



Faculty Association Suffolk Community College Executive Council APPROVED MINUTES

Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025

Time: 4:15 pm

Location: via Zoom

Secretary's note: The May 29, 2025, minutes were approved by the Executive Council on June 12, 2025, by a vote of 24/0/1.

1. Discussion of Elections Committee Investigation Report

- **D. Morelli:** Call meeting to order at 4:17 pm. Thank you for making this very important meeting at this time of semester. Need a motion to bring discussion of Elections Committee investigation to the floor.

➔ **Motion to bring Elections Committee investigation report to the floor made by R. Lauria, seconded by S. Clark.**

D. Krompinger: Thank you for attending this meeting to discuss the violation of election procedures by one of the candidates for grievance officer. You were sent our official report last Friday, May 23. As indicated in the report, after investigating and examining the information our elections committee collected, it was determined that the candidate violated FA Elections Procedures Article II Section C.3, the rules for how they're allowed to campaign. The committee also proposes that a revote is the most fair and equitable course of action for the candidates involved and for the membership.

In keeping with the Elections Procedures rules, the committee now brings our recommendation to the EC for your vote. Dante will explain what your vote means before we call for the vote. Questions?

Secretary's note: The following is a summary of EC rep comments, questions, and answers.

- Which candidate committed the violation? — Bruce Seger violated the rules for how candidates are allowed to campaign.
- What was the outcome of the election? — Bruce Seger received 19 votes more than John Capurso.
- What is the cost to do a revote? — Costs of envelopes, copies, mailings, etc., for elections run between \$4,000 and \$4,500. If EC supports the revote, we will be able to fund it.

- When would you redo the election? Not during summer? — If Elections Committee recommendation is supported by the EC, we'd propose to run the election in the first half of the fall 2025 semester because we not only have the urgency of this grievance officer race but also, due to the EC restructuring which was just approved, we have at least 10 EC positions with vacancies that we need filled just as soon as possible.
- How will this whole issue be communicated to the membership? — We are working on that but will be as transparent as possible and focused on upholding the integrity of the election process. The Elections Committee report could be made part of the public record, and the matter could also be explained in the June issue of *The WORD*.
- Five EC reps speak in favor of disqualification of candidate Bruce Seger:
 - Why are we not disqualifying the candidate who violated the rules—an attorney who wants to be the grievance officer—if they were told the rule three times, one time quite explicitly? I'm not comfortable voting for someone who disregards our rules.
 - Seems clear they broke the rules knowingly; they've been involved with the FA and served as an EC rep for years. If this doesn't rise to the level of disqualification, what does?
 - We should not have to do a revote; also, that is not fair to John Capurso who didn't violate the rules.

— The Elections Committee decided to do a revote, and the EC's role is to vote in support of or against their recommendation for a revote. The elections appeal procedure says the committee has to determine 1) if a violation was committed and 2) if it was significant enough that it would have impacted the results of the election. The Elections Committee determined there was a clear violation of the rules. However, there's no way to determine #2 because it is unknown how many emails were sent, and we have no way of knowing voter intent.

- Three EC reps speak in support of candidate Bruce Seger:
 - Now that I am listening to the conversation, it seems like a minor infraction to me.
 - John Capurso put campaign flyers in faculty mailboxes. What's the difference between an electronic mailbox and a physical mailbox? Wasn't that a violation? — No, putting flyers in physical mailboxes is allowed, as it has been in the past and as confirmed by college counsel. Candidates are allowed to distribute flyers to other members by hand and to their physical faculty mailboxes. There was an issue with AME a few years ago, so this came up and we have received confirmation from administration.
 - I think there is sometimes confusion about policies. This issue came up a few years ago, and it's not always clear what's allowed and what's not allowed. — Our Elections Committee will work to make this clearer in our documents, but this is exactly why a precise clarification was made in one of the three emails to all of the candidates.
- A member of the Elections Committee had a quote on the flyer for John Capurso. Wasn't that a violation? — [*Secretary's note*: Discussion ensued. Elections Committee members spoke about the integrity of their investigation. In addition, there were seven members of

the Elections Committee counting ballots to ensure election process integrity, and in keeping with federal law all candidates were invited to be present or to have an observer present at the counting of the ballots. Also, Bruce Seger ended up with more votes.]

- The minute this violation occurred, why didn't the officers or Elections Committee email the membership to let them know there was a violation and what they would do about it and when? — That is not our process. The procedure for handling such matters, filing an appeal, conducting an investigation, etc., are all spelled out in our Elections Procedures document on the FA website, and we have followed that procedure.
- The procedural question is the one we should be answering. We need to focus on the benefit to us as a union—which is to have a grievance officer who knows the rules, respects the rules, and follows the rules. What if EC reps want to propose something other than the committee's recommendation?

— If you vote in favor, you are indicating support of the Elections Committee recommendation to hold a revote for grievance officer—an entirely new race for grievance officer—at the start of the fall 2025 semester. If you vote against, you are not accepting the recommendation, and then we'd have to take it from there.

