

ANNUAL REPORT of ACTIVITIES

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES AT SUNY



ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022)

Submitted by IEUSS Director, Laurie Buonanno, Ph.D. to the IEUSS Board of Directors

IEUSS Bylaws and Annual Reports

The IEUSS adopted Bylaws July 9, 2021. Pursuant to the IEUSS Bylaws. Section 8. Reports. The IEUSS Director shall present at each annual meeting a report verified by the Chair and a majority of Voting Members, showing in appropriate detail the following: a) Financial report b) Activities for the year.

During its Annual Business Meeting (September 12, 2022), the IEUSS Board members made the determination that the IEUSS Annual Report of Activities should be made available to the public through the IEUSS website beginning with Academic Year 2021-2022.

Introduction

This report documents IEUSS activities for the academic year September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022. Our activities were as follows: SUNYMEU: SUNYMEU 2022, advance planning for SUNYMEU 2023, Call for Expressions of Interest; IEUSS Annual Teaching & Research Conference 2022, advanced planning for 2023 conference; IEUSS Review of Books; Study Tour of Brussels planning; The Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module Grant; IEUSS Website; and Social Media.

SUNYMEU

2022

The 35th annual SUNYMEU was hosted in-person by SUNY Buffalo State April 7-9, 2022. Despite all other MEUs being held virtually, SUNYMEU was late enough in the spring semester for COVID-19 restrictions to have been lifted by SUNY. There were 105 participants, with delegations for all 27 member states, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, a Press Corps and only a handful of roles not being filled (mainly permanent representatives, the Commission, and the Press Corps). Several campuses participated in SUNYMEU for the first time: Canadian universities McGill (Montreal, Quebec), Carleton (Ottawa, Ontario), York (Ontario, Canada – had only participated virtually), Rhodes College (Memphis, TN), CUNY John Jay, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Stony Brook, Canisus College (Buffalo), Daemen College (Amherst, NY), Hartwick College (Oneonta, NY), and St. Lawrence University (Caton, NY). There were nine faculty advisers on site, which seemed to be more than sufficient to assist with the smooth-running of SUNYMEU.

SUNYMEU's conference registration fee was set at a low \$50 – the lowest registration fee of any full-service (breakfasts, lunches, dinners, coffee breaks, and pre-simulation activities) SUNYMEU. (SUNYMEU 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic charged \$50 when it was online!) This low conference fee was made possible through grant writing – several campus grants, crowdfunding, and a successful Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module written out of BSC SUNY Research Foundation by the BSC Department of Political Science & Public Administration (Buonanno & Ceesay, Co-PIs) in partnership with the IEUSS.

For the first time in SUNYMEU history: member state requests were made through a web survey, registration took place via a web platform; registration fees could be paid by credit card or debit card, with funds deposited into a SUNY-approved IFR account managed by SUNY Buffalo State accounting; and agenda items were submitted via a web platform.

The opening ceremony featured distinguished guests and speakers, including City of Buffalo, Mayor Byron Brown, Sally Crimmins Villela, Associate Vice Chancellor, SUNY Office of Global Affairs, Dr. Brian Cronk, BSC Dean of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Timothy Gordon, BSC Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dr. Natalia Cugelșan, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca-Romania. A musical program was included for the first time in many years in a SUNYMEU opening ceremony, and in keeping with current events, the choir's first selection was the Ukrainian National Anthem. The closing ceremony featured for the first time in SUNYMEU history voting by participants for awards. Pre-simulation events included a briefing at Buffalo City Hall by Common Council members and Mayor Brown, an architecture tour of downtown, Niagara Falls tour, dinner at Dinosaur BBQ, campus tour, and Elmwood Village tour. There was an off-campus faculty dinner on Friday evening.

The post-event survey (59% response rate) indicated students were satisfied with the SUNYMEU experience, with 73% replying “yes,” to the question “If given the opportunity, would you participate in SUNY again?” Seventy percent of the respondents would “promote” SUNYMEU to a friend or colleague.

SUNYMEU 2022 documents – *The IEUSS Guide to the SUNY Model European Union*, 16th Edition, Simulation Agenda, Conclusions, Awards Report, and Post-Event Evaluation Report are posted to the SUNYMEU archived webpage: <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/sunymeu-archive>

2023

Planning began for SUNYMEU 2023. The SUNYMEU co-directors worked with SUNY Global Affairs to secure the SUNY Global Center. A website was created. FAQs posted. Projected budget created, subject to approval by the IEUSS Board at its annual meeting in September 2022. <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/sunymeu-2023-0>

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Call for Expressions of Interest to Host SUNYMEU 2023 at a SUNY campus and organize SUNYMEU 2024 at the SUNY Global Center in NYC was posted to the IEUSS website in early March 2022 (prior to SUNYMEU).

IEUSS Annual Teaching & Research Conference

Greg Rabb delivered the William Andrews Lecture, “Nationalism in Comparison: Palestine and Poland – A Personal Perspective.” Presentations by James Gingras, Lecture “Military Diplomacy” (The US Air Force Academy), Sara Norrevik, "Variation in Cryptocurrency Regulation in the European Union" (SUNY Buffalo State), and Natalia Cugelşan, “The Digitalisation of the Field of European Studies. Mapping the State of Play” (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca - România).

<https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/2022-ieuss-teaching-and-researching-european-union-conference>

Planning proceeded for the IEUSS 2023 conference, which will be organized as a book workshop. The following call out was posted to the IEUSS website, SUNYMEU Facebook page, and circulated via email to our IEUSS faculty contacts.

Call for Paper Proposals

Institute for European Union Studies at the State University of New York (IEUSS)
"Workshop on the Future of Europe: Challenges and Priorities"

Following the recently concluded Conference on the Future of Europe, this workshop will be organized to include papers addressing such European Union (EU) themes as the economy, social justice, culture/identity, digital transformation, institutional change, democracy/values and rights, rule of law, security, climate change, environment, health, migration, defence, foreign affairs, and the EU's neighbourhood. Interested participants should email a 250-500 word proposal addressing the current state-of-play in their selected research area and identifying future challenges and priorities. The workshop is open to scholars at all stages of the career. **Past and present faculty advisers for the SUNYMEU are strongly urged to apply.**

The IEUSS 2023 workshop committee will select proposals that will serve as the basis for an in-person workshop scheduled for March 30-April 1 at the SUNY Global Center in New York City (116 East 55th Street), which takes place simultaneously with SUNYMEU 2023. There is no fee

to participate in the workshop (some meals will be provided). Participants are responsible for travel and lodging. Information on a conference hotel will be provided later.

There will be an opportunity to publish papers as book chapters in a planned volume (editors, Laurie Buonanno and Carolyn Dudek).

Deadline for receipt of paper proposals is 1 November 2022 to the workshop co-chairs Dr. Carolyn Dudek (Carolyn.m.dudek@hofstra.edu) and Dr. Laurie Buonanno (buonanl@buffalostate.edu).

Co-funded by the European Union Erasmus Jean Monnet Modules (Hofstra University, SUNY Buffalo State, the Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY) and the SUNY Office of Global Affairs.

2023 IEUSS Conference Committee

Laurie Buonanno, SUNY Buffalo State, IEUSS Director

Natalia Cugelșan, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai Cluj-Napoca -Romania, IEUSS Fellow

Mariam Dekanozishvili, Coastal Carolina University, IEUSS Fellow

Carolyn Dudek, Hofstra University, IEUSS Fellow

Neill Nugent, Professor Emeritus, Manchester Metropolitan University - UK, IEUSS Board Member

IEUSS Review of Books

The IEUSS Review of Books (IRB), which was launched January 2021, added three additional reviews to the 2021 issue and added one to the 2022 issue. Several book reviews are lined up for the 2022 issue.

Study Tour to Brussels

Greg Rabb participated in an EU study tour of in Brussels and Luxembourg through the University of Pittsburgh, EU Center of Excellence (fellowship). He also participated in curriculum development program at the U of Illinois to develop the study tour curriculum. Greg and Laurie created a study tour for May/June 2022 of EU institutions in Brussels and a day trip to Bruges to the College of Europe. **The study tour was approved by BSC's Department of Political Science & Public Administration, the School of Arts & Sciences, and the Director of Global Engagement.** The course will be in the spring 2022 course schedule.

Description

Europe and the European Union: Ever Changing, Always Engaging!

