

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2020

<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

The 12th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2019-2020 was held on April 1, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 8/12	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 11/11	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 6/12	Robert Forbus <i>Marketing</i> 8/12	David Pettigrew <i>Philosophy</i> 9/12	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 10/12
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 8/12	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 12/12	Peter Latchman <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 10/12	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 11/12	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 7/12	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 8/12
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 11/12	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 8/12	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 11/12	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 12/12	Jon Wharton <i>Political Science</i> 10/12	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 12/12
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 11/11	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 11/12	Tom Radice <i>History</i> 12/12	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 0/12	Michael Nizhnikov* <i>Psychology</i> 9/12	
Sarah Crawford <i>Biology</i> 9/12	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 12/12	Darcy Kern <i>History</i> 7/12	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 11/12	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 11/12	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 12/12
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 9/12	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 9/12	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 6/12	Joanne Roy <i>Nursing</i> 4/4	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 11/12	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 11/12
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 12/12	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 5/12	Jerry Dunklee <i>Journalism</i> 12/12	Obiageli Okwuka* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 10/12	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 10/12	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 7/12
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 12/12	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 11/12	Parker Fruehan <i>Library Services</i> 12/12	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Paul Levatino <i>Social Work</i> 10/12	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 9/12
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 11/12	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 12/12	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 12/12	Mary Ellen Minichiello* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/12	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 12/12	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i>
Mohammad T. Islam <i>Computer Science</i> 6/12	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 12/12	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 8/12	Walter Stutzmann <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 11/12	Cassi Meyerhoffer* <i>Sociology</i> 2/4	
<u>Guests:</u> R. Prezant (Provost) S. Bullmer (Dean, HHS)	I. Crawford (AA) E. Durnin (Dean, BUS) S. Hegedus (Dean, EDU)	M. Kingan (VP IA) J. Edstrom (EM) M. Vancour (HHS)	H. Marx (EDU) T. Tyree (VP SA) C. Hlavac (A&S) T. Bennett (A&S)	T. Broliar (IT) J. Guerrucci M. Singh (Dean, Grad)	B. Zamfir (Ed/Assistive Tech) K. Martinez (NUR) T. Griffiths

An asterisk denotes an absence. Overall attendance recorded below each member.

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - A. W. Faraclas: While the New Faculty meeting has been canceled, please encourage your untenured faculty to join the committee for an online meeting. Please contact W. Faraclas or N. Starling for more information.
 - B. Coleman: On behalf of the Student Government Association, thank you to the Faculty Senate for passing the resolutions concerning student pass/fail and withdrawal/incompletes at the previous meeting.
 - C. D. Weiss for K. Kruczek: Please think about nominating yourself for a position/positions in the All-University elections, especially for the P&T committee for those members who are eligible.
 - D. M. Diamantis: Reminder that the virtual Graduate School Open House will take place on Thursday April 2 from 3-7 p.m.
 - E. R. Prezant: Encouraged faculty to participate in the survey sent out by the Office of Online Learning. A reminder email will be sent out.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on February 25, 2020 were accepted as distributed. <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- III. President's Report: <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- IV. Standing Committees: No reports (standing committees did not meet).
 - A. Questions
 - i. M. Diamantis: Updates on the travel authorizations and reimbursements?
 - 1. R. Prezant: Yes, there will be flexibility.
 - 2. I. Crawford: If you are waiting for a reimbursement for travel you were not able to complete, keep your TA in place.
 - ii. J. Webb: Will funds be rolled over?
 - 1. R. Prezant: Yes, assuming there are no changes from the BOR or the state.
 - iii. P. Petrie: Should I wait to ask for a reimbursement from the University if I am waiting for confirmation of a reimbursement from my travel provider?
 - 1. R. Prezant: If you do not want to go through the steps necessary to pay back a reimbursement, you may want to wait.
 - iv. W. Faraclas: Encourages Senators to speak with their department: if there are members who have encumbered funds, but who have not spent any money towards their travel, please contact the Travel office so those funds may be unencumbered.
 - v. R. Prezant: An email will be sent to Faculty addressing these issues.
- V. Special Committees
 - A. UCF (C. Simoneau): Steering committee met and decided that their last full meeting will take place on April 30. If faculty have curricular matters they would like brought before the UCF, submit the paperwork soon. Two pieces of business are still on the table: a) SGA survey on Multilingual Competency; 2) Report on the pilot program for "W" courses.

