

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF March 3, 2021

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

The 11th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on March 3, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 11/11	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 11/11	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 7/11	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 11/11	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 11/11	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 7/11
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 11/11	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 11/11	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 11/11	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 11/11	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 11/11	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 11/11
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 11/11	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 11/11	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 11/11	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 11/11	Jonathan O'Hara <i>Political Science</i> 2/2	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 11/11
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 11/11	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 11/11	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 10/11	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 11/11	Michael Nizhnikov <i>Psychology</i> 9/11	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 11/11	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 11/11	Darcy Kern <i>History</i> 7/11	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 7/11	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 11/11	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 10/11
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 11/11	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 11/11	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 9/11	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/11	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 11/11	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 11/11
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 11/11	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 9/11	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 11/11	Obiageli Okwuka* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 10/11	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 10/11	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 11/11
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 11/11	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 11/11	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 10/11	Mary Ellen Minichiello <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 8/11	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 11/11	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 11/11
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 11/11	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 11/11	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 11/11	Stephanie Fischer <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/7	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 11/11	Zainab Seyal <i>Student Government Association</i> 2/2
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 11/11	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 11/11	Carol Stewart* <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 8/11	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 6/7	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 9/11	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 7/11
Guests:	R. Prezant C. Hlavac J. H. Kim	S. Bulmer B. Zamfir T. Bennett	T. Broliar T. Millburn A. Smyth	T. Tyree A. Carroll C. Lee	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 11th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - A. B. Cook: Discussion of *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity*. April 7, 14, 21, 11 a.m. via Teams.
 - B. D. Macur: Performance of "Songs for a New World."
<https://inside.southernct.edu/theatre/productions>
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 3, 2021 were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- III. Faculty Senate President's Report
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - A. Minutes of the standing committees were received.
 - i. Personnel (N. Starling): Encourage faculty to complete survey distributed previously about the inclusion of Advising in faculty evaluation.
 - ii. Student Policy (K. Marsland): Three resolutions will be presented; two are related to grade issues around the pandemic. SPC will also be seeking feedback on Pass/Fail policy, which would need to be discussed at our next meeting.
- V. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
 - A. UCF (M. Sinclair): No additional report.
 - B. Graduate Council (C. O'Sullivan): Graduate Council Report
 - i. Graduate Council met 2/22/21 via virtual meeting format. Notable information is included below:
 1. Based on the Graduate Council discussion of 11/30/2020, regarding initiating a new committee or centralized process for proposing and approving graduate programs, the Executive Committee moves as follows:
 2. Curricular initiatives are best planned at the departmental/programmatic level by faculty with disciplinary (and interdisciplinary) expertise, including appreciation for specific markets in their fields.
 3. Investment in new programs should not detract from strong, but under-enrolled existing programs. Some graduate programs with steady or increasing applicant pools lack capacity to admit all qualified applicants due to insufficient faculty and staff.
 4. Curricular planning and development is the purview of the faculty. The responsible faculty committee, the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee, is currently working to streamline approval processes. Any new or centralized committee or process should enhance and not replace the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee.
 5. During our 2/22/21 meeting, the Graduate Council engaged in small group discussions regarding the SGPS Strategic Plan proposal, including the Vision, Mission, and Priorities. A summary of this feedback will be

shared with the Strategic Planning Committee for incorporation into final documents.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. K. Marsland, chair of SPC, **moved to approve** Resolution Regarding Dean’s List Policy Revision.

i. Vote to approve revisions as presented.

1. Vote tally

a. Yes42

b. No0

i. Motion **approved unanimously**.

VII. New Business

A. Presentation of data on course withdrawals and incompletes by A. Carroll, University Registrar.

B. K. Marsland, chair of SPC, **moved to approve** Resolution Regarding Course Withdrawals for Spring 2021.

i. Vote to approve resolution as presented.

1. Vote tally

a. Yes42

b. No0

i. Motion **approved unanimously**.

C. K. Marsland **moved to approve** Resolution Regarding Course Incompletes for Spring 2021.

i. With unanimous consent, the motion to approve was **postponed** until the next meeting.

