seven faculty who teach in the College of Business Online MBA program and School of Professional Development Online MS Human Resource Management program will participate in a new pilot program designed to support faculty in the development of high-quality online courses. As part of the program, the faculty cohort will complete CELT's Online Teaching Course and then work more intensively with an assigned instructional designer from CELT to develop their course. Anticipated outcomes include greater course alignment with program level learning outcomes, enhanced opportunities for student-engaged learning, and elevated teaching and student learning outcomes.
- On November 21, participants from the Long Island Region [NYS Master Teacher Program](#), convened to engage in a demonstration of a Robotics competition that will inform creative applications in K-12 classrooms across Long Island. Currently, there are approximately 100 Long Island teachers who are part of the Long Island Region Master Teacher Program that is managed and run by the [Institute for STEM education](#) (I-STEM) at Stony Brook University.

Climate & Sustainability Programming

- On November 4, the Collaborative for the Earth (C4E) hosted a Town Hall with over 30 faculty and staff addressing the [reimagining of academic programs](#). Participants were invited to provide feedback and discuss what Stony Brook excels at and the unique opportunities we offer our student community. Additionally, they were asked how Stony Brook could improve the student experience. Overwhelmingly, the groups agreed that students would be interested in programs offering career-enhancing skills that would help them secure jobs upon graduation in the broad area of climate and sustainability.