- B. Graduate Council (C. O’Sullivan): Speak with your Graduate coordinators to see if they may need assistance during the virtual Graduate Open house on April 2. Encourage faculty to use SCC Navigate when advising graduate students. Encourages faculty to consider submitting special topics courses at the graduate level. Finally, encourage faculty to think about new program creation and how we may better attract graduate students.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Faculty Senate Executive committee **moved to approve the constitution with the recognition that the bylaws must also be approved in order to move to a referendum.**
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 47
 - 2. No..... 0
 - ii. Motion to approve the revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution **passes.**
- B. Faculty Senate Executive committee **moved to approve the bylaws with the recognition that the constitution will first be approved by referendum.**
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 46
 - 2. No..... 1
 - ii. Motion to approve the revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws **passes.**
- C. Faculty Senate Executive Committee **moved to approve the Resolution Regarding Faculty Senate CBA Travel Funds for 2020-2021.**
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 47
 - 2. No..... 0
 - ii. Motion to approve resolution on travel funds **passes.**

VII. Adjournment

- A. Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

Faculty Senate Constitution Revisions

Southern Connecticut State University
Faculty Senate
Constitution

I. Functions

The Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty, deriving its authority from the faculty and the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Its primary function is to serve as the agency by which the faculty can actively participate in the governance and policy-making decisions of the University on the basis of the principle of shared authority. The Faculty Senate has as its goal a University community that promotes to the fullest the free transmission of knowledge and pursuit of truth. To this end, the members of the Faculty Senate are responsible for representing their constituent units and are entitled to propose new policies and procedures and revisions to existing policies and procedures of the University. The Faculty Senate shall consider such proposals and take appropriate action.

II. Membership

A. The Faculty Senate shall consist of the following:

1. Representatives from the full-time faculty (not on special appointments), athletic trainers, and coaches elected from within each voting unit as specified below, at the rate of one for every fifteen full-time members (including special appointments) or fraction thereof, with an additional representative for each succeeding fifteen full-time members (including special appointments) or fraction thereof. There shall be no minimum size for a voting unit.
2. Four representatives elected by and from the part-time faculty following election procedures of the Faculty Senate. No more than one of these part-time representatives shall come from any one department.
3. The immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate.
4. The President of the University, as an *ex officio*, nonvoting member.

B. The full-time members of each department (Athletics, Counseling, Library Services, and each academic department) shall be entitled to representation as a voting unit. Two or more departments may opt to form a single voting unit and elect one or more Senators to represent it, provided a majority of the members of each department agree. Any department may opt to terminate its membership in a previously agreed-upon voting unit by notifying the other department(s) in the unit. Any department that joins with another department, or that alters a previous arrangement with another department, shall notify the Secretary of the Faculty Senate in writing by February 1. Changes in such affiliations shall become effective at the beginning of the following academic year.

C. All members of the bargaining unit shall be eligible to serve in and to vote for members of the Faculty Senate. All full-time members shall have the right to proportional representation in the Faculty Senate by their voting unit, as specified above. All part-time members shall have the right to representation in the Faculty Senate as specified above, and shall be considered a single voting unit.

- D. The Faculty Senate Secretary shall certify the members of voting units at the beginning of each academic year. The Faculty Senate Rules Committee shall act as an appeals board for a change in representation. These actions of the Secretary and the Rules Committee shall be subject to approval by the Faculty Senate.