VIII. Guest

A. Chul Lee, Director of Institutional Research.

IX. Adjournment

A. W. Faraclas **moved to adjourn**. Seconded.

B. Motion **approved**.

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

L. Eilderts
Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION REGARDING DEAN'S LIST POLICY REVISION

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; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Dean's List Policy be revised as follows:

~~Students are recognized for their high academic achievement by being placed on the Dean's List of their respective schools. In order for undergraduate students to qualify for the Dean's List, students must complete 12.0 or more credits in Fall or Spring and earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or better.~~

Full-time undergraduate students are recognized for their high academic achievement by being placed on the Dean's List of their respective college or school each fall and spring semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must earn at least 12 credits and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or better. Courses taken for audit, pass-fail, or incomplete at the time grades are processed are not included.

Part-time matriculated undergraduate students are recognized for their high academic achievement by being placed on the Dean's List of their respective college or school each spring semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must earn at least 12 credits in the academic year (fall and spring semesters) and achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher in each semester. Courses taken for audit, pass-fail, or incomplete at the time grades are processed are not included.

~~These requirements apply to all undergraduate students, regardless of their academic class (i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior).~~

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE WITHDRAWALS FOR SPRING 2021

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

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

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 Spring 2021 semester:

The Course Withdrawal deadline shall be extended from “prior to the twelfth week of classes” to May 9th, 2021 (the last day of classes).

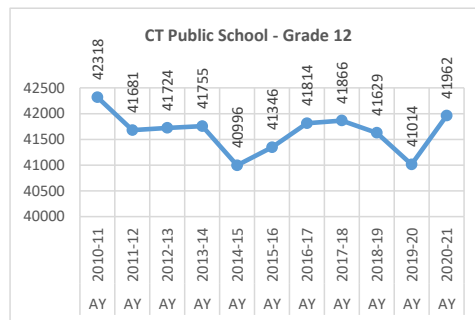
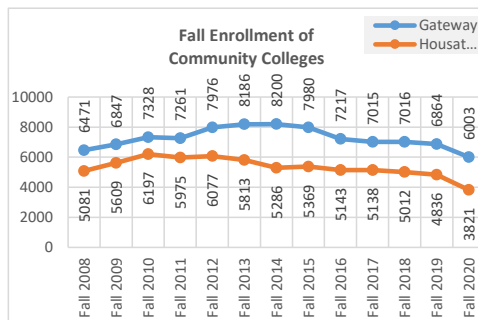
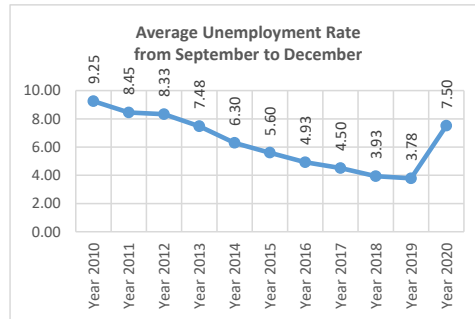
Further, the Late Course Withdrawal shall be extended beyond the end of classes for students with extenuating circumstances as approved by the school or college Dean and shall include any extension based upon “I” (Incomplete) or “I+” (Incomplete Extension) status.

REPORT: ENROLLMENT UNDER PANDEMIC (C. LEE)

Spring 2021 Enrollment Under Pandemic

1. Circumstances

- During the fall (September thru December), the average unemployment rate in Connecticut was 7.5% (ranging 6.1 thru 8.2% each month). It was the highest unemployment rate since 2013. The unemployment trend between 2010 and 2019 partially explained the college's enrollment trend of subgroups such as 'undergraduates' or 'transfer' enrollment. However, the unemployment rate of 2020 failed to explain the current behavior of student enrollment as it was not originally triggered by an economic reason.
- Total public school enrollment of 12th graders in Connecticut during the academic year 2019-20 was 41,014 and the number of grade 12 students has shown little variation since 2010-11. No data is available on how many 12th graders have dropped out during the pandemic and before they applied for colleges.
- Gateway and Housatonic Community College, the two biggest feeder colleges of transfer-in students at Southern, had the smallest enrollment last Fall since 2009. Each college's enrollment was down by 12 and 21%, respectively.
- In Connecticut the number of deaths by COVID-19 was 4,467 as of September 1st which continuously increased to 5,995 as of December 31, 2020.



