

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

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

The Second Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on September 16, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 2/2	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 2/2	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 2/2	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 2/2	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 2/2	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 2/2
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 2/2	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 2/2	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 2/2	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 2/2	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 2/2	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 2/2
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 2/2	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 2/2	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 2/2	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 2/2	Jon Wharton <i>Political Science</i> 2/2	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 2/2
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 2/2	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 2/2	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 2/2	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 2/2	Michael Nizhnikov* <i>Psychology</i> 1/2	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 2/2	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 2/2	Darcy Kern <i>History</i> 2/2	Frances Penny* <i>Nursing</i> 0/2	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 2/2	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 2/2
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 2/2	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 2/2	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 2/2	Kelly Martinez <i>Nursing</i> 2/2	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 2/2	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 2/2
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 2/2	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 2/2	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 2/2	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 2/2	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 2/2	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 2/2
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 2/2	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 2/2	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 2/2	Mary Ellen Minichiello <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 1/2	Sebatian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 2/2	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 2/2
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 2/2	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 2/2	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 2/2	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 2/2	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 2/2
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 2/2	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 2/2	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 2/2	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 1/1	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i>
<u>Guests:</u> R. Prezant (Provost)	B. Kalk (Dean A&S) T. Milburn (AA)	T. Broliar (IT) M. Singh (Dean, Grad)	J. H. Kim (MIB & PU) D. Ariza (VP DEI)	C. O'Halloran	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 2nd meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - A. C. Simoneau: Self-nominations for All-University Committee elections close this week.
 - B. L. Eilderts: Alerted faculty that the FCARG applications, as well as Sabbatical Leave, require Adobe software to complete. Faculty may request Adobe software to be installed on the University-issued computer if they do not already have it.
 - C. W. Faraclas: Newer Faculty Group will meet on Friday September 18.

- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 2, 2020 were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

- III. President's Report
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
 - A. Senators discussed course modality (hybrid, hyflex, remote synchronous, remote asynchronous).

- IV. Faculty Senate Standing Committee Chairpersons
 - A. Academic Policy (P. Petrie): Minutes received. No additional report.
 - B. Elections (C. Simoneau): Minutes received. No additional report.
 - C. Finance (W. Faraclas): Minutes received; travel monies have not yet appeared in the Travel fund accounts. Committee will follow up with administration.
 - D. Personnel Policy (N. Starling): Minutes received. No additional report.
 - E. Rules (R. Gregory): Minutes received. No additional report.
 - F. Student Policy (K. Marsland): Minutes received. Committee is exploring making SAT/ACT scores optional in the admissions process. If a department uses these scores in its admission process, please alert K. Marsland, chair SPC.
 - G. Technology (J. Fields): Minutes not received. Committee met and had a brainstorming session on the primary issues that the committee would like to work on this year. Asked senators to forward any issues to J. Fields, chair.

- V. Special Committees
 - A. UCF (C. Simoneau): Shared the UCF statement on course caps with Deans and chairs of departments.
 - B. Graduate Council (C. O'Sullivan): Announced that faculty interested in searching on the search committee for the Associate Dean of the Graduate School should contact Dean Singh. The Curriculum committee is working on streamlining their processes and possibly align them with UCF processes and documentation.

- VI. New Business
 - A. C. Simoneau and the Elections committee **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Indigenous Peoples' Day.
 - i. Vote tally.
 - 1. Yes49
 - 2. No.....0
 - a. Motion **passed unanimously.**

- B. The Executive Committee **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Course Class Enrollment Caps for Online Courses.
 - i. K. Marsland moved **to strike** “it is otherwise not feasible to adhere to this cap” and **replace it with** “they deem it appropriate” so that it reads:

“Resolved, That departments may choose to offer selected courses with more than 25 students per class when they deem it appropriate ~~it is otherwise not feasible to adhere to this cap~~; and be it further”

