

# Southern Connecticut State University

## FACULTY SENATE

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

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

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on September 29, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 3/3	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 3/3	Sandip Dutta* <i>Finance</i> 0/3	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 3/3	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 3/3	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 3/3
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 3/3	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 3/3	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 3/3	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 3/3	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics</i> 3/3	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 3/3
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 3/3	Helen Marx <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 3/3	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 3/3	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 3/3	Jonathan O'Hara* <i>Political Science</i> 2/3	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 3/3
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 2/3	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 3/3	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 3/3	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 2/3	Gayle Bessenoff <i>Psychology</i> 3/3	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 3/3	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 3/3	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 3/3	Frances Penny <i>Nursing</i> 3/3	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 3/3	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 3/3
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 3/3	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 3/3	Yan Liu <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 3/3	Kelly Martinez <i>Nursing</i> 3/3	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 3/3	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 3/3	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 2/3	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 3/3	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/3	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 3/3	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 3/3
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 3/3	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 3/3	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 3/3	VACANT <i>Part-time Faculty</i>	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 3/3	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 3/3
Wes O'Brien <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 3/3	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 3/3	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 3/3	Stephanie Fischer <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/3	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 3/3	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 3/3
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 3/3	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 3/3	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 3/3	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/3	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 2/3	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 3/3
Guests:	T. Bennett T. Brolliar S. Grossman S. Hegedus	C. Hlavac K. Jones J. H. Kim M. Kingan T. Milburn	R. Prezant R. Regos M. Vancour	M. Walker-Pickett B. Zamfir	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
  - A. P. Petrie: March for Higher Education on the New Haven Green at 4 p.m.
  - B. K. Marsland: Free virtual screening of the documentary *Chasing Childhood*. October 14 from 6-9 p.m. Information forthcoming.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 15, 2021, were accepted as amended.  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- III. Faculty Senate President's Report  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
  - A. Senators and guests engaged in a lengthy discussion concerning the move of the Office of Faculty Development (OFD) under the newly BOR approved Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). T. Milburn, Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, answered on behalf of Administration. What follows are some of the themes/topics that resonated the most with the body.
    - i. Questions/concerns/comments included:
      1. how the contractual OFD funds as well as the OFD operating funds would be used in the CTL: T. Milburn shared that the contractual funds would be separate and would not be used to support the CTL.
      2. how the decision was made to move OFD under CTL and why more faculty were not involved in the discussions: T. Milburn shared that discussions about how to improve OFD and the creation of a CTL took place with the Faculty Fellows.
      3. A reminder that the concern is not the creation of a CTL; many faculty shared their enthusiasm for a center like that on Southern's campus.
      4. Faculty representation, how governance would be shared and how it would be representative. T. Milburn shared that the proposal document demonstrates that there would be representation from each school/college, but that there are details that remain.
      5. Role of the Faculty Development Advisory Committee: T. Milburn shared that this committee is a creation of the Senate and that it would be the Senate that would have oversight of the committee.
      6. Will the credits allocated to the Director of the OFD (traditionally been 9, reduced to 6 recently) be taken over by the executive director of the CTL or would they remain separate? T. Milburn responded that 3 credits were moved to the Office of Diversity and Equity under D. Ariza, and the remaining 6 would remain separate for OFD.
- IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees
  - A. Standing committee reports accepted as distributed.
  - B. W. Faraclas requested that the Technology Committee investigate faculty access to Zoom for the Spring 2022 semester. T. Brolliar (IT) shared that they are looking to the BOR for guidance.
  - C. M. Diamantis alerted the senators that they should seek from their departments feedback on the course withdrawal and course incomplete policies that were drawn up last Spring: should they be made permanent? Should they be revised? An email to the

Senators will be distributed with these questions and how to gather and report the information back to the SPC.

- V. President’s Report (cont’d)
    - A. K. Marsland wished to recognize J. Aguilar for his work coordinating with her the documentary screening *Chasing Childhood* mentioned during announcements.
    - B. K. Marsland urged the body to remain very concerned over the continued COVID-19 pandemic.
  
