

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

September 30, 2020 | 12:10 p.m. | WebEx

To join the meeting, please click [here](#) to be connected via WebEx.

Alternatively, copy and paste this link:

<https://southernct.webex.com/southernct/j.php?MTID=mb5b9c5215592e52ec6a2f6789c166c35>

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Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

AGENDA

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12:10 p.m.

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- I. Announcements Relevant to the Faculty Senate
- II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on September 16, 2020
- III. Faculty Senate President's Report
- IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Policy
 - b. Elections
 - c. Finance
 - d. Personnel Policy
 - e. Rules
 - f. Student Policy
 - g. Technology
- V. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
 - a. UCF
 - b. Graduate Council
- VI. Unfinished Business
- VII. New Business
 - a. Resolution Regarding Faculty Creative Activity Travel Funds For FY 21
 - b. Grading policies (withdrawal, etc.)
- VIII. Guest Speakers
 - a. Mark Rozewski, Executive Vice-President for Finance

Fall 2020 meetings: September 2, September 16, September 30, October 14, October 28, November 11, December 2.
Spring 2021 meetings: January 27, February 10, February 24, March 10, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 5.

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED 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 Farclas <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>
Guests: R. Prezant (Provost)	B. Kalk (Dean A&S) T. Milburn (AA)	T. Brolliar (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. Yes..... 49
 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. Yes..... 33
 - b. No 11
 - 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. Yes..... 30
 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. Elderts
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.

Minutes of the Standing Committees

Academic Policy Committee (APC)

APC MINUTES 9/23/2020

Present: Allen, Crowley, Gilliland, Jayawickreme, Kulkarni, Perumbilly, Petrie (chair), Siedlecki

- Shared news from Executive Committee / Faculty Leadership Council about pursuing racial justice initiative (see 9/9 minutes)
- P&T focus groups:
 - Finalized:
 - Recently tenured / promoted faculty (9/25, 12-1, led by Petrie, Gilliland, Siedlecki)
 - Provost and Deans (10/1, 2-3, led by Perumbilly and Kulkarni)
 - In process:
 - Department chairs (Jayawickreme and Allen)
 - DEC's (Petrie)
 - AAUP (Petrie)

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul R. Petrie

**Faculty Senate Elections Committee
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
Minutes**

Attendance via Teams: Darcy Kern, Klay Kruczek, Mina Park, Jonathan Wharton, Cindy Simoneau, chair.

Guest: Karen Musmanno, Blackboard Systems Manager

1. Update on Fall university-wide elections – Klay
Self-nominations ending.
Ballot preparation underway.
2. Requests have been sent to past university committee chairpersons reminding them to conduct elections for 2020-21 chairpersons and report updates on committee descriptions and responsibilities for possible revision.
3. Discussion with Karen Musmanno about electronic balloting options for academic departments and programs to follow for election of chairpersons as an alternate to in-person paper balloting. Elections Committee members available to assist. Notes will be sent to department chairs about this assistance.
Musmanno discussed options including using Select Survey or creating an organization in Blackboard.

Submitted by:
Cindy Simoneau
Chairperson

Finance Committee (FC)

Senate Finance Committee Minutes September 23, 2020

Attendees: Bill Faraclas, Carol Stewart, Sanja Grubacic, Oby Okwuka

Committee Chair Faraclas gave an update on his correspondence with the Mark Rozewski, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, and correspondence and conversation with Rusty May, Director of Technology Administration in Information Technology. VP Rozewski will give a financial report to the Senate to address the financial impact to our campus of the coronavirus pandemic, and Director May will give the Finance Committee a written report summarizing what is being spent by our campus and the system office on academic technologies for our university. .

Our request to have a member of the Finance Committee (Dr. Stewart) serve on the University Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) appears to have been approved. Apparently, the BPC, with additional membership, will serve as the special budget committee mentioned by President Bertolino in his State of the University address.

