

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF March 17, 2021

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

The 12th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2020-2021 was held on March 17, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via WebEx.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 12/12	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 12/12	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 8/12	Atul Kulkarni <i>Marketing</i> 12/12	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 12/12	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 8/12
William Farley* <i>Anthropology</i> 11/12	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 12/12	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 12/12	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 12/12	Binlin Wu <i>Physics</i> 12/12	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 12/12
Jeff Slomba <i>Art</i> 12/12	Beena Achhpal <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 12/12	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 12/12	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 12/12	Jonathan O'Hara* <i>Political Science</i> 2/3	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 12/12
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 12/12	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 12/12	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 11/12	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 12/12	Michael Nizhnikov* <i>Psychology</i> 9/12	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 12/12	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 12/12	Darcy Kern* <i>History</i> 7/12	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 8/12	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 12/12	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 11/12
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 12/12	Sanja Grubacic <i>Economics</i> 12/12	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 10/12	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/12	William Faraclas* <i>Public Health</i> 11/12	Cindy Simoneau <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 12/12
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 12/12	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 10/12	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 12/12	Obiageli Okwuka* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 10/12	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 11/12	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 12/12
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 12/12	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 12/12	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 11/12	Mary Ellen Minichiello <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 9/12	Sebatian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 12/12	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 12/12
Derek Taylor <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 12/12	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 12/12	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 12/12	Stephanie Fischer <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 8/8	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 12/12	Zainab Seyal <i>Student Government Association</i> 3/3
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 12/12	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 12/12	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 9/12	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/8	Adam Pittman <i>Sociology</i> 10/12	Dr. Joe Bertolino* <i>SCSU President</i> 7/12
Guests:	R. Prezant C. Hlavac J. H. Kim	S. Bulmer T. Bennett T. Broliar	T. Milburn T. Tyree		

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

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

- I. Announcements
 - A. M. Diamantis: UN Sustainable Development Goals Workshop on April 8th, 9th, and 10th. The theme for the event is The UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Local Community. Registration is free and open to everyone: <https://www.sdgslaunch.com/scu>
 - B. Passing of Kathy Yalof.
- 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. Elections (C. Simoneau): Self-nominations for All-University Committees will be distributed soon.
 - B. Personnel Policy (N. Starling): Reminder to participate in the advising survey: <https://forms.gle/adpEYXsasLQsphe19>.
- V. Reports of Faculty Senate Special Committees
 - A. UCF (M. Sinclair): Information on self-designation of courses with racial and intersectional justice themes. Call can be found by clicking [here](#).
 - B. Graduate Council (C. O'Sullivan): Nominations for chair, vice-chair, and secretary.
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. K. Marsland **moved to approve** The Resolution Regarding Course Incompletes for Spring 2021.
 - i. Vote tally
 1. Yes..... 41
 2. No 0
 - a. Motion **approved unanimously**.
 - B. J. Fields **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Revisions to The Online Student Opinion Survey.
 - i. P. Crowley **moved to amend** the resolution by adding the choice "other" with a fillable field to the question seeking information on the student's gender identification.
 - ii. Motion **seconded**.
 1. M. Ouimet **moved to amend the amendment** by changing "other" to "otherwise identified".
 2. Motion **seconded**.
 - a. Motion to **amend the amendment** was approved through universal consent.
 3. Motion to **amend the motion** approved through universal consent.

- iii. M. Shea **moved to amend** the motion by inserting “(LEP)” after “General Education” in the question seeking “) Which of these best describes this course for you?”
 - 1. Motion to **amend the motion** approved through universal consent.
- iv. J. Webb **moved to amend** the resolution by moving the question “What approximate grade do you expect in this course? (A, B, C, D, F, Uncertain, Prefer not to answer)” from the demographics section into the group of questions whose results will be available to the instructor.
- v. Motion **seconded**.
 - 1. Motion **approved** through universal consent.
- vi. Vote tally for the resolution as amended
 - 1. Yes.....35
 - 2. No3
 - a. Motion to approve the resolution as amended **approved**.

VII. New Business

- A. K. Marsland **moved to approve the** Resolution Regarding Undergraduate Pass/Fail Option for Spring 2021.
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes.....37
 - 2. No5
 - a. Motion to **approve** the resolution **approved**.
- B. K. Marsland **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Pass/Fail Option for Spring 2021.
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes.....36
 - 2. No5
 - a. Motion to **approve** the resolution **approved**.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn**.
- B. Seconded.
 - i. Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE INCOMPLETES 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 Incomplete Grade policy would provide students with increased flexibility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following policy be implemented for the Spring 2021 semester:

- A student who wants an Incomplete grade must request one from the instructor.
- 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 May 19, 2021.
- 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 has decided to not complete the remaining coursework and the Instructor enters the provisional grade specified in the Incomplete Grade Contract, or; the Student elects to submit a Late Withdrawal from the course for approval by the School or college Dean.
- The Instructor issues an extension for completion of the remaining work and enters a grade change to "I+" (Incomplete Extension); or
- For courses taken in the Spring 2021 semester only, at any point, a student who has been given an I or I+ may request a Late Withdrawal from the course for approval by the school or college Dean.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION REGARDING UNDERGRADUATE PASS/FAIL OPTION 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 changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance;

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;

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 Spring 2021 semester:

- With the approval of their advisor, 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 Spring 2021 semester, students may elect to take one course under the Pass/Fail option.
- After consulting with the student, the advisor (or Chair if the advisor is the instructor of the course in question) would complete and submit a Pass/Fail form for the student to then authorize by the deadline.
- The deadline for students to authorize the Pass/Fail contract shall be extended to May 9th (the last day of classes).
- The Pass/Fail option is non-reversible. 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 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 GRADUATE STUDENT PASS/FAIL OPTION 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 changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance;

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;

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 Spring 2021 semester:

- On a department-specific basis, and with the approval of their graduate program advisor, 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 Spring 2021 semester, students may elect to take one course under the Pass/Fail option.
- After consulting with the student, the advisor (or chair if the advisor is the instructor of the course in question) would complete and submit a Pass/Fail form for the student to then authorize by the deadline.
- The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail request shall be extended to May 9th, the last day of classes.
- The Pass/Fail option is non-reversible. 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.

- 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 "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.