



The Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY



Program for

The 39th Annual SUNY MODEL EUROPEAN UNION Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12 2026

Hosted by



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni
& Visitor Center
667 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Welcome to SUNYMEU 2026

Step into the world of European governance. The Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY (IEUSS), in partnership with SUNY Buffalo State University, proudly welcomes you to SUNYMEU 2026—an immersive, student-driven experience that brings the European Union to life here in New York State.

Grounded in SUNY's commitment to accessible, high-quality education, and supported by the SUNY Office of Global Affairs, IEUSS empowers students to move beyond the classroom and engage directly with the complexities of global decision-making. The European Union has recognized the program's excellence through two successive Jean Monnet grants—the JM Module and the JM Chair—affirming SUNYMEU's impact in EU studies.

At SUNYMEU, you do more than learn about the European Union—you inhabit it. You will negotiate policy, set agendas, and debate pressing issues, shaping outcomes through collaboration and consensus-building. This is your simulation to lead, and its success depends on your ideas, initiative, and engagement.

This is your opportunity to think critically, lead with purpose, and collaborate across intergovernmental and supranational perspectives as you shape your vision for European integration.

Good luck, delegates—lead with conviction, engage with integrity, and leave your mark. The future of Europe is in your hands.

Gregory Rabb, MUP, JD - Board Chair, Institute for European Union Studies at SUNY, SUNY Buffalo State University MPA Advisory Board

Laurie Buonanno, PhD – IEUSS Director, Jean Monnet Chair, Professor, SUNY Buffalo State University

Friday April 10

Pre-Simulation Activity

10:15-11:30 a.m. Buffalo City Hall, Briefing in Common Council chamber
Facilitator: Mr. Gregory Rabb

Program Note:

The briefing starts at **10:15am sharp** in Council chambers. You may meet the group at City Hall or walk down from The Best Western on the Avenue (510 Delaware Avenue) with the group. Everyone needs to go through security, which will take time as we are expecting a large group. Mr. Rabb will be downstairs at 9:45 a.m. to take everyone upstairs to the Common Council Chamber after you all pass through the security check. For those of you staying/meeting at The Best Western on the Avenue, Mr. Rabb asks that you gather at 9 a.m. at The Best Western and walk down Delaware Avenue (head south). It should be about a 25-minute walk to City Hall. City Hall is located at the foot of Delaware Avenue in Niagara Square. You can't miss it. Wear comfortable shoes. Business casual (nice jeans are okay). There will be some additional walking after the briefing, including visiting the iconic Observation Deck.

2:00–4:00 p.m. **Conference Check-in**
Jacqueline Vito LoRusso Alumni & Visitor Center (AVC)
Registration

3:00–3:30 p.m. **SUNYMEU Rules of Procedures**
Facilitated by the GS & Council Presidency
Zemsky Room

4:00–4:25 p.m. **Opening Ceremony**
AVC Costello Room
MC – Gregory Rabb, IEUSS Board Chair
Welcome Remarks
Dr. Scott Goodman, Associate Provost,
SUNY Buffalo State University
Lucas Meyer, Buffalo State MEU/MUN
Club President
Dr. Jessica Robin, Vice Chancellor for
Global Affairs, SUNY System
Administration
Dr. Laurie Buonano, IEUSS Director,
Jean Monnet Chair, Professor,
SUNY Buffalo State University

4:30–5:30p.m. **Keynote Speaker (in-person)**
Professor Carolyn M. Dudek, PhD
Professor of Political Science, ERASMUS + Jean Monnet Chair,
and Director of European Studies - Hofstra University
“Defending Democracy: The European Union’s Combating
Antisemitism Policy,” followed by Q & A

5:30-6:15 p.m. Buffet Dinner

6:15-6:30 p.m. **SUNYMEU 2026 Opens**

Program Note:

The Cyprus Presidency announces the general rules of debate and presents the three agenda items along with voting rules (qmv or unanimity). The President of the European Parliament makes a speech laying out the EP’s position on each of the agenda items. Member States that have submitted alternative proposals are invited to present their proposals.

6:30-7:00 p.m. **SUNYMEU Group Photo, Delegation Photos**

7:45 p.m. **Excursion to Canalside. Meet at The Best Western**

Program Note:

Meet in Lobby of Best Western on the Avenue (510 Delaware Avenue). Walk to the Allen/Hospital Metro Station (.4 mile) and ride the metro to Canalside to start your exploration of Buffalo. \$4.00 for roundtrip fare. Coordinator: Lucas Meyer. We will announce Lucas’s mobile # at SUNY opening. meyerlr01@buffalostate.edu

Saturday April 11

9:00-9:30 a.m. **Coffee Service, Grab & Go Breakfast Items**
AVC, 1st Floor

9:30-10:50 a.m. **Functional Meetings: Morning Session**
European Council – Costello Room
FAC – Zemsky Room
ECOFIN – Conference Room

11-11:55 a.m. **Plenary – Expert Witnesses**
Costello Room

Moderator: Gregory Rabb – IEUSS Chair

Panelists:

John Abromeit, PhD – Buffalo State University
Laurie Buonanno, PhD – Buffalo State University
Carolyn Dudek, PhD – Hofstra University
Mert Kartal, PhD – St. Lawrence University

12:00-1:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

Program Note:

Campbell Student Union, Bengal Kitchen (Dining Hall). GS will be at the entrance to the dining hall with tickets.