Funds have not yet been placed in the contractual (“AAUP”) and Faculty Creative Activity Travel Fund accounts; however, the President has given assurance that the monies will be provided. A substantial rollover is anticipated in the contractual account.

The Committee discussed the unprecedented deficit the University is facing, which has implications for the University’s ability to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff. Concerns were raised about the need for recognition of the exceptional efforts and commitment of the faculty in preserving retention by providing excellent instruction and thoughtfully taking care of individual students’ needs.

The Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Obiageli Okwuka

Personnel Policy Committee (PPC)

FACULTY SENATE PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 23, 2020

Teams Meeting

Members: Toce, Jacqueline; Slomba, Jeffrey; Lopez-Velasquez, Angela; Tomczak, Stephen; Shea, Michael; Martinez, Kelly; Pittman, Adam; Starling, Natalie (chair); Weiss, Deb (guest)

12:10pm

meeting called to order; prior minutes approved

12:15pm-1:00pm

Committee met with FS President, Deb Weiss, for discussion of Research Reassigned Time (RRT) and the charge of the committee for the 2020-2021 year

Deb answered questions from the PPC in regards to areas of historical focus of the PPC, RRT, and the principles resolution. PPC will use the second half of today's meeting to deliberate next steps. Deb shared that while some aspects of P&T have been charged to other committees (Rules, Academic Policy), there is a lot of work related to P&T that the PPC could take on.

1:00pm-2:04pm

Following committee discussion, a motion was made that the PPC return to its long-standing charge of working with senate documents related to personnel, particularly P & T and Renewal, and that the current document on the principles of RRT be made available for any senate committee or senator to work on

-8 approve, 0 opposed, the motion passed

Adjourned 2:04pm

SCSU Faculty Senate Rules Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM

Attendees: Barb Cook, Maria Diamantis, Robert Gregory (chair), Matt Miller, Troy Paddock, & Jeff Webb; Guests: Liz Keenan & Helen Marx (Director of Faculty Advising), Faculty Advising Leadership Group

Topic/Charge for the Meeting: To discuss articulating advising activities in faculty evaluation documents (Promotion and Tenure, Renewal).

Agenda items:

1. L. Keenan and H. Marx presented their vision for articulating advising activities in faculty evaluation documents (promotion and tenure, renewal).
 - Request that Faculty Senate documents guiding faculty evaluation add policy and procedures regarding the following:
 - 1) Establish basic expectations for what constitutes “adequate advising” as specified in the contract (10.9).
 - 2) Establish criteria for faculty advising that supports the value of faculty advising within the Promotion, Tenure and Professional review process.
 - For Faculty: Establishing criteria will allow them to explicitly speak to their work as faculty advising work within their P&T process and professional review.
 - For Promotion, Tenure and Professional Assessment Evaluators: Establishing criteria will support their ability to evaluate and articulate faculty advising work within P&T process and professional review.
 - 3) Establish the maximum number of advisees a faculty advisor should have (as part of service).
 - This will provide guidance to departments, chairs, and Deans as they assign and manage faculty advising of students and establish advising practices in their department that align with the articulation of “adequate advising” in the contract.
 - This would provide a mechanism for departments to seek workload credit or additional assistance if/when they exceed these numbers (when all of their faculty exceed a particular number), including assigning a qualified part-time instructor

to assist with this (as specified in 4.6 of the contract; compensation in Article 12.8).