2. Admission

- a. Given the circumstance of CT public high schools, regional economics, feeder community colleges, and a year-long pandemic, it is understandable that Southern's admission rate is basically static this spring. We have 46 'new' undergraduate students (vs. 45 last year), 303 'transfer' undergraduate students (vs. 334 last year), and 169 'new' graduate students (vs. 146 last year). As of the census date, admission had brought in a total of 517 students in spring.
- b. Starting last fall, we no longer require standardized test scores for admission, so it is understandable that the acceptance rate of 'new' undergraduates jumped up to 91% this spring from 73% last year, and the yield (=enrolled/accepted) slightly dropped to 45% from 50%.
- c. There are 267 applicants who were accepted at Southern in Spring.2021, but who did not enroll, who 'declined'. Among those, 184 applicants who declined did not enroll at any colleges or universities, but 83 applicants are found in 34 different institutions including 22 at Gateway Community College, 7 at U of Connecticut, 5 at Three Rivers Community College, 5 at Quinnipiac, 4 at Western Connecticut State University, 3 at Housatonic Community College, and 3 applicants at Central Connecticut State University in the order of highest to lowest.

3. Spring Enrollment

- a. The current spring enrollment is the record low since Southern started the Banner system. Year-over-Year enrollment dropped by 6.2% to 8638 from 9212 last spring (undergraduate level dropped 9.4% while graduate level increased 7.4%). Compared to Spring 2011 (which is a decade ago) with a hypothetically fully filled undergraduate classroom, Southern now has 1 empty seat for every 5 seats.
- b. Graduate enrollment had a net increase this spring for the first time in a long time. However, the graduate enrollment is also a whopping 37% less than Spring 2011.
- c. By enrollment status, the full-time undergraduate, which is traditionally Southern's biggest enrollment segment, got hit hard and dropped by 12% to 5525 this spring from 6274, i.e., a difference of 749 students. Other enrollment segments showed an increase despite economic hardship and the pandemic; the part-time undergraduate segment increased by 3.9% and both full-time and part-time graduate enrollment increased more than 7% this spring.
- d. By college, A&S and Education undergraduate enrollment decreased by 9.8 and 8.6%. Although less dramatic, Business and Health & Human Services also decreased by 1.4 and 3.5%, respectively.
- e. The retention rate from fall to spring is 2 points lower than previous years. Southern traditionally showed fall-to-spring retention rates between 91 and 93%, but it was 88.8% this spring. Minorities showed even lower retention rates than their White counterparts: the retention rate of the Hispanic undergraduate cohort is 83% and that of the Black undergraduate cohort is 86%, while that of the White cohort is 91%. It also showed that the cohort who started in the College of A&S showed lower retention rates than those who started in other colleges. Additional noticeable difference of retention rates is between dorm resident (91%) vs. commuter (87%). The students who were living on one resident hall floor kept the same retention rate as in previous years despite the pandemic

and the new housing policy, while the retention rate of commuter students was slipped down in spring.

- f. Our transfer-in undergraduate cohort showed successful fall-to-spring retention rates the last couple of years including Spring 2021 and it is more than 90%.
- g. Graduate level has two separate cohorts, full-time and part-time, in calculating retention rates. Both cohorts showed better retention rates this spring than last year: full-time graduate changed from 91.4 to 96.6%, and part-time graduate improved from 85% to 92% this spring.
- h. Before being discounted by any financial aid, the total estimated tuition generated by undergraduate courses is 35.2 million, which is roughly \$19,769 collected per course section. Also, roughly 59% of course sections are led by full-time instructors, while 41% is by part-time.
- i. Before being discounted by any financial aid, the total estimated tuition generated by graduate courses is 5.1 million, which is roughly \$9,927 collected per course section. About 76% of classes are led by full-time instructors while 24% are led by part-time instructors.

4. Additional Information

Our official and final census report is found in college Confluence:

<https://km.southernct.edu/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=SFB&title=SCSU+FACT+BOOK>

The Official report includes Spring 2021 Main report, Spring 2021 Admission Summary, Student Mobility from Fall to Spring, Student Outflow-Influx by Program, and Daily Add and Drop summary. However, more reports which are useful for each program are found in interactive Fact Book.

Mar 2, 2021

Chul Lee

Director of Institutional Research