III. Officers

- A. The officers of the Faculty Senate shall be President, immediate Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

1. President

- a. The Faculty Senate President shall be elected by the Faculty Senate as the first order of business at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring semester. The Faculty Senate President shall take office with the beginning of the following academic year.
- b. The Faculty Senate President may be reelected, but shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. Any Senator who will be a Senator in the following academic year is eligible to be elected as President.
- c. In the absence of the Faculty Senate President, the immediate Past President shall preside over the Faculty Senate. If the immediate Past President is unable to preside, the Faculty Senate Secretary shall call the Faculty Senate to order to elect a presiding officer (*pro tem*). If the President, the immediate Past President, and the Secretary are not present, then a member of the Executive Committee shall preside.
- d. If the Faculty Senate President is unable to complete the term, the immediate Past President shall preside over the Faculty Senate and the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall hold an election for a new President. In the absence of the immediate Past President and the Chairperson of the Elections Committee, the election shall be conducted by a member of the Executive Committee according to the following order: Academic Policy Committee Chairperson, Finance Committee Chairperson, Personnel Policy Committee Chairperson, Rules Committee Chairperson, Student Policy Committee Chairperson, and Technology Committee Chairperson. If the vacancy occurs before the Executive Committee is elected, a member of the past Executive Committee shall preside as specified in the previous sentence.

2. Past President

- a. The Past President shall remain a voting member of the Faculty Senate one year after the end of the final term as President, even if that member's term as Senator has expired, and the member has not been re-elected. If the President of the Faculty Senate is re-elected, the office of Past President shall be vacant.

3. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall be appointed annually by the Faculty Senate President from among the members of the Faculty Senate subject to the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

- b. If the Secretary is unable to complete the term, the Faculty Senate President shall appoint a replacement from among the members of the Faculty Senate subject to the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

4. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall be elected to a one-year term as the second order of business at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring semester. The Treasurer shall take office with the beginning of the following academic year.
- b. The Treasurer may serve successive terms, but shall serve no more than three consecutive one-year terms. Any Senator who will be a Senator the following academic year is eligible to be elected as Treasurer.
- c. If the Treasurer is unable to complete the term, the Faculty Senate President shall appoint a replacement from among the members of the Faculty Senate subject to the majority approval of the Executive Committee.

B. Removal of Officers

- 1. A motion to remove any Faculty Senate officer from office shall be introduced by a petition presented to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate bearing the signatures of not less than 25% of the Faculty Senate membership. The petition shall state the grounds for removal of the officer(s).
- 2. A motion to remove any Faculty Senate officer from office shall be presented at the next regular or special meeting of the Faculty Senate, but may not be voted upon until the following regular meeting. This motion shall require the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the total Faculty Senate membership for passage.

IV. Meetings

- A. Meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be open to the public to the extent required by law.
- B. Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be held at least monthly during the academic year. The dates and times of the meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and shall be posted on the Faculty Senate website.
- C. Special meetings may be called by the Faculty Senate President as the need arises. Special meetings shall be called by the President or by the Faculty Senate Secretary at the request of at least one-quarter of the Faculty Senate membership. The calls to such meetings must be issued at least one week in advance and the purpose stated.
- D. The approved minutes of Faculty Senate meetings and President's reports presented at Faculty Senate meetings shall be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

V. Faculty Referendum

- A. The Elections Committee shall conduct faculty referenda of the full-time faculty (not on special

appointments) at the direction of the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate may also include part-time faculty and/or faculty on special appointments by a majority vote before a faculty referendum. All referenda require a minimum of 200 faculty votes to be valid and the results are decided by a simple majority of those voting.

VI. Faculty Initiative for Faculty Senate Action

- A. The Faculty Senate shall be bound to consider for enactment proposals which:
 - 1. Have been petitioned for by a minimum of 40 faculty members (full- and/or part-time), or,
 - 2. Have been recommended by the bargaining unit at a meeting announced and open to all members of the bargaining unit.
- B. Any faculty member may petition the Faculty Senate to conduct a faculty-wide referendum on any action taken by the Faculty Senate or proposal on which the Faculty Senate has refused to act. Signatures of a minimum of 40 faculty members (full- and/or part-time) are required for this petition and for a referendum to take place. Such petitions must specifically state the action desired. The conditions in Section V must also be met.