- Potential ideas for criteria:
 - 1) Faculty Advisors are to provide effective academic advising to their assigned advisees (potential evidence: statement of teaching and advising philosophy).
 - 2) Faculty Advisors are to establish and maintain advising relationships with their advisees (potential evidence: statement of teaching and advising philosophy, examples of establishment and clear communication and correspondence with students, SSC Navigate e-mail campaigns).
 - 3) Faculty Advisors are to be knowledgeable about advising resources and program curriculum (potential evidence: participation in professional development opportunities, service on department and university committees related to curriculum).
- 2. Rules Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding faculty advising with L. Keenan and H. Marx. Various issues discussed included:
 - Based on Section 10.9 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, advising appears to be linked to teaching responsibilities/credit load. Therefore, advising should be moved from the Service category to the Credit Load category for faculty evaluation. However, there is not universal agreement by schools/colleges and departments that advising should be perceived as credit load activity and not service (“If you don’t receive credit, it doesn’t count as credit load.”).
 - Concern about increased workload for preparing promotion & tenure and renewal files due to documentation of advising activities.
 - The chair of the Promotion & Tenure Committee (M. Diamantis) expressed that documentation of advising activities is very helpful when evaluating candidates.
 - Departments should establish guidelines for review of advising activities.
- 3. Discussion of articulating advising activities in faculty evaluation documents will continue at a future meeting of the Rules Committee during the Fall 2020 semester.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Robert Gregory, SCSU Faculty Senate Rules Committee Chair

Student Policy Committee (SPC)

Student Policy Committee

September 23, 2020

Minutes

Present: Beena Achhpal, Aidan Coleman, Mike Dodge, Kate Marsland, Mary Ellen Minichiello, Matt Ouimet

1. Meeting called to order via Webex at 12:15
2. Met with Chris Piscitelli and Jenna Robert to discuss revisions to Academic Misconduct Policy.
3. This semester the committee will prioritize consideration of whether to recommend that SCSU adopt an SAT optional admissions policy. To that end, we will plan to meet with the Provost, the Director of Admissions, representatives from Nursing and Education and coordinators of placement from Math and English in early October. Goal is to make recommendation by early November.
4. Aidan Coleman will talk with SGA representatives about surveying students regarding concerns around access to feminine hygiene products.
5. Meeting Adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted by K. Marsland

Technology Committee (TC)

Faculty Senate Technology Committee

Minutes of meeting 9/23/2020

- The committee convened at 12:10 via Microsoft Teams.
- The online P&T process may need support from FSTC – chair will contact David Pettigrew.
- Douglas Macur volunteered to represent FSTC at the IT Governance meetings.
- We are seeking input from senators on technology priorities.

Respectfully,

J. E. Fields

Special Committees

Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF)

Undergraduate Curriculum Forum Thursday, Sept. 24

The following are important updates or actions from UCF meeting:

Approval of motion from Writing Across Curriculum Committee: To approve the following change to catalog language describing the prerequisite for W-courses: “Prerequisite(s): successful completion of ENG 112, ENG 120, HON 150 or Tier 1 Written Communication”. Future W-Courses should also adopt this language as the prerequisite requirement.

Presentation by guest speaker: Diane Ariza, VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Submitted by:
Cindy Simoneau & Meredith Sinclair
UCF Co-Chairs

Graduate Council

Academic Affairs – Report and Updates from the Provost

Academic Affairs – Report and Updates from the Provost September 30, 2020

I want to first recognize the remarkable work of our faculty, staff, students and especially the work of our Student Affairs team in helping keep our campus as safe as possible, thus far retaining a very low positivity rate. While the state slowly “reopens, we all need to remain vigilant and keep our focus on all the things that work in helping to slow and eventually stop the spread of this virus.

Budget: As we know, a side effect of the pandemic has been an exceptionally large university and system deficit. And a result of the deficit, as we learned last week, is a hiring freeze. We are going to move forward with the faculty searches that have been approved (N = 18) and were already moving forward so that we don’t lose the opportunity to garner a strong pool of candidates in the case that we are able to hire in the future. The advertisement for these positions will be clear that our ultimate ability to hire new faculty will be determined by budget and approval through the System office. We’ll know a bit more on October 15, 2020, when the BOR will again meet and review the overall System budget. Positions outside of faculty lines that have already begun the search process can also continue with the same caveats about hiring...that is, no guarantee.

