Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2020
https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings
The Fifth Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on October 28, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen *Accounting* 5/5	Matthew Ouimet *Counseling* 5/5	Sandip Dutta* *Finance* 3/5	Atul Kulkarni *Marketing* 5/5	Rex Gilliland *Philosophy* 5/5	Angela Lopez-Velasquez* *Special Education* 4/5
William Farley *Anthropology* 5/5	Natalie Starling *Counseling & School Psychology* 5/5	Lawrence Brancazio *Health & Movement Sciences* 5/5	Joe Fields *Mathematics* 5/5	Binlin Wu *Physics* 5/5	Douglas Macur *Theatre* 5/5
Jeff Slomba *Art* 5/5	Beena Achhpal *Curriculum & Learning* 5/5	Robert Gregory *Health & Movement Sciences* 5/5	Klay Kruczek *Mathematics* 5/5	Jon Wharton *Political Science* 5/5	Luke Eilderts *World Languages & Literatures* 5/5
Kevin Siedlecki *Athletics* 5/5	Maria Diamantis *Curriculum & Learning* 5/5	Troy Paddock *History* 5/5	Jonathan Irving *Music* 5/5	Michael Nizhnikov *Psychology* 3/5	
Sean Grace *Biology* 5/5	Dushmantha Jayawickreme *Earth Science* 5/5	Darcy Kern *History* 5/5	Frances Penny *Nursing* 1/5	Kate Marsland *Psychology* 5/5	Deborah Weiss *Faculty Senate President* 5/5
Mina Park *Business Information Systems* 5/5	Sanja Grubacic *Economics* 5/5	Yan Liu *Information & Library Science* 5/5	Kelly Martinez* *Nursing* 4/5	William Faraclas *Public Health* 5/5	Cindy Simoneau *Undergraduate Curriculum Forum* 5/5
Jeff Webb *Chemistry* 5/5	Peter Madonia *Educational Leadership* 5/5	Cindy Simoneau *Journalism* 5/5	Obiageli Okwuka *Part-time Faculty* 5/5	Michael Dodge *Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management* 5/5	Meredith Sinclair *Undergraduate Curriculum Forum* 5/5
Barbara Cook *Communication Disorders* 5/5	Mike Shea *English* 5/5	Patrick Crowley *Library Services* 5/5	Mary Ellen Minichiello *Part-time Faculty* 4/5	Sebatian Perumbilly *Social Work* 5/5	Cynthia O'Syllivan *Graduate Council* 5/5
Derek Taylor *Communication, Media & Screen Studies* 5/5	Paul Petrie *English* 5/5	Jacqueline Toce *Library Services* 5/5	Stephanie Fischer *Part-time Faculty* 1/1	Stephen Monroe Tomczak *Social Work* 5/5	Aidan Coleman *Student Government Association* 5/5
Alaa Sheta *Computer Science* 5/5	Matthew Miller *Environment, Geography & Marine Studies* 5/5	Carol Stewart *Management, International Business & Public Utilities* 5/5	Virginia Metaxas *Part-time Faculty* 1/1	Adam Pittman *Sociology* 4/4	Dr. Joe Bertolino *SCSU President* 5/5
Guests: R. Prezant (Provost) J. Edstrom (EM) M. Singh (Grad)	T. Milburn (AA) C. Hlavac (A&S) T. Bennett (A&S) M. Vancour (HHS)	J. H. Kim (MIB & PU) T. Tyree (VP SA) T. Brolliar (IT)	S. Bulmer (HHS) N. Henderson (FYE) B. Kalk (A&S)		

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 4th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

I. Announcements
   A. M. Diamantis: Renewal Workshop will take place November 6 at 1 p.m. An email was distributed by the SCSU-AAUP office.
   B. L. Eilderts: The call-for-proposals for the Faculty Development Grant scheme will be announced soon. Application will be submitted via the Kuali grant system. The deadline to submit proposals is set for February 1, 2021.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 14, 2020 were accepted as distributed.
https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings

III. President's Report
https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings

IV. Unfinished Business
   A. **Motion to approve** Resolution Regarding Search for Next CSCU President
      i. Vote tally
         1. Yes..41
         2. No 2
            a. **Motion to approve passed**.
V. New Business
   A. K. Marsland **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Undergraduate Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020.
      i. After discussion, slight revisions were made to the resolution (see documents below) and approved.
         1. Vote tally of the motion to approve the resolution as amended
            a. Yes.................................41
            b. No 3
               i. **Motion to approve** the resolution as amended **passed**.
   B. K. Marsland **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Graduate Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020.
      i. After discussion, slight revisions were made to the resolution (see documents below) and approved.
         1. Vote tally of the motion to approve the resolution as amended:
            a. Yes.................................38
            b. No 1
               i. **Motion to approve** the resolution as amended **passed**.
   C. **Motion to approve** the Resolution Regarding Faculty Choice in Administering Student Opinion Surveys in The Fall 2020 And Spring 2021 Semesters.
      i. Vote tally of the motion to approve the resolution:
         1. Yes..45
         2. No 3
            a. **Motion to approve** the resolution **passed**.
   D. **Motion to approve** Resolution Regarding Board of Regents' Resolution for Revised FY 2021 Spending Plan
      i. W. Faraclas **moved to postpone** the resolution until a special meeting to take place on November 4, 2020, from 12:10-1:00 p.m.

           1. **Motion seconded**.

                a. **Motion to postpone approved** by unanimous consent.

VI.   Adjournment

      A. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

_____

L. Eilderts
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Undergraduate Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020 (With track changes)

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION Undergraduate Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020

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, The extenuating circumstances caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continue to present unprecedented challenges to students; and

Whereas, Students may be disadvantaged by these changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance; and

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with every opportunity to achieve successful completion of their courses this semester, stay on track towards their graduation, and reduce the level of stress that they are likely experiencing; and

Whereas, Allowing students to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis could provide them with an option that will help to achieve the above; and

Whereas, The current Pass/Fail option is not adequate to accomplish this given its restrictions and given the fact that Students would have needed to elect a course as Pass/Fail by the fourth week of the semester, which has already passed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following revised Undergraduate Pass/Fail policy be approved for the Fall 2020 semester:

- With the approval of their adviser, matriculated students are eligible to register for certain courses on a Pass/Fail basis.

- The Pass/Fail option may be used for electives, the Liberal Education Program, or the requirements of a major or minor (as decided by the department housing the major or minor).

- During the Fall 2020 semester, there is no limit on the number of courses that may be taken under the Pass/Fail option.

- The Pass/Fail option is non-reversable. Students will be advised that once they have selected the Pass/Fail option, it will not be possible to revert to a graded option.

- The process for electing the Pass/Fail option shall be automated to the greatest extent possible via a web form. This web form shall provide the student with information about the policy, provide the students with a link to courses that have been designated as exempt by departments (i.e., are not available for Pass/Fail under this revised policy), require that the students indicate that they have read and understand the Pass/Fail policy, and shall direct students to their academic advisors or chairs for consultation. After consultation, the advisor/chairs shall endorse the forms, and the forms shall be routed automatically to the Registrar's office.

- The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail request shall be extended to December 15th (the last day of final exams).

- The Pass/Fail option is blind in that the instructor is not aware of the student's use of the Pass/Fail option until after the grades are submitted, except where the instructor is also the advisor or chair.

- The final grade will be reported as "P" if the final grade earned is "D-" or higher. This grade earns zero quality points and has no effect on the GPA but does count as attempted credit. If the final grade earned is not passing, the final grade will be reported as "F". This grade earns zero quality points, but will impact the GPA, and does count as attempted credit. Courses taken for Pass/Fail might not be accepted for transfer credit when attending another institution; are excluded from GPA calculations which may impact a student's ability to meet certain GPA requirements needed for their major, graduation, or honors; and may not be satisfactory in meeting prerequisite requirements when applying to graduate programs.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION Regarding Undergraduate Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020 (Clean copy)

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

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Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020 (With Track Changes

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION Graduate Student Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020

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

Whereas, The extenuating circumstances caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continue to present unprecedented challenges to students; and

Whereas, Students may be disadvantaged by these changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance; and

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with every opportunity to achieve successful completion of their courses this semester, stay on track towards their graduation, and reduce the level of stress that they are likely experiencing; and

Whereas, Allowing students to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis could provide them with an option that will help to achieve the above; and

Whereas, The current Pass/Fail option is not adequate to accomplish this given its restrictions and given the fact that Students would have needed to elect a course as Pass/Fail by the fourth week of the semester, which has already passed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following revised Graduate Pass/Fail policy be implemented for the Fall 2020 semester:

- On a department-specific basis, and with the approval of their graduate program adviser, matriculated students in some graduate programs are eligible to register for certain required or elective courses on a Pass/Fail basis. Undergraduate courses listed in any program that students are required to take to strengthen their academic backgrounds may not be taken under the Pass/Fail option.