VII. Changes in the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

- A. Revising the Faculty Senate Constitution is a four-step process, requiring announcement, approval by the Faculty Senate, approval by the University Faculty via referendum, and approval by the University President.
 - 1. A vote to propose changes to the Faculty Senate Constitution may be taken either at a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Senate, provided:
 - a. The Faculty Senate membership has received written notice of each of the proposed changes and the forthcoming vote at least one week prior to the meeting; and
 - b. Two-thirds or more of the Faculty Senate membership is present.
 - 2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate membership present is needed to approve the proposed changes.
 - 3. Recommended changes in the Faculty Senate Constitution that are approved by the Faculty Senate shall be presented to the faculty for a vote following the referendum procedure in Section V.
 - 4. Recommended changes in the Faculty Senate Constitution that are approved by a faculty referendum shall be presented to the University President for approval.
- B. Changes in the Faculty Senate Bylaws may be made at either a regular or special meeting of the Faculty Senate, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Faculty Senate membership provided that the conditions in Section VII, Parts A.1 and A.2 have been met.

Faculty Senate Bylaws Revisions

Southern Connecticut State University Faculty Senate Bylaws

I. Membership in Voting Units¹

- A. This section defines the terms *full-time member*, *part-time member*, *voting unit member*, and *department member*. These definitions shall be used to resolve questions of membership in any department or voting unit and shall be observed universally in all matters of Faculty Senate business, including membership in the Faculty Senate, participation in Faculty Senate activities, and service on University committees that come under the Faculty Senate's purview. For the purpose of determining the number of Senators from each unit, the following standards will be applied:
1. A full-time member is any member who has a full-time appointment at the University and is covered by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) bargaining unit. Full-time members include full-time teaching faculty, full-time counselors or full-time counseling faculty, full-time librarians or full-time library faculty, and full-time coaches and non-instructional athletic trainers.
 2. Every full-time teaching faculty member shall be designated as a member of one, and only one, voting unit (a single academic department or a group of two or more academic departments). Every full-time program director, counselor, librarian, coach, or non-instructional athletic trainer shall be designated as a member of one, and only one, voting unit (e.g., Counseling, Library Services, or Athletics).
 3. A full-time faculty member who has responsibilities of more than six semester hours per semester in a department shall be considered a member of that department, unless there is an agreement in writing with the department that the faculty member is on loan to that department, but will remain in a different home department.
 4. A full-time faculty member who has responsibilities of six semester hours per semester in each of two departments must choose to be assigned to one of the two departments and must communicate this decision in writing to both affected departments and to the appropriate Dean(s). An application for promotion or tenure shall constitute such a communication. Having made such a choice, the faculty member may not alter this choice without written permission from the affected departments and appropriate Dean(s).
 5. Any full-time department member may transfer to another department provided that a request is communicated in writing to the affected departments and appropriate dean(s) involved and permission is received from the departments and dean(s). Having made such a change in home department, the faculty member may not alter this choice without written permission from the affected departments and appropriate Dean(s).

¹ Interpretation: Membership in the Faculty Senate and representation therein shall include only full-time and part-time teaching faculty, counselors, counseling faculty, librarians, library faculty, coaches, and non-instructional athletic trainers.

6. A part-time member is any member who has a part-time appointment at the University and is covered by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) bargaining unit. Part-time members include part-time teaching faculty, part-time counselors or part-time counseling faculty, part-time librarians or part-time library faculty, and part-time coaches and non-instructional athletic trainers.
 7. The Faculty Senate Secretary shall be notified of any changes in a full-time faculty member's voting unit by February 1.
- B. Realignments of Voting Units
1. Prior to April 1, the Faculty Senate Secretary, having counted the members of each voting unit, shall report to the Faculty Senate on the current and prospective status of any realignments of voting units.

