

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

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APPROVED MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020

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

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on November 11, 2020, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 7/7	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 7/7	Sandip Dutta* <i>Finance</i> 4/7	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 7/7	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 7/7	Angela Lopez-Velasquez* <i>Special Education</i> 5/7
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 7/7	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 7/7	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 7/7	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 7/7	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 7/7	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 7/7
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 7/7	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 7/7	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 7/7	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 7/7	Jon Wharton <i>Political Science</i> 7/7	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 7/7
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 7/7	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 7/7	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 6/7	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 7/7	Michael Nizhnikov <i>Psychology</i> 5/7	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 7/7	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 7/7	Darcy Kern* <i>History</i> 6/7	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 3/6	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 7/7	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 7/7
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 7/7	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 7/7	Yan Liu* <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 5/7	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/7	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 7/7	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 7/7
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 7/7	Peter Madonia* <i>Educational Leadership</i> 6/7	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 7/7	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/7	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 7/7	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 7/7
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 7/7	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 7/7	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 7/7	Mary Ellen Minichiello* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 4/7	Sebatian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 7/7	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 7/7
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 7/7	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 7/7	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 7/7	Stephanie Fischer <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/3	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 7/7	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 7/7
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 7/7	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 7/7	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 6/7	Virginia Metaxas* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 2/3	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 6/6	Dr. Joe Bertolino* <i>SCSU President</i> 5/7
<u>Guests:</u> T. Milburn C. Hlavac T. Bennett	S. Arafah J. H. Kim M. Miceli				

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
  - A. K. Marsland recognized Veterans Day.
  - B. D. Weiss congratulated C. Stewart for being selected as the representative for the School of Business Dean search.
  - C. M. Shea recognized the Celebration of Excellence ceremony.
  
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on November 4, 2020 were accepted as distributed.  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
  
- III. President’s Report  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
  
- IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
  
- V. New Business
  - A. Faculty Senate Executive Committee **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Student Opinion Surveys for Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021.
    - i. Previous resolution from November 4, 2020 meeting disapproved. After revisions, this new resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate.
    - ii. Vote tally
      - 1. Yes.....40
      - 2. No .....1
      - a. Motion to approve **passed**.
  - B. K. Marsland, chair of the Student Policy Committee, **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Course Withdrawals for Fall 2020.
    - i. Vote Tally
      - 1. Yes.....37
      - 2. No .....1
      - a. Motion to approve **passed**.
  - C. K. Marsland, chair of the Student Policy Committee, **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Course Incompletes for Fall 2020.
    - i. Vote tally
      - 1. Yes.....34
      - 2. No .....4
      - a. Motion to approve **passed**.
  
- VI. Guest
  - A. Sousan Arafah, Institute for Justice and Social Change.
  
- VII. Adjournment
  - A. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Student Opinion Surveys for Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION  
REGARDING STUDENT OPINION SURVEYS FOR SPRING 2020, FALL 2020, AND  
SPRING 2021

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 include or not include 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 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.

Resolution Regarding Course Withdrawals 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 challenges, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance; and

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with increased flexibility to make critical decisions regarding their courses; and

Whereas, Revising the Course Withdrawal policy would provide students with increased flexibility; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the following policy be implemented for the Fall 2020 semester:

The Course Withdrawal deadline shall be extended from “prior to the twelfth week of classes” to December 15th, 2020 (the last day of final exams).

Further, the Late Course Withdrawal policy shall be extended beyond the end of classes to include any extension based upon “I” (Incomplete) or “I+” (Incomplete Extension) status.

## SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

### Resolution Regarding Course Incompletes 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 challenges, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance; and

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with increased flexibility to make critical decisions regarding their courses; and

Whereas, Revising the Incomplete Grade policy would provide students with increased flexibility; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the following policy be implemented for the Fall 2020 semester:

- A Student may request an Incomplete grade through December 15, 2020.
- Following the request, the instructor may grant a grade of Incomplete (I), if it is determined that the student has a valid reason for not meeting any particular course requirement(s) prior to the termination of the semester.
- If the Incomplete is granted, the Instructor and Student must complete and sign an Incomplete Grade Contract, in which the Instructor shall specify the remaining coursework to be completed by the Student and the provisional final grade the Student would earn if the remaining work is not completed.
- The Instructor shall submit a copy of the completed contract to the Chairperson of the department in which the course is offered by Friday, December 18, 2020.
- The Instructor shall enter a grade of "I" when submitting final grades. (Note: Instructors should not give an "I" unless the Incomplete has been requested by the Student and a contract has been completed.)
- The Instructor shall make all course materials available to students for the duration of the Incomplete period.
- The "I" grade shall automatically become an "F" 30 days after the start of the next semester, unless one of the following occurs earlier:
  - The Student completes the remaining coursework, and the Instructor enters a final passing grade;
  - The Student does not complete the remaining coursework and the Instructor enters the provisional grade specified in the Incomplete Grade Contract;
  - The Instructor issues an extension for completion of the remaining work and enters a grade change to "I+" (Incomplete Extension); or

- The Student determines that they cannot complete the course requirements and elects to submit a Late Withdrawal from the course.
- For courses taken in the Fall 2020 semester only, at any point, a student who has been given an I or I+ may elect to submit a Late Withdrawal from the course.



# INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Southern Connecticut  
State University

## An Overview of the Institute

- A collaborative hub and catalyst for equity, anti-oppression, and justice level work
- Keywords: Affiliation & Action



## The Work of the Institute

- Serve as a model
- Curate/disseminate SCSU & partner social justice work (including calendar)
- PD trainings, workshops, consulting
- Conferences and convenings
- Interdisciplinary research collaborations
- Community partnerships & activism
- Connection, healing & affinity spaces
- Provide institutional capacity and weight
- Affiliate...Affiliate...Affiliate

## Values & Intentions

- Support... not compete
- Innovate
- Elevate affiliates' work & reach
- Offer opportunities for new work/business
- Cultivate students, alums, partners, donors
- Channel social justice energy
- IA coordinates funding asks and uses
- Be a leader in making the world better



## Extending the Vision of the Division

- Identify and address systemic barriers to equity and access
- Engage Southern to be better
- Benchmark and measure success
- Be the *preeminent leader* re social justice, antiracism and oppression
  - in CT
  - Nationally
  - internationally

## The Timeline/ Taskline and The Ask

- November Launch
- Listening tour
- Website
- Initial affiliates and partners \*\*\*\*
- Establish org structure and initial funding
- Conferences and convenings
- PD, Trainings, Workshops
- Initiate research partnerships & funding
- BOR Center of Excellence Designation



**Thank  
You!**