

# FACULTY SENATE

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2021

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

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on October 13, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

### Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 4/4	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 4/4	Sandip Dutta* <i>Finance</i> 0/4	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 4/4	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 4/4	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 4/4
William Farley* <i>Anthropology</i> 3/4	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 4/4	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 4/4	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 4/4	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics</i> 4/4	Douglas Macur* <i>Theatre</i> 3/4
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 4/4	Helen Marx* <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 3/4	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 4/4	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 4/4	Jonathan O'Hara* <i>Political Science</i> 3/4	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 4/4
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 2/3	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 4/4	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 4/4	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 2/4	Gayle Bessenoff <i>Psychology</i> 4/4	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 4/4	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 4/4	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 4/4	Andrea Adimando* <i>Nursing</i> 2/3	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 4/4	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 4/4
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 4/4	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 4/4	Yan Liu <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 4/4	Kelly Martinez <i>Nursing</i> 4/4	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 4/4	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 4/4	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 3/4	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 4/4	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 4/4	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 4/4	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 4/4
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 4/4	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 4/4	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 4/4	Michele DeLucia <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 1/1	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 4/4	Cynthia O'Sullivan* <i>Graduate Council</i> 3/4
Wes O'Brien* <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 3/4	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 4/4	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 4/4	Michael Sormrude <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 1/1	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 4/4	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 4/4
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 4/4	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 4/4	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 4/4	Virginia Metaxas* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 3/4	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 3/4	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 4/4
Guests:	T. Bennett T. Brolliar C. Hlavac	C. Hlavac M. Kingan	R. Regos M. Rozewski M. Vancour	M. Walker-Pickett DE. Woolfolk	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

I. Announcements

- A. D. Weiss: Congratulated and welcomed new and re-elected part-time Senators: M. DeLucia, O. Okwuka, M. Sormrude.
- B. D. Weiss: 74 grant applications were received for the special FCARG cycle.
- C. P. Crowley: Mayoral Archive exhibition at the Lyman Center starting November 1.
- D. K. Marsland: Free virtual screening of the documentary [Chasing Childhood](#). October 14 from 6-9 p.m. Wishes to thank her co-chair J. Aguilar, as well as T. Brolliar, B. Zamfir, P. Dilger, T. Milburn, M.P. Caputo, and B. Kalk.
- E. S. Simoneau: "[An Evening with Zakiya Dalila Harris](#)" author of *The Other Black Girl*. November 12, 2021, at 7 p.m. at the Lyman Center.
- F. J. Bertolino: Reminder that this week is Homecoming and that there are many events happening across campus, both in person and virtually. On November 19<sup>th</sup> at noon there will be the State of the University address with both in-person and virtual options. President Cheng will visit Southern on November 30<sup>th</sup>, but the agenda has not yet been finalized.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 29, 2021, were accepted as amended.

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III. Faculty Senate President's Report

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- A. J. Bertolino: Encouraged members to reach out to the people who can answer questions in a more complete way, to "go to the source." Encouraged members to watch the Board of Regents meetings and review documents when possible. Clarified that, prior to CBA negotiations came up with a list of things they would like to have on the table for negotiation; however, the University presidents did not see the proposal before it was distributed to the CB units. "Shout-out" to members of his team, particularly those who work in his office, and many of whom are front-line workers.

IV. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- A. Reports received.
- B. Student Policy (M. Diamantis): If there are any questions, please reach out to M. Diamantis or B. Cook. Reminder that the permanent policies are currently in place for withdrawal and the pass/fail.
  - i. K. Marsland requested that this information be placed on the "One Stop" portion of the website. D. Weiss agreed to contact A. Carroll to inquire about posting this information.
  - ii. K. Thaxton (SGA): Working to disseminate this information to students through social media posts. K. Marsland urged SGA to work with A. Carroll.