1:15-3:15 p.m. **Functional Meetings: Afternoon Session 1**
European Council – Costello Room
FAC – Zemsky Room
ECOFIN– Conference Room

3:15-3:30 p.m. **Coffee Break**
AVC 1st Floor

3:30-4:30 p.m. **Plenary & Press Conference**
Costello Room

Program Note:

Progress Report from the Cyprus Presidency, European Council President, European Commission President, and the High Representative (maximum 30 minutes). Followed by questions from the SUNYMEU Press Corps (30 minutes)

SUNYMEU adjourns for the evening

5:30 p.m. Leave the Best Western for Niagara Falls, NYS.

Program Note:

Meet at Best Western lobby at 5:25 p.m. for Limo Bus to Niagara Falls. SUNY Buffalo State MEU/MUN Club is coordinating the Falls excursion. There are 36 seats available on the limo bus. Email: meyerlr01@buffalostate.edu to reserve spot on the limo bus or to participate in the carpool. Meet in NYS Niagara Falls Park (parking lot P1). P1 is next to the Rainbow Bridge. Students will be able to select whether to join a group walking across the Rainbow Bridge to Canada or to join the group that will stay on the American side of the Falls. Our IEUSS Linktree QR code (back of the program) includes a map of the NYS Park.

SUNDAY, April 12

9:00-9:30 a.m. **Coffee Service, Grab & Go Breakfast Items**
AVC, 1st Floor

9:30-11:15 a.m. **Functional Meetings: Morning Session**
European Council – Costello Room
FAC – Zemsky Room
ECOFIN – Conference Room

11:25-11:45 a.m. **Plenary & Press Conference**
Costello Room

Program Note:

Progress Report from the Cyprus Presidency, European Council President, European Commission President, and the High Representative

12:00-1:00 p.m. **LUNCH**

Campbell Student Union, Bengal Kitchen (Dining Hall). GS will be at the entrance to the dining hall with tickets.

12:00-1:00 p.m. **Electronic voting for awards**

1:15-3:15 p.m. **Functional Meetings: Afternoon Session 1**
European Council – Costello Room
FAC – Zemsky Room
ECOFIN– Conference Room

3:15-3:45 p.m. **Reception (refreshments)**
Costello Room

Program Note:

This will be a substantial break to allow time for delegation photographs and informal caucusing while the European Council finalizes conclusions. The idea is to relax a bit and recharge while enjoying good food and drink.

3:15-3:45 p.m. **European Council Finalizes Conclusions**
Costello Room
(open for observation, ongoing during the reception)

3:45-4:15 p.m. **Closing**
Costello Room

MCs – IEUSS board members Laurie Buonanno, Gregory Rabb, Raymond Rushboldt

1. **Vote.** The European Council conducts its formal Vote on Conclusions
Program Note: HOGs vote on the agenda items, each taken one at a time; unanimity voting for enlargement/CFSP/CSDP; qmv for advancing the single market. Facilitator: European Council President

2. Awards & Recognitions.

Facilitators: General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

3. **Certificates of Completion.** Each SUNYMEU participant receives a certificate of completion. Photo Op for each delegation.
Facilitators: Professors Buonanno, Rabb, Rushboldt

SUNYMEU 2026 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Carolyn M. Dudek



Carolyn M. Dudek, Ph.D. is Professor of Political Science, Director of European Studies, and an ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Chair at Hofstra University in New York. An internationally recognized scholar of European Union (EU) politics, Dr. Dudek specializes in EU policy, with a particular focus on the EU's response to antisemitism. Her research critically examines the intersection of European integration, national politics, and the growing challenge of antisemitism across EU member states. She is author of *EU Accession and Spanish Regional Development: Winners and Losers* (Peter Lang) and co-editor and contributor to the forthcoming volume *The Future of European Policy: Challenges, Trends and Opportunities* (Bloomsbury Academic). Her scholarship includes numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on EU governance and various EU policies including anti-discrimination, trade, immigration, agriculture, regional development, and combating antisemitism. Professor Dudek's academic work has been supported by prestigious awards, including Fulbright Scholarships to Spain and Argentina. She has held fellowships at Columbia University's European Studies Institute, the European University in Florence, Italy, Harris Manchester College at Oxford University, and participated in ISGAP's Summer Institute in Critical Contemporary Antisemitism at St. Catherine's College, Oxford, and has received EU grants including an ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Module and

a Jean Monnet Chair. As a Jean Monnet Chair, Dudek leads research on antisemitism policy, exploring both national strategies and supranational frameworks aimed at combating antisemitism, including regulation of online hate. Professor Dudek brings her research into the classroom through innovative teaching. She designed and teaches an undergraduate course entitled *The Politics of Antisemitism*, bridging scholarly inquiry with contemporary policy debates. As a Fellow of the London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, she continues to advance critical scholarship on the evolving challenges of antisemitism. Her book, *Politics and Policy of Combating Antisemitism in the European Union and its Member States*, is forthcoming Indiana University Press (Bloomington). Dr. Dudek holds the PhD & MA in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA in Political Science from Canisius College (now University).



THANK YOU TO THE MANY PEOPLE and INSTITUTIONS WHO HAVE MADE SUNYMEU 2026 POSSIBLE

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