- Should we two Elections Committee members abstain from voting?

— It might be cleaner if the members of the Elections Committee who are also EC reps abstain as well as if John Capurso abstains.

- ➔ **Motion to approve Elections Committee investigation recommendation to conduct revote for position of grievance officer at start of fall 2025 semester made by S. Clark, seconded by K. McCoy. Motion is approved 19/7/4**

2. Appointment of Grievance Officer

- **D. Morelli:** Kevin McCoy, we are going to ask you to step out of the meeting for this item of the agenda.

Secretary's note: Kevin McCoy placed in Zoom waiting room.

Between now and the completion of the fall revote election, then, we still need to have a grievance officer. Kevin McCoy is deeply committed to the FA and has expressed a willingness to stay through the end of the fall semester in this capacity given the current circumstances.

- ➔ **Motion to bring discussion of grievance officer appointment to the floor made by J. Wolfson, seconded by D. Karahalas. Any discussion? None.**
- ➔ **Motion to approve appointment of Kevin McCoy as grievance officer through December 31, 2025, made by C. Eaton, seconded by A. Atwood. Motion is approved**

29/0/0 [*Secretary's note:* One EC rep left meeting prior to this vote.]

3. Adjournment

→ **Motion to adjourn made by A. Darini, seconded by R. Lauria. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 5:11 pm.**

Attendance: Members present on May 29, 2025

Officers

- ☒ [Dante Morelli](#), President
- ☒ [Courtney Brewer](#), Exec VP
- ☒ [Cynthia Eaton](#), Secretary
- ☒ [Pete DiGregorio](#), Treasurer
- ☒ [Kevin McCoy](#), Grievance Officer
- ☒ [Kim Ng Southard](#), Adjunct Coordinator

EC Reps: Ammerman Full Time

- ☒ [John Capurso](#): Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Legal Studies
- ☒ [Sharadha Sambasivan](#): Biology, Physical Sciences
- ☒ [Rich Lauria](#): Communication, Languages, Reading, TV/Radio/Film
- ☒ [Ben Laudicina](#): Counseling, Cooperative Ed
- ☐ [Stephanie Taboada](#): Engineering, Computer Science/Industrial Technology
- ☒ [Emily Lauer](#): English
- ☒ [Deb Provenzano](#): Library, Central
- ☒ [Alexander Atwood](#): Math
- ☒ [Alex Nohai-Seaman](#): Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Philosophy, Women's Studies
- ☒ [Marlene Kellner](#): Nursing, Health and Human Services, Physical Education
- ☒ [Christina Bosco](#): Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences

EC Reps: Eastern Full Time

- ☐ [Mary Sierra](#): Library, Humanities, Counseling
- ☒ [Nic Pestieau](#): Science, Math, Social Science, Business, Nursing, Culinary, Physical Education

EC Reps: Grant Full Time

- ☒ [Eric Weinstein](#) — Business, HVAC, CIS, Technology, ETU Coordinator
- ☐ [Naomi Edwards](#) — Humanities
- ☒ [Tara Fagan](#) — Library, Counseling, Media
- ☒ [Anabel Darini](#) — Natural Sciences, Math
- ☒ [Josh Wolfson](#) — Nursing, Health Science, Physical Education, Vet Sci
- ☐ [vacant](#) — Social Sciences

EC Reps: PAs & Specialists Full Time

- ☒ [Lisa Behnke](#): Programmatic
- ☐ [vacant](#): Instructional Labs
- ☒ [Ed Champ](#): Technical Areas/Instructional Centers

EC Reps: Collegewide Adjuncts

- ☒ [Brian DeMasi](#): Business, Accounting, Communications, Telecom
- ☒ [Debra Handel](#): Counseling, Education, Freshman/College Seminar
- ☐ [Pat Bergel](#): Culinary, Fire Protection Technology, Library, Electrical Tech, Drafting, Interior Design
- ☐ [Robert Schmidt](#): English
- ☐ [vacant](#): Foreign Languages, ESL, ASL, Reading
- ☒ [Steve Clark](#): Guild, Retiree, PAs/Specialists in Programmatic Areas
- ☒ [Dean Karahalios](#): Humanities, Arts, Music, Philosophy
- ☐ [vacant](#): Math
- ☒ [Jennifer Champagne](#): Nursing, Physical Education, Health Sciences
- ☒ [Kailyn Giaccone](#): PAs/ Specialists in Academic Skills Centers
- ☐ [vacant](#): PAs/Specialists in Instructional Labs
- ☒ [Mary Griffin](#): Science, Engineering, Auto
- ☐ [Renee McClean](#): Social Sciences

Guests

- ☒ [Donna Krompinger](#): Elections Committee Chairperson Spring 2025
- ☒ [Joan Cook](#): Elections Committee Member
- ☒ [Deanna Downs](#): Elections Committee Member
- ☒ [Laura Galletta](#): Elections Committee Member
- ☒ [Bruce Seger](#): Librarian (Grant), Candidate for Grievance Officer