  - VI. New Business
    - A. K. Kruczek (EC) moved to **approve** the Resolution Regarding the Selection of One-Year Alternates to Replace Committee Members.
      - i. T. Paddock suggested that when the time comes to approve the bylaw revisions of multiple committees, this vote should be done in one motion rather than multiple.
        - 1. With no further discussion, the body moved to vote.
        - 2. Vote tally
          - a. Yes ..... 41
          - b. No ..... 2
        - i. Motion to **approve** the motion as amended **passed**.
    - B. D. Weiss shared with the body her presentation on “Resolutions.” The PowerPoint is attached.
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- VII. Adjournment
  - A. Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

Resolution Regarding the Selection of One-Year Alternates to Replace Committee Members

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

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

Whereas, Within the context of shared governance faculty participation furthers such excellence;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is charged with maintaining and filling All-University committees;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate strives to fill all positions in All-University committees; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate strives to fairly assign alternates to temporarily replace committee members when needed; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That alternates on All-University committees will be elected to serve for one year; be it further

*Resolved*, That if a member of an All-University committee needs to be replaced for a semester or academic year, then the alternate shall be chosen using the process outlined below; be it further

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate Election Committee shall develop a mechanism for dealing with notifying current alternates of their status for the 2022 – 2023 academic year and beyond and affected SCSU documents shall be revised to conform to the new committee structure.

**Choosing One-Year Alternates to (temporarily) replace Members on a Committee**

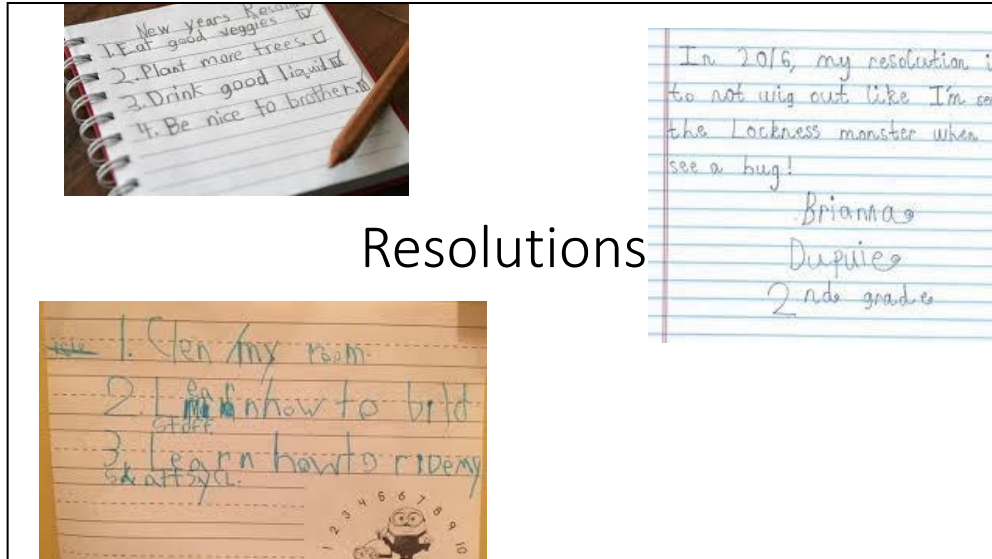
- The spring self-nomination form shall have two boxes next to each committee with vacancies: “Member” and “Are you willing to serve as a one-year alternate if not elected as a member?”
- The nominees who do not receive enough votes to serve as a member in the spring, but are willing to serve as one-year alternates, will then be ranked as one-year alternates

based upon the number of votes they received in the spring election.

- Before the fall self-nomination period begins, the Elections Committee will ask each member serving on an All-University committee to confirm that they will be able to serve the entire academic year on each All-University committee of which they are a member.
- If there are not enough one-year alternates (from the spring election) to replace those members who temporarily cannot serve, then there will be an election for one-year alternates to temporarily replace those members on the committee.
- If there is a committee which has member vacancies after the spring election and also has members who temporarily cannot serve during the academic year, then the nominees with the most votes during fall election will fill the member vacancies. The one-year alternates will be the nominees with the most votes who were not elected as a member.
- Any committee that wishes to always have one-year alternates ready to serve (e.g., Promotion and Tenure Committee) shall list the number of one-year alternates in their bylaws.

## Presentation on "Resolutions"

9/29/21



### Resolutions

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### Definition of a Resolution

- A *resolution* is a main motion that needs to be expressed formally in writing, to attach a special level of importance. Because of the form — beginning with the word *Resolved* and following with either a statement of opinion or a statement authorizing or directing some action — such a motion is called a resolution.



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## Are resolutions drastic measures?

- No, they are a typical way that committees do business.
- Resolutions are simply a mechanism used by committees to take a position or call for some entity to take action.
- They are also a way to arrive at consensus and gain commitment.



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## Effective Resolutions and How We Use Them

- An effective resolution will have impact
  - Respond to current important issues
    - Concerns regarding COVID as they relate to fairness to students and faculty, e.g., grading, student opinion surveys, etc.
    - Freedom of speech
  - Conduct work – making sure our policies are clear and well-written; constantly revising them as we strive for improvement and discover issues
  - Take action – We see a problem, e.g., anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim discrimination and we decide to educate the campus through a resolution that may result in holding an educational event.

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## Standing Committee Role in Resolutions

- Research underlying issues and problems related to academic and professional matters
  - Understand the issue, concern, problem as completely as possible
  - Consider, investigate, discuss
  - Be open to new information and arguments at all stages of resolution development, debate and adoption process
  - Educate the body through presenting the issue, answering questions, possibly revising with amendments or return to the committee



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## Is it Common for University Senates and other bodies to conduct their business with resolutions?

- Yes, all of the CSU sister-institutions use resolutions, all community colleges in the system use resolutions, the BOR conducts business with resolutions.



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## Record Keeping



- For a large body that conducts a lot of business, resolutions are crucial for record keeping. Over the last three years, we have approved about 70 resolutions. This format makes it easy for us to search through the resolutions to see what we decided. Searching through our minutes to locate our decisions would be cumbersome and impractical.
- As FS President, I use these records all the time as do other faculty members. For example, just recently I needed to check on the part-time faculty travel fund allotment (one resolution) and whether funds are distributed on a fiscal or academic year basis (another resolution) and look for a record of the bylaws for the Faculty Development Advisory Committee (a third resolution).

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## Care with our Language

- Formulating our business as resolutions forces us to take care with the language we use and helps us locate flaws in our proposals.



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## What does it mean when we say that resolutions are an extension of the contract?

- In some cases, the CBA is non-specific about certain matters and leaves these open to the individual campuses, usually by stipulating that the policy will be decided by mutual agreement of the Senate and the President. For issues such as P&T, renewal, sabbatical, election of department chairs, and others that are guided by the CBA, when we approve a resolution, the policy in that resolution becomes an extension of the CBA in that it provides additional guidance that must be followed by all parties. These documents are then used by all parties on the campus in conducting business.

### Collective Bargaining Agreement

between  
 Connecticut State University  
 American Association of University Professors  
 and  
 Board of Trustees for  
 Connecticut State University System  
 August 26, 2016 – August 26, 2021



Connecticut State University System  
 Central Connecticut State University  
 Eastern Connecticut State University  
 Southern Connecticut State University  
 Western Connecticut State University

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## What about other issues that are not governed by the contract. Are these then an extension of the contract?

- Issues that are not in the contract cannot become extensions of the contract. For example, a number of years ago, a resolution on FCARG funds stated that the allotment would increase each year, however, this is not a contractual issue, so when this didn't occur because of funding issues, the faculty did not have recourse as we would have if the issue had been a CBA issue. Resolutions that are not extensions of the contract are still binding and agreed upon in good faith. All parties are in agreement that all will do their best to follow through on what is stated.

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## Can resolutions be changed once they have been approved?

- Yes, this happens all the time. We may find that a resolution is impractical, obsolete, or unenforceable and we may create a new resolution to resolve the issue or simply stop following a resolution that had previously been approved (other than those that are extensions of the contract which must be changed formally).



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## What is the difference between a resolution presented for approval and one presented for information? (from FS Bylaws)

- A resolution presented for approval must be approved or disapproved by the President of the University. Resolutions which seek to establish policy or change Faculty Senate documents or policies that were previously approved by the University President, or which seek funds, resources, or cooperation from the University Administration shall be sent as resolutions for approval.
- Other resolutions that provide information or state a position shall be for information.
- The University President shall respond to resolutions for approval with approve or disapprove. In the case of disapproval, the University President shall include a written explanation.
- The University President shall note resolutions for information.
- All resolutions presented to the University President in writing shall receive a written response within fifteen (15) business days.

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## Should resolutions have to be pre-approved by the administration?

- No, the Faculty Senate is an independent body that represents the entire faculty. In a shared governance institution, the faculty have certain rights and responsibilities to assert the issues that are important to them.
- However, that is not to say that we don't strive for a consensus and consult with the administration frequently.
- At the end of the day, if resolutions are disapproved, no one wins.
- Sometimes, a resolution may be approved and brought forward, even though we realize it may not be approved. We do this to go on record as trying to take action on something that is important to us despite the outcome.



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