II. Election of Senators

- A. Prior to April 1, the Faculty Senate Secretary shall notify each voting unit and the Faculty Senate of vacancies in the Office of Senator for the following academic year. Each voting unit, thus notified, shall elect a Senator prior to April 30 and shall inform the Secretary in writing of the names of those elected. All changes in representation other than the filling of vacancies arising during mid-year shall be effective at the beginning of the following academic year.
- B. Voting units for full-time members shall use the following election procedures:
1. Elections shall be by secret written ballot with a majority vote of ballots cast by the voting unit required for election. Abstentions shall not count as ballots cast.
- C. The voting unit for part-time faculty shall use the following election procedures:
1. The Faculty Senate Elections Committee shall conduct the election.
 2. There shall be no more than one Senator elected from any department.
 3. Those candidates with the highest vote counts shall fill vacant part-time seats.
- D. Term of office
1. Elected members shall serve a term of three years, taking office at the beginning of the academic year, except as specified in Section II, Parts D.2, D.3, or E.
 2. In any given year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee may assign two-year terms to some Faculty Senate seats. Such assignments may be made only to improve the rotational balance of the Faculty Senate or of a particular voting unit.
 3. The term of office of any Senator representing a voting unit whose structure has changed pursuant to Section II: Membership in the Faculty Senate Constitution shall be deemed to terminate effective with the beginning of the next academic year.

- E. Vacancies arising during the term of office of a Senator shall be filled by elections of the voting unit involved, by the above-mentioned procedure (Section II, Parts B or C) at the time such vacancies occur. The term of a Senator elected to fill a premature vacancy shall be for the remainder of the vacated term, unless the vacancy occurs with one semester or less remaining; in that case, the term of the newly elected Senator shall be the remainder of the semester plus a regular three-year term.
- F. Recall of a Senator by a voting unit shall require a motion to recall made in the affected unit, followed by a two-thirds vote by secret written ballot of the total voting unit membership.
- G. The Faculty Senate Rules Committee shall serve as an advisory committee to the Faculty Senate in all questions concerning the election or recall of Senators.

III. Accountability of Senators

- A. Senators are expected to attend Faculty Senate and Standing Committee meetings regularly. An attendance roster as part of the meeting minutes will be present on the Faculty Senate website.
- B. Senators may be excused from attending Faculty Senate meetings by the Faculty Senate President (or designee) and from Standing Committee meetings by the Committee Chairperson (or Co-chairperson).
- C. Senators are expected to read the documents on the agenda before each Faculty Senate or Standing Committee meeting, keep their departments well-informed of matters being discussed at the Faculty Senate, and participate at Faculty Senate and Standing Committee meetings.
- D. Given the importance of a quorum when conducting Faculty Senate business, departments shall be notified by the Faculty Senate Secretary prior to the end of each semester when their Faculty Senate representative has been absent without being excused for at least three of the Faculty Senate or Standing Committee meetings for that semester.

IV. Quorum

- A. All official Faculty Senate business including voting requires a quorum. Fifty percent (50%) of the voting membership constitutes a quorum. The Faculty Senate Secretary shall determine whether a quorum is present.

V. Rules of Order

- A. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Faculty Senate except when it is inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Faculty Senate may adopt. The Faculty Senate President shall appoint a member of the Faculty Senate to serve as Parliamentarian for the body, subject to the majority approval of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian: (a) must be knowledgeable about parliamentary procedure; (b) bring a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, to all Faculty Senate meetings; (c) provide recommendations to the President regarding the conduct of Faculty Senate meetings; and, (d) advise Faculty Senate members about the use of parliamentary procedure.

VI. Order of Business

- A. The order of business at regular meetings of the Faculty Senate shall be:
 - 1. Announcements relevant to the Faculty Senate
 - 2. Approval of the minutes of the preceding Faculty Senate meeting
 - 3. Faculty Senate President's report
 - 4. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - 5. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
 - 6. Unfinished business
 - 7. New business
 - 8. Guest speaker(s): the placement of the guest speaker(s) within the order of business may be changed at the discretion of the Faculty Senate President.
- B. Any member of the University community shall have the right to request consideration of additional items for the agenda. Requests must be made in writing to the Faculty Senate Secretary at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which they are to be presented, and shall be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for consideration.
- C. Guest speakers normally shall be invited to speak and/or take questions for a predetermined period of time at Faculty Senate meetings. The University President and Provost shall be invited to address the Faculty Senate during at least one meeting each academic year.
- D. The order of business may be changed by agreement of a simple majority of the Faculty Senate.