Faculty Searches: While, as noted above, our ability to complete the 18 faculty searches that have begun remains problematic and questionable. However, while we are searching it remains essential that we do the best we can to ensure a highly diverse pool of candidates for each position. There are many, many resources to turn to for assistance with searches with an eye on diversity. Additional information will be forthcoming to individual search teams but for now, if you are involved in a search, you might take a look at the short article and the list of “tips” from The University of Arizona linked below:

- <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2018/12/12/advice-attracting-and-retaining-diverse-faculty-members-opinion>
- <https://equity.arizona.edu/resources-materials/information-supervisors/tips-recruiting-diverse-faculty>

Enrollment: As of today, freshmen enrollment declined by about 30% but overall enrollment, thanks to good retention and an increase in graduate enrollment, dropped 5-6%. Keep in mind that a 30% drop in first year students will carry over into a 30% plus decline in sophomores and, most likely, another smaller freshman class in 2021. I would again ask each department to focus on all they can do to assist our Enrollment Management team and our Advising teams in working to enhance our year to year retention, recruitment of new students, while also considering new programs that are appropriate to the times and thus could attract new students.

Pedagogical mode of deliver for Spring 2021: Last minute changes in mode of delivery for the current semester left residential students who had signed up for on-ground courses instead having a fully online semester while they had already locked in a non-refundable contract for the residence halls. As per a recent memo, we have extended the timeline that allows faculty member to change mode of course. Specifically, faculty will be able to change a course currently in an on ground or hybrid format to an online format up until October 30, 2020 with approval of their chair and dean. Thereafter any changes can only be made in light of a Connecticut Department of Health notification that notifies us of a change (worsening) in our regional pandemic status, personal changes in individual circumstances, and with approval of the relevant department chair and the dean. Faculty members approved to make such changes after registration opens on November 2, 2020 must alert all students already registered for their class(es) to ensure they have the correct information. This timeline allows our faculty important options that could change with circumstances and allows our students time to plan for the Spring semester.

Registration for Spring 2021: In addition, with the recent repercussions that we saw with students who signed up to live on campus in alignment with their planned on-ground courses that changed to online, we are also going to offer an narrow window of opportunity for residential students to register earlier than they might have. As seniors are in their last year and we usually give them an opportunity to register first, we will continue that process, as recommended by our Registration Task Force. Thus, for this spring only, we will have all seniors register first, followed by residential juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, followed by the remaining juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, in that order. We will also maintain the other priority groups from past practice such as honors, SEOP, etc. With the relatively small population currently in the residence halls, we are not expecting issues in students getting the courses they need.

Travel: Travel funds are available but the opportunity to travel out of state remains limited and controlled by the state regulations (see: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Travel>). Travel funds can be used for virtual conferences and programs. The allowable expenditures remain \$1,500 for full time and \$750 for part time faculty members.

Grants and Awards: Since July 1, 2020 Southern has had outstanding success in bringing in external support for our many programs and research programs. Of special note are several that brought in \$200,000+. These include Barbara Araonson for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (Health Resources and Services Administration), Jermaine Write for Promoting Academically Successful Students (CT Office of Higher Education), Todd Rofuth for SCSU-DCF Training (CT Department of Children and Families, Christine Broadbridge for BioPath Skills (CTNext), and Aukje Lamonica for SOC PrOMPT: Suburban Opioid Study (NIH). Kudos to the many others who continue to bring in and seek important external funds to support our programs, faculty, staff and, most importantly, students.

BLM March: Starting in front of Buley Library, there is a student led Black Lives Matter March at 5pm on September 30th in support of anti-racism and in response to ongoing racial injustice. We encourage participation and remind faculty members who have courses scheduled for that time frame to please excuse any student who might be participating in this important response to social inequities.

Stay well.

Bob

DOCUMENTS/MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS FOR REVIEW FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 MEETING

RESOLUTION REGARDING FACULTY CREATIVE ACTIVITY TRAVEL FUNDS FOR FY 21

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 year.