 - 1. P. Petrie **moved to call the previous question. Motion seconded.**
 - a. Motion passed with unanimous consent.
 - 2. Vote tally.
 - a. Yes33
 - b. No11
 - i. Motion **to strike and replace passed.**
 - ii. S. Grace **moved to call the previous question. Motion seconded.**
 - 1. Motion **passed** with unanimous consent.
 - iii. Vote tally.
 - 1. Yes30
 - 2. No.....13
 - a. Motion **passed.**

VII. Guests

- A. Diane M. Ariza, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
 - i. Introduced herself to the Faculty Senate; shared her initial impressions and goals; hopes to highlight and bring together the many groups that are working on issues of Social Justice at Southern, but whose work may be happening in isolation.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion approved** with unanimous consent.
 - i. Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

RESOLUTION REGARDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION REGARDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY**

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, Indigenous Peoples have lived in the Western Hemisphere, including on the land upon which Southern Connecticut State University sits, for at least 12,000 years and perhaps as much as 40,000 years (according to recent archaeological estimates) prior to European arrivals; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples continue to live throughout the Western Hemisphere today, including in Connecticut; and

Whereas, The histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples—including their past and ongoing experiences with European settler colonialism--remain insufficiently acknowledged and understood by non-Indigenous Peoples; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

Whereas, Indigenous Peoples' Day has been adopted by many other campuses, municipalities, townships, and states; and

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University is a welcoming community that is dedicated to social justice and embraces all peoples. Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of Southern Connecticut State University, henceforth, designates the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as one way to continually strive to better acknowledge and understand the long, complex, dynamic, and ongoing histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples, and as one way to signal our active commitment to pursuing conversations, collaborations, partnerships, and reconciliations with contemporary Indigenous communities.

RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE CLASS ENROLLMENT CAPS FOR ONLINE COURSES

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE CLASS ENROLLMENT CAPS FOR ONLINE COURSES

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University 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, Standard practice at Southern dictates an online class cap of no more than 25 students to ensure the best pedagogy and delivery practices and to maximize the opportunity for student success; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the enrollment for online courses be capped at no more than 25 students per class; and be it further

Resolved, That departments may choose to offer selected courses with more than 25 students per class when they deem it appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate supports the Statement from the UCF Steering Committee, approved by the UCF on September 10, 2020. ¹

¹ Statement from UCF Steering Committee, approved by UCF 9/10/20:

The Undergraduate Curriculum Forum continues to be concerned about preserving maximum course caps of 25 for both asynchronous and synchronous online course. In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university needed to suddenly close and pivot to all-online, emergency course offerings. Under those circumstances, exceeding the maximum course caps was unavoidable. We applaud the amazing job undertaken by all faculty, and their students, to adapt to that exclusively online platform.

On the fall course roster, some 260 online course sections list course caps that exceed 25. There are varying reasons that 30 departments and programs opted to run sections with more than 25 students. But, the underlying reason was the desire by faculty to teach in an online modality due to COVID-19 concerns, and the lack of immediate funds to hire more faculty in time to teach the needed smaller sections to meet the cap.

The university is about to enter its third semester under difficult circumstances. In this "new normal," it is imperative that the university make smaller class size, and its pedagogical benefits to students, a renewed priority.

The UCF is calling on faculty, chairs, deans, and administration to collaborate to plan a semester that makes possible a 25-student course cap for any online course. We must remain cognizant of the current course enrollment caps for all modalities and their vital role in ensuring quality education. In the midst of this global crisis, we must maintain our academic standards to ensure a robust and enriching experience to which our students will want to return.

Course enrollment caps were implemented based on sound pedagogical rationale and should be maintained. Currently, in addition to the online courses cap of 25, writing courses are capped at 22.

Smaller class size is particularly beneficial for students taking 100-200 level, FYE and LEP courses. Students in these courses often have underdeveloped skillsets in time management and writing.

Thus, course caps ensure students enrolled in these classes receive the additional attention and guidance they require. A positive experience in these formative classes leads to student success and will bolster student retention. As we plan for spring 2021, we reassert our commitment to a strong curriculum centered on student success by honoring all course enrollment caps.