VII. Rules of Procedure

- A. The following rules shall govern the normal business of the Faculty Senate. Any or all of these may be suspended at the discretion of the Faculty Senate.
 - 1. The Orders of the Day including minutes of the preceding meeting and resolutions, insofar as possible, shall be written, reproduced, and delivered to Senators at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which they are to be presented.
 - 2. The Faculty Senate President's report shall summarize items of current relevance to the business of the Faculty Senate, including the status of Faculty Senate resolutions. Standing Committee written reports shall summarize to the Faculty Senate items that were discussed in committee meetings and include any material that will inform the Faculty Senate on the issues. Additional information may be presented orally during the Faculty Senate meeting. The reports shall be offered for acceptance and may simply be accepted by the Faculty Senate President if there are no objections from the floor.
 - 3. The Faculty Senate shall consider and discuss recommendations and resolutions from Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees, All-University Committees, the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, and the Graduate Council; petitions from at least 40 faculty members (full- and/or part-time); and petitions resulting from a meeting of the instructional faculty bargaining unit, announced and open to all members of that group.

4. Resolutions which are approved by the Faculty Senate shall be forwarded to the University President. Resolutions may be for information or for approval by the University President. Resolutions which seek to establish policy or change Faculty Senate documents or policies that were previously approved by the University President, or which seek funds, resources, or cooperation from the University Administration shall be sent as resolutions for approval. Other resolutions that provide information or state a position shall be for information. The University President shall respond to resolutions for approval with *approve* or *disapprove*. In the case of disapproval, the University President shall include a written explanation. The University President shall note resolutions for information. All resolutions presented to the University President in writing shall receive a written response within fifteen (15) business days.
5. Faculty Senate members shall have the right to participate in meeting discussions, make motions and vote on motions. The University President is an *ex officio*, nonvoting member of the Faculty Senate with the right to participate in Faculty Senate discussions. Visitors and liaisons to the Faculty Senate from the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, Graduate Council, Student Government Association, and Graduate Student Affairs Committee may participate in Faculty Senate discussions when recognized by the Faculty Senate President unless there is an objection from the floor. In the case of an objection, the guest may be recognized by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate. Visitors and liaisons to the Faculty Senate may not vote on Faculty Senate motions.

VIII. Voting

- A. Voting and debate will follow the guidelines in Robert's Rules of Order. The Faculty Senate President and Faculty Senate Secretary shall independently count votes and must agree upon the result.
- B. While a motion is on the floor, or immediately subsequent to a vote on such a motion, any Senator may call for a proportional vote on that matter. This procedural motion shall be non-debatable. The motion for a proportional vote shall prevail provided one-fourth of the Senators present vote in favor of the motion. The Faculty Senate President and Faculty Senate Secretary shall independently count the votes regarding the call for a proportional vote and must agree upon the result. The subsequent proportional vote shall be by roll-call, with each Senator's vote being weighted as follows: (a) each vote from a full-time voting unit (single department or group of departments) shall be assigned a weight equal to the number of full-time members in that unit divided by the number of Senators to which the unit is entitled; and, (b) each vote from the part-time voting unit shall be assigned a weight of fifteen.
- C. The election of the Faculty Senate President and Faculty Senate Treasurer shall be by written secret ballot with a majority of those voting required for election. The election shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate Elections Committee, or if the Chairperson is a candidate or nominator, the Elections Committee shall designate a member to conduct the elections. The Chairperson or designee shall appoint the teller(s) to collect and count the ballots. If a majority vote is not received in the first ballot, a run-off vote shall be conducted between the two individuals who received the most votes. A secret ballot for electing a Faculty Senate President and Faculty Senate Treasurer shall be waived if there is not more than one candidate.
- D. Upon the request of any Senator, voting on any motion shall be by secret ballot. At least two members of the Faculty Senate Elections Committee shall conduct the ballot. In the absence of

members of the Elections Committee, the Faculty Senate President shall appoint tellers to conduct the ballot.