- During the Fall 2020 semester, there shall be no limit on the number of courses that may be taken under the Pass/Fail option.

- The Pass/Fail option is non-reversable. Students will be advised that once they have selected the Pass/Fail option, it will not be possible to revert to a graded option.

- The process for electing the Pass/Fail option shall be automated to the greatest extent possible via a web form. This web form shall provide the student with information about the policy, provide the students with a link to courses that have been designated as exempt by departments (i.e., are not available for Pass/Fail under this revised policy), require that the students indicate that they have read and understood the Pass/Fail policy, and shall direct students to their graduate program advisors or chairs for consultation. After consultation, the advisor/chair shall endorse the forms, and the forms shall be routed automatically to the Registrar's office.

- The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail request shall be extended to December 15th, the last day of final exams.

- The Pass/Fail option is blind in that the instructor is not aware of the student's use of the Pass/Fail option until after the grades are submitted, except where the instructor is also the advisor or chair.

- The final grade will be reported as "S" if the final grade earned is "C" or higher. This grade earns zero quality points and has no effect on the GPA but does count as attempted credit. If the final grade earned is C- or below, the final grade will be reported as "F". This grade earns zero quality points, but will impact the GPA, and does count as attempted credit. Courses taken for Pass/Fail might not be accepted for transfer credit when attending another institution; are excluded from GPA calculations which may impact a student's ability to meet certain GPA requirements needed for their major, graduation, or honors; and may not be satisfactory in meeting prerequisite requirements when applying to other graduate programs.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION Regarding Graduate Student Pass/Fail Option for Fall 2020 (Clean Copy)

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

Whereas, The extenuating circumstances caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continue to present unprecedented challenges to students; and

Whereas, Students may be disadvantaged by these changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance; and

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with every opportunity to achieve successful completion of their courses this semester, stay on track towards their graduation, and reduce the level of stress that they are likely experiencing; and

Whereas, Allowing students to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis could provide them with an option that will help to achieve the above; and

Whereas, The current Pass/Fail option is not adequate to accomplish this given its restrictions and given the fact that Students would have needed to elect a course as Pass/Fail by the fourth week of the semester, which has already passed; now, therefore, be it

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SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION REGARDING FACULTY CHOICE IN ADMINISTERING STUDENT OPINION SURVEYS IN THE FALL 2020 AND SPRING 2021 SEMESTERS

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, The extenuating circumstances caused by COVID-19 have resulted in most Faculty being required to change their pedagogy; and

Whereas, Student Opinion Surveys are instrumental in Faculty evaluations utilized for renewal, promotion, tenure, and professional assessment; and

Whereas, Although the Collective Bargaining Agreement mandates the use of Student Opinion Surveys (4.11.7), the CBA does not state that these must be collected every semester, or for each class. Further, per the CBA (4.11.8), "...the procedure for collecting, routing, and disposition of the surveys shall be recommended by the Senate and approved by the President."; and

Whereas, Faculty would be disadvantaged by the results of Student Opinion Surveys that do not reflect their typical teaching performance; and

Whereas, There are alternative methods of assessing teaching effectiveness (e.g., peer teaching reviews, student opinion surveys from previous semesters, course materials, and statements of teaching philosophy); and

Whereas, Providing faculty with the option to administer or not administer Student Opinion Surveys for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters will ensure that they are not disadvantaged unfairly by the results of these surveys; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That faculty be given the option to choose whether or not they shall administer Student Opinion Surveys for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters; and be it further

Resolved, That after being tabulated, the Student Opinion Surveys shall be routed only to the faculty member and not to any other third party; and be it further

Resolved, That faculty shall not be penalized in any manner by evaluators at any step of the evaluation process if they choose not to include Student Opinion Surveys from the Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters in their evaluation files.