V. Reports of the Special Committees

- A. UCF (M. Sinclair)
  - i. J. Webb asked about the composition of the committee that will reevaluate the LEP. M. Sinclair stated that this information was shared in the previous Senate packet.
  - ii. R. Gilliland expressed his concern with the committee membership, that it does not include enough faculty from departments who teach heavily in the LEP; and that the issues have become politicized in light of the recent attacks on the Tier 1 Multilingual Communication requirement

VI. New Business

- A. W. Faraclas (FC) moved to **approve** the Resolution Regarding the Length of the Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants Application.
  - i. After discussion, the body moved to vote.
    - 1. Vote tally
      - a. Yes.....36
      - b. No.....6
    - i. Motion to **approve** the motion **passed**.

VII. Guest: Mark Rozewski, Executive Vice-President of Finance and Administration

- A. Thanks to the one-time infusion of Federal (\$27 million) and state funds (\$5.5 million), last year's and this year's revised budgets are in balance.
- B. Next year and the year after are going to have issues if the system does not receive additional permanent state funding.
- C. One bright spot: federal funds and grants for students doubled our financial aid budget.
- D. We have not seen a resurgence in enrollment as hoped. We planned this year's budget with a 5% decrease in enrollment; other CSU schools did not fare as well.
- E. VP Rozewski feels we are fortunate to have B. Barnes as the CFO in the system office; the information coming out of the Budget office has been much clearer and accessible.
- F. Questions
  - i. M. Shea: Do individual campus reserve funds get used to help other campuses or the Community Colleges?
    - 1. M. Rozewski: Not to the Community Colleges. At this time, we have not been asked to help the other University campuses and the financial hardships at other campuses have not affected our resources .
  - ii. K. Marsland: Shared concern that our elected officials do not understand us; shared that when working with policy, stories and personal narratives work best.
    - 1. M. Rozewski: Predicts that a lot of lobbying will happen at the System level.
  - iii. T. Paddock: How do we get their attention? How do we talk to the System Office to get them to do more?
    - 1. M. Rozewski: Has increasing confidence in B. Barnes as a former Cabinet-level secretary, and that he will make a major contribution.
  - iv. J. Webb: Where are we with reserves?
    - 1. M. Rozewski: Last year we finished with a very slight surplus. We currently have about \$30 million in reserves.
  - v. K. Marsland: Would appreciate more guidance on how we can alert people to our dire situation.
    - 1. M. Rozewski: There is only so much that we can do at the local and university level. Beyond that, the answers are less clear.
  - vi. C. Simoneau: As a chair, would like to know what plan of action we should bring back to our departments.
    - 1. M. Rozewski: The numbers are so large that we are not able to cut our way out of this. Possibly slow down the replacement of positions, but in the end, this is not about our office supply budget, it is much larger than that.
    - 2. J. Bertolino: Would like to offer some answers and context: slowing down positions helps with the budget, but burdens others with additional work; the budget numbers are so dire that the elimination of all non-union personnel would not come close to closing the budget gap. We do need to make decisions where we will invest. We do regularly have students tell their stories to the state legislature. In his view, we need to hear more from our alumni, sharing what they can do with a Southern degree. This is a conversation that we've had for quite some time. We need to start thinking of the University post-COVID. We will need to consider how

to reorganize, how to recruit, how to expand our offerings that are not necessarily degree focused.

- vii. D. Weiss: Reminded VP. Rozewski that the Space committee has not been convened for at least several years and there are many space challenges on campus that could benefit from utilizing the committee.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. C. Simoneau moved **to adjourn** the meeting. **Seconded.**
  - i. Meeting adjourned at 2:01.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

Resolution Regarding the Length of the Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants Application

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, The Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants (FCARG) Program was created to promote academic excellence;

Whereas, The FCARG application shall now be completed electronically;

Whereas, The narrative section of the application is limited to 1200 words in up to five pages of printed text; and

Whereas, The current word limit is not easily administered in the new electronic format; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the word limit be stricken from the FCARG Application Guidelines, changing the phrase “The narrative is limited to **1200 words in up to** five pages of printed text” to “The narrative is limited to five pages of printed text”; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate expresses its thanks to the SPAR Office for creating the electronic application form and agreeing to manage applications for the University Grants Committee.