Experience the European Union in the exciting “capital” of Europe, Brussels! Join fellow students and your professors as we learn about the dynamic EU in the very buildings and institutions where decisions are made about the future of Europe. The EU is a unique blending of the old and the new as policy makers chart the next steps in response to new challenges for Europe, Europeans, and the world building on the traditions and history of the past. Brussels is uniquely situated as the “door” to everything the EU and Europe has to offer. Each morning will be greeted with a guided

introduction to the various EU policies and organizations with onsite visits to the House of European History, the Parliament, the Commission, the Council, among other places, followed by an afternoon seminar discussion led by faculty to better understand what we learned. And then you are free to explore everything Brussels has to offer including art, history, culture, and architecture with plenty of time to enjoy mussels, frites, chocolates, and waffles! Bring your appetite for food, fun, and knowledge. Our study tour will include a day trip to beautiful Bruges and the College of Europe. In anticipation of our time together we will actively engage in online discussions about EU policies and institutions before we take flight. If you've never been to Brussels you have to go, if you've been in Belgium before you need to go again! (3 credit hours)

Course Leaders: Greg Rabb (instructor of record), Laurie Buonanno, Atta Ceesay

Itinerary*

Depart New York State – Saturday, May 27th

Day One (Sunday, May 28th): Arrival and Orientation

Day Two (Monday, May 29th): House of European History

Day Three (Tuesday, May 30th): European Commission and Council of the European Union

Day Four (Wednesday, May 31st): European Parliament

Day Five (Thursday, June 1st): Swedish Permanent Representative Office (Sweden holds presidency in first half of 2022) and European Union External Action Service

Day Six (Friday, June 2nd): Trip to Bruges and College of Europe

Day Seven (Saturday, June 3rd): Antwerp- morning and Ghent - afternoon

Day Eight (Sunday, June 4th): Free Day

Day Nine (Monday, June 5th): Depart Brussels

There will be free time and potential guided visits to additional places in Brussels.

** Institutional visits are subject to change based on availability.*

The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students. Minimum 10, maximum 20 students.

Course Description & Assessments

This is a three-credit hour course open to undergraduate and graduate students. Students who join the tour will be expected to participate in online discussions two weeks prior to departure, in-person seminars during the tour, and be required to participate in pre-departure discussion (online), take pre-departure quizzes testing knowledge of the EU, and keep a tour blog. (Graduate students have the option of writing a policy paper in lieu of keeping a travel blog.) Assessments: 20% pre-departure discussion forums, 20% pre-departure quizzes, 20% blog/40% in-tour attendance/discussions.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Examine the structure of the European Union
2. Explore the policies currently of concern to the European Union and its Member States.
3. Gain expertise in current issues on which the EU is focusing.
4. Analyze the background of the institutions we will visit – specifically, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission.

Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module Grant

PIs Laurie Buonanno (IEUSS Director and SUNYMEU 22/23 Co-Director) and Atta Ceesay (SUNYMEU 22/23 Co-Director) received confirmation in November 2021 from the European Commission that they would receive a Jean Monnet Module Grant for 2022-2024 (€30,000), one of just two JM grants awarded to US universities in this competition. The theme of the JM is EU-Africa relations. After considerable work preparing the grant documents, the Commission approved the funding in late January 2022. The grant requires BSC to infuse EU content into several courses in the BA Political Science, the BA International Relations, and the MPA. Other funded activities include conferences, SUNYMEU, establishing an annual EU study tour, an annual research conference, and a new course entitled “EU-Africa Relations,” and a simulation for local high school students of an annual AU-EU summit. <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/erasmus-jean-monnet-module>

IEUSS Website

Google Analytics began tracking began October 1, 2021.

Month	Unique Pageviews	Highest page	Unique Pageviews	Bounce rate*
September 2021	204	IRB -2021 volume	31	58.06%
October 2021	127	IRB -2021 volume	14	45%
November 2021	558	SUNYMEU	78	42.35%
December 2021	271	SUNYMEU 2022	46	48.98%
January 2022	936	SUNYMEU 2022	221	Not in report
February 2022	2001	SUNYMEU 2022	606	53.74%

March 2022	1871	SUNYMEU 2022	362	51.4%
April 2022	1901	SUNYMEU 2022	602	47.6%
May 2022	315	SUNYMEU	34	63.25%
June 2022	190	SUNYMEU	23	53.16%
July 2022	221	IEUSS Workshop/SUNYMEU	32	65.79%
August 2022	257	SUNYMEU 2023	31	56.31%

*Bounce rate – single page sessions (when a user opens just one page, but doesn’t visit other pages). Calculated by single page sessions/total page sessions. A bounce rate over 70% is considered high. Lower bounce rates are better if the goal is for visitors to visit other webpages.

New features added to the website:

- SUNYMEU Testimonials
- Resources Page
- Erasmus+ JM Module
- Annual Conference

Social Media

A SUNYMEU Facebook group was created in February 2022 and has 138 members. An IEUSS YouTube Channel was created with four videos posted of IEUSS events/briefings. An Instagram page was created. It is anticipated that Twitter will be created for SUNYMEU 2023.