IX. Faculty Senate Committees

A. The Faculty Senate shall have the following standing committees:

1. Executive Committee
2. Academic Policy Committee
3. Elections Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Personnel Policy Committee
6. Rules Committee
7. Student Policy Committee
8. Technology Committee

B. Regular meetings of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee shall be held at least bi-weekly during the fall and spring semesters. Special meetings may be called by the Faculty Senate President as the need arises.

1. Membership:

- President of the Faculty Senate (Chairperson)
- Secretary of the Faculty Senate (Secretary)
- Chairperson (or Co-chairpersons) of the other Faculty Senate Standing Committees
- Immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate

2. Purpose and Purview:

- To establish a calendar of Faculty Senate meetings.
- To set the agenda for each Faculty Senate meeting.
- To continually review policies and procedures.
- To maintain liaison with the Administration of the University.
- To initiate Faculty Senate action.
- To preserve and interpret Faculty Senate documents.
- To determine eligibility to Faculty Senate All-University committees.
- To assign work to each Faculty Senate Standing Committee.
- To advise the Faculty Senate President and other members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on matters of the Faculty Senate.
- To communicate a policy statement or document to the University Administration or Board of Regents that has not been discussed by the Faculty Senate due to time constraints; communications of this nature shall be written and distributed to all Senators prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- To accomplish Faculty Senate business in a timely manner, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee may assign work to any Standing Committee as needed including work that is outside the purview of the assigned committee.
- To provide clarifications, interpretations and rulings, and make decisions, as described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Faculty Senate.

C. During the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year, all Senators (with the exception of the Faculty Senate President, Secretary, Treasurer, and University President) shall choose a Standing Committee assignment. The Faculty Senate President and Secretary may serve on Standing Committees if they so choose; the Treasurer serves as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. It is recommended that all Standing Committees shall have no fewer than six members, except the Elections Committee, which shall have no fewer than three members. To ensure an equitable distribution of membership, the Faculty Senate President may reassign any Senator to another Standing Committee. After each Standing Committee has been formed, a Chairperson (and if deemed necessary, a Co-chairperson) shall be elected from the committee membership. A Chairperson (or Co-chairperson) may serve successive terms, but shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. If a Standing Committee has Co-chairpersons, both may attend Executive Committee meetings but only one shall be designated to vote. A committee member shall be ineligible to serve as Chairperson or Co-chairperson of a standing Committee if the member is: (a) the Faculty Senate President; (b) the Secretary; or, (c) Chairperson (or Co-chairperson) of another Standing Committee. Each committee member shall have an equal vote in all committee business. During the fall and spring semesters, Standing Committees shall meet during those weeks when the Faculty Senate does not meet.

1. The Faculty Senate Standing Committees and their purviews include the following:

a. Academic Policy Committee

Purview: All matters of policy pertaining to academic matters; e.g., academic philosophy, academic standards, accreditation, degree programs, grading system, special academic programs, etc.

b. Elections Committee

Purview: All matters dealing with University-wide elections and referenda; e.g., notification of existence of vacancies and of qualifications for voters and for nominees, collection and certification of names of nominees, collection and distribution of information of nominees or referendum issue, tabulation of ballots, distribution of voting results, etc. The Faculty Senate Elections Committee may also run elections for other University Committees when directed to do so by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in response to a request from the University Administration.

c. Finance Committee

Purview: All matters of fiscal policy relating to the University and Faculty Senate; e.g., University and Faculty Senate budget, long-range planning, the use and balances of contractually provided and other travel funds, etc. The committee shall maintain liaison with the University Budget and Planning Committee and with the Administration on all finance-related matters of the University. The Treasurer of the Faculty Senate shall serve as the Committee Chairperson.

d. Personnel Policy Committee

Purview: All matters of policy pertaining to personnel represented in the Faculty Senate; e.g., promotion, tenure, sabbatical, salary, fringe benefits, etc.

