

Southern Connecticut State University

**FACULTY SENATE**

APPROVED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021

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

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on February 3, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 9/9	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 9/9	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 6/9	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 9/9	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 9/9	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 6/9
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 9/9	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 9/9	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 9/9	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 9/9	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 9/9	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 9/9
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 9/9	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 9/9	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 9/9	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 9/9	VACANT <i>Political Science</i>	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 9/9
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 9/9	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 9/9	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 8/9	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 9/9	Michael Nizhnikov <i>Psychology</i> 7/9	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 9/9	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 9/9	Darcy Kern* <i>History</i> 6/9	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 5/9	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 9/9	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 9/9
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 9/9	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 9/9	Yan Liu <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 7/9	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/9	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 9/9	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 9/9
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 9/9	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 7/9	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 9/9	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 9/9	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 9/9	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 9/9
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 9/9	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 9/9	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 8/9	Mary Ellen Minichiello <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 6/9	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 9/9	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 9/9
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 9/9	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 9/9	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 9/9	Stephanie Fischer <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 5/5	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 9/9	Aidan Coleman <i>Student Government Association</i> 9/9
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 9/9	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 9/9	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 8/9	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 4/5	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 7/9	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 6/9
Guests:	R. Prezant C. Hlavac J. H. Kim	S. Bulmer M. Vancour T. Bennett	T. Brolliar T. Millburn H. Marx	J. Tetrault Z. Seyal	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
  - A. A. Coleman: Stepping down from his position as Student Government Representative to the Faculty Senate. Zainab Seyal will replace him.
    - i. The Faculty Senate, and especially K. Marsland, chair of Student Policy, thank A. Coleman for his service.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 2, 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 Standing Committees
  - A. Minutes of the standing committees received.
    - i. Academic Policy (P. Petrie): Working on P&T reform project.
    - ii. Elections (C. Simoneau): Working on contacting all University-wide committees for potential revisions to their make-up; looking at the elections process; working on Free Speech Resolution.
    - iii. Finance (W. Faraclas): Meeting for the first time next week; looking into department operating expense funds for departments to better understand how they're distributed and how they are used.
    - iv. Personnel (N. Starling): Continuing edits to the P&T and renewal documents, adding clarifying language where needed; planning to work with the Rules committee since they are also working on similar issues.
    - v. Rules (R. Gregory): Working on the sabbatical leave document.
    - vi. Student Policy (K. Marsland): Academic Misconduct document has been sent out for review; looking into how the P/F and Withdrawal policies worked in the Fall 2020 semester; discussing recommendations for the Spring 2021 semester and plan to bring forward a resolution for withdrawal and incompletes that would be parallel to the ones from the Fall, for which SPC is seeking department input from Senators; looking at the reacceptance policy; looking into the Dean's List policies to consider part-time students; looking at the Academic Standing policy for post-bac students; looking into access to feminine hygiene products on campus.
    - vii. Technology (J. Fields): Working on the Student Opinion Survey.
- V. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
  - A. Graduate Council (C. O'Sullivan): First meeting will be in the fourth week of February. School of Graduate and Professional Studies strategic planning committee survey is almost ready to launch. Please fill it out when it is received.
  - B. UCF (M. Sinclair): The "W" pilot program was made permanent; approved a pilot program where courses could be offered as a special topics course and satisfy LEP requirements.

VI. Guests

- A. J. Bertolino, President of the Southern Connecticut State University: Welcomed everyone back to the Spring semester. Offered updates on the state of the university, which included: Fall semester went well considering the all the challenges we faced; enrollment down by 10% this semester, 8% overall; with monies from the Federal Government, the university's deficit has shrunk to less than \$5 million; experiencing better enrollment than our sister institutions, but occupancy in our residence halls is troubling; plan to have several town halls/symposia on what university should look like in a post-pandemic world; asks everyone to be kind to one another in these extraordinary times.
- B. R. Prezant, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs: Welcomed everyone back to the Spring 2021 semester; provided updates on the state of the university, which included: course delivery methods for Spring 2021 mirror Fall 2020 semester; graduate enrollment is up 7%; 10 full-time faculty searches are moving forward; search for School of Business Dean moving forward; compiling citations from creative activity since 1950; several new programs have moved forward or are in the pipeline; concept papers for new programs are no longer required; Early College program is running 17 courses, with 200-300 high school students taking Southern courses; Since July 1, 70 grant proposals have been submitted with a success rate of 41%; would like to have a conversation about earned credit and how we translate prior learning to academic credit; would like to see a discussion about stacking programs, 2+2 with Housatonic and Gateway; would like to work more purposefully and collectively with New Haven.
- C. H. Marx (Advising): provided many updates for the new and continuing advising models across campus. Shared several websites to help faculty navigate what is available to them and to help students.
  - i. <https://inside.southernct.edu/advising>
  - ii. <https://inside.southernct.edu/academic-standing/academic-improvement>
  - iii. <https://inside.southernct.edu/navigate>
  - iv. <https://inside.southernct.edu/onestop>
  - v. <https://inside.southernct.edu/navigate/alert>

VII. Adjournment

- A. M. Diamantis **moved to adjourn**. Seconded.
  - i. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary