

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

APPROVED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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

The Second Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on September 30, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 3/3	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 3/3	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 3/3	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 3/3	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 3/3	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 3/3
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 3/3	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 3/3	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 3/3	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 3/3	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 3/3	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 3/3
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 3/3	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 3/3	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 3/3	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 3/3	Jon Wharton <i>Political Science</i> 3/3	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 3/3
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 3/3	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 3/3	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 3/3	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 3/3	Michael Nizhnikov* <i>Psychology</i> 1/3	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 3/3	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 3/3	Darcy Kern <i>History</i> 3/3	Frances Penny* <i>Nursing</i> 0/3	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 3/3	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 3/3
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 3/3	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 3/3	Yan Liu <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 3/3	Kelly Martinez <i>Nursing</i> 3/3	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 3/3	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 3/3
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 3/3	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 3/3	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 3/3	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/3	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 3/3	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 3/3
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 3/3	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 3/3	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 3/3	Mary Ellen Minichiello <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 2/3	Sebatian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 3/3	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 3/3
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 3/3	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 3/3	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 3/3	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 3/3	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 3/3
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 3/3	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 3/3	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 3/3	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 2/2	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 3/3
<u>Guests:</u> R. Prezant (Provost) J. Edstrom (EM)	B. Kalk (Dean A&S) T. Milburn (AA) C. Hlavac (A&S)	M. Singh (Dean, Grad) S. Bulmer (Dean HHS)	J. H. Kim (MIB & PU) M. Rozewski (EVP)	M. Vancour (HHS) T. Bennett (A&S)	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
  - A. M. Shea: Acknowledged the good work being done at Southern by students, staff, and faculty in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - B. K. Kruczek: Voting in the all-university elections closes October 9.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 16, 2020 were accepted as corrected.  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- III. President's Report  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- 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.
    - i. The Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund was used in its entirety.
    - ii. Carryover funds for Full-time travel
      1. \$181,213 Rollover from FY 20
      2. 11,258 Encumbered: may be added to rollover (\$192,471)
    - iii. Carryover funds for Part-time travel
      1. \$5,713 Rollover from FY 20
      2. 534 Encumbered: may be added to rollover (\$6,247)
  - 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. No additional report.
  - G. Technology (J. Fields): Minutes not received. No additional report.
- 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 and M. Diamantis)
    - i. GC members collaborating and contributing to the strategic plan for the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (expected December 2020). Survey will be distributed seeking feedback in the next few weeks.
    - ii. A new tracker has been added to confluence, similar to that used by the UCF.
    - iii. Ongoing discussion over the use of Zoom.
    - iv. Discussion over lowering the grade threshold for transfer courses from B to C.
- VI. Update from Academic Affairs (R. Prezant).
  - A. A. Coleman: SGA is not in favor of the decision to allow residential students to register before other students and requested Senate assistance with this issue.
  - B. J. Edstrom: Explained how Enrollment Management arrived at this registration proposal. Shared that there are additional parameters that can be added to the registration process (e.g. residential students could be given priority for on-campus courses only; residential students would still be grouped with their class, with priority within their class).
  - C. Discussion continued among Senators.

VII. New Business

A. W. Faraclas **moved to approve** the resolution Regarding Faculty Creative Activity Travel Funds for FY 21.

i. J. Webb **moved to amend** the resolution to read:

1. Resolved, That this action shall be for this fiscal cycle only, and shall not prejudice the resumption of funding in the following fiscal **years**.
2. **Motion seconded.**
3. With **unanimous consent** the motion to amend the resolution was **approved.**

ii. Motion **to approve the resolution as amended:**

1. Vote tally.
  - a. Yes.....38
  - b. No .....3

i. Motion **approved.**

B. D. Weiss introduced a discussion regarding the pass/fail grading policy as requested by A. Carroll, University Registrar.

i. While many Senators agreed that making the process more efficient would be welcome, many also raised concerns over removing approval by the student's advisor. Discussion will continue.

VIII. Guests

A. M. Rozewski, Executive Vice-President for Finance.

i. Presented an overview of the current financial status of the University and answered Senators' questions.

IX. Adjournment

A. Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING FACULTY CREATIVE ACTIVITY TRAVEL FUNDS FOR FY 21**

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

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

Whereas, SCSU is experiencing an unprecedented financial shortfall precipitated by the effect of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic on enrollment, use of residence halls and purchase of cafeteria meal plans;

Whereas, the University's *Reopening 2020* guidelines specify that "University-sanctioned domestic and international travel will not be permitted for faculty, staff, and management" with the exception of "travel deemed critical for maintaining the daily operations of the University";

Whereas, the abrupt interruption of travel during the spring and summer of 2020 resulted in a substantial amount of unused contractually-provided travel funds during the last fiscal year, which will roll-over into the contractual travel fund for this year;

Whereas, the faculty is committed to finding effective ways to address the budget deficit that will maintain appropriate support for the institution's academic mission and working conditions through shared governance approaches; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That for the good of the University, the anticipated allocation of \$85,000 to the Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund for faculty travel be suspended for the current fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved, That suspension of this allocation shall not affect the allocation of \$85,000 to the Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants fund; and be it further

Resolved, That this action shall be for this fiscal cycle only, and shall not prejudice the resumption of funding in the following fiscal years.