e. Rules Committee

Purview: All matters dealing with the internal operations of the Faculty Senate and the interaction of the Faculty Senate and faculty; e.g., election of Senators, constitutional questions, all matters of information on committees serving the University community. The committee shall request and receive annual reports from All-University Committees on behalf of the Faculty Senate and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate based upon those reports. The committee shall also act as an appeals board which reviews committee membership guidelines and procedures, and insures equal representation for all voting units.

f. Student Policy Committee

Purview: All matters of policy pertaining to students; e.g., admissions, academic standings, grading system. The committee shall maintain liaison with student government and other student organizations involved with student policies.

g. Technology Committee

Purview: All matters dealing with technology as it impacts faculty in their teaching and research; e.g., hardware/software acquisition, technical support, long range planning relative to academic technology, etc. The committee shall maintain liaison with other technology committees and groups on campus as well as the University Information Technology department.

D. Special Committees include, but are not limited to, the following: Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Committees, All-University Committees, the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, and the Graduate Council.

1. Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Committees are those that are established by the Faculty Senate to perform specific tasks. The Chairperson and members of such committees shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate President in consultation with the Executive Committee. An Ad-hoc Committee ceases to exist when its mandate is completed as determined by the Executive Committee. Ad-hoc Committees are normally selected from among the Senators, but may include members of the general faculty. When appropriate, the Chairperson of an ad-hoc committee may become a temporary member of the Executive Committee at the discretion of the Executive Committee; this temporary membership on the Executive Committee is terminated when the Ad-hoc Committee has completed its mandate as determined by the Executive Committee.
2. All-University Committees are those that the Faculty Senate has established to perform specific ongoing tasks. The Faculty Senate shall determine the purpose of each All-University Committee, committee eligibility and length of term for its members. Faculty serving on All-University Committees shall be elected by the full-time faculty in elections administered by the Elections Committee. Elections for All-University Committee vacancies shall be held before the end of each spring semester. If necessary, special elections shall be administered by the Elections Committee to fill any vacancies that remain after the first election. School restrictions for All-University Committees shall be removed in special elections that are held after the first special election.
3. The Undergraduate Curriculum Forum is a permanent, autonomous Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate charged with improving the overall quality of the undergraduate curriculum. The UCF derives its authority from the faculty and is led by elected members of the faculty.

4. The Graduate Council is a permanent, autonomous Standing Committee of the Faculty Senate charged with improving the overall quality of the graduate curriculum. The Graduate Council derives its authority from the faculty and is led by elected members of the faculty.

X. Revisions to the Bylaws

- A. Revisions of the Bylaws shall be initiated by the Executive Committee or a motion made by a Senator.
- B. Revisions to the Bylaws shall be approved according to the guidelines specified in the Faculty Senate Constitution.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution on CBA Travel Funds for 2020-2021

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence; and

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty; and

Whereas, The CSU-AAUP CBA Travel Fund supports Faculty attendance at professional seminars, workshops, conferences or educational exchanges (CSU-AAUP Contract Article 9.5.1); and

Whereas, Attendance at and participation in such conferences and academic gatherings enhances the ability of SCSU Faculty to achieve excellence as scholars in their particular disciplines; and

Whereas, The Collective Bargaining Agreement (9.5.1) specifies that the President or designee shall consult with the cabinet and the Senate President in assigning travel funds, and each full-time member normally shall not be allowed more than \$1,500 reimbursement per contract year toward the cost of fees, and each part-time member not more than \$750; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate has voted to set the amount of Travel Funds available per Faculty member at the last Senate meeting of the year for at least the past thirty-two years, through an annual Faculty Senate Resolution on Travel Funds; and

Whereas, Inflation for travel and conference costs has significantly outpaced inflationary increases in other areas and increased costs have affected faculty opportunities to participate in national and international professional seminars, workshops, conferences and educational exchanges; and

Whereas, Through this resolution the Faculty Senate is acting to fulfill its responsibility in conferring with the President in establishing a maximum annual SCSU funding limit on travel funds provided by the CBA for 2020-2021; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommends that the travel fund caps for 2020-2021 be set as \$1,500.00 for full-time faculty members and \$750.00 for part-time faculty members.