

# Southern Connecticut State University

## FACULTY SENATE

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2021

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

The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on October 27, 2021, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 5/5	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 5/5	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 1/5	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 5/5	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 5/5	Angela Lopez-Velasquez* <i>Special Education</i> 4/5
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 4/5	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling &amp; School Psychology</i> 5/5	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 5/5	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 5/5	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics</i> 5/5	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 4/5
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 5/5	Helen Marx <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 4/5	Robert Gregory <i>Health &amp; Movement Sciences</i> 5/5	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 5/5	Jonathan O'Hara <i>Political Science</i> 4/5	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages &amp; Literatures</i> 5/5
Kevin Siedlecki* <i>Athletics</i> 2/5	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum &amp; Learning</i> 5/5	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 5/5	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 2/5	Gayle Bessenoff <i>Psychology</i> 5/5	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 5/5	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 5/5	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 5/5	Andrea Adimando <i>Nursing</i> 3/4	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 5/5	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 5/5
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 5/5	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 5/5	Yan Liu <i>Information &amp; Library Science</i> 5/5	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/5	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 5/5	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 5/5	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 4/5	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 5/5	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 5/5	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism &amp; Sport Management</i> 5/5	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 5/5
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 5/5	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 5/5	Patrick Crowley* <i>Library Services</i> 4/5	Michele DeLucia <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 2/2	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 5/5	Cynthia O'Sullivan* <i>Graduate Council</i> 4/5
Wes O'Brien <i>Communication, Media &amp; Screen Studies</i> 4/5	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 5/5	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 5/5	Michael Sormrude <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 2/2	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 5/5	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 5/5
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 5/5	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies</i> 5/5	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business &amp; Public Utilities</i> 5/5	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 4/5	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 4/5	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 5/5
Guests:	T. Bennett C. Bieltz T. Broliar	C. Hlavac J. H. Kim M. Kingan	R. Prezant R. Regos T. Tyree	D. Woolfolk	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

I. Announcements

- A. D. Weiss reminded members to be concise when speaking.
- B. D. Weiss congratulated all involved in the NECHE report and site visit.
- C. D. Weiss called members attention to the President’s Report where [information on the Integrated Justice and Social Change Collaborative](#) is located.
- D. K. Marsland thanked everyone who participated in the screening of *Chasing Childhood*. She also recognized J. Aguilar, T. Tyree, and T. Milburn for their contributions.
- E. K. Marsland shared that the New Haven Reads fundraising event would take place on November 5, 2021.
- F. K. Marsland thanked the members of the SPC.
- G. C. Bielitz, AVP for Strategic Initiatives and Outreach, presented the University’s plan to apply for the Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification. Please contact her if interested in participating.
- H. B. Cook shared the recent event “[Real Talk](#)” with Tony Russo.
- I. K. Thaxton, SGA, shared that the social media posts on the University’s policies on withdrawal would be circulated this week. He also shared that the meeting during the NECHE site visit went very well and highlighted the strong relationship between students and faculty.
- J. M. Diamantis urged Senators to remind their respective departments to enter mid-term grades.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 13, 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. Reports of the Standing committees were received.
  - B. W. Faraclas (Finance) shared information on Department Operating Expense Budgets (slides found below).
  - C. N. Starling (Personnel) provided insights into their minutes and the decision of the PPC to keep the different levels of review as they currently are. This information was also provided to the Provost and the Deans since this request came from the Provost Council.

V. Reports of the Special Committees

- A. Reports of the Special Committees (UCF and Grad Council) were received.

- VI. New Business
- A. K. Kruczek (Elections) moved to **approve** the Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Mediation Committee Document.
    - i. M. Shea suggested that the committee review the use of “may” vs. “shall” in the document. W. Faraclas requested that the body move forward to approve this resolution first and that the committee would review the document and return, if necessary, with a new resolution.
    - ii. After discussion, the body moved to vote.
      - 1. Vote tally
        - a. Yes.....32
        - b. No.....1
      - i. Motion to **approve** the resolution **passed**.
  - B. P. Petrie (Academic Policy) **moved** to approve the Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Grade Appeal Procedure and Form.
    - i. After discussion, the body moved to vote.

1. Vote tally
  - a. Yes.....36
  - b. No.....0

i. Motion to **approve** the resolution **passed unanimously**.

- C. J. Fields (Technology) thanked D. Macur for his service to the committee. J. Fields opened up a discussion on Student Opinion Surveys (SOS). Currently the committee is looking at two issues: 1) increasing student participation; 2) routing of the SOS information.
  - i. Student participation: the committee would prefer a reward for increasing student participation rather than a penalty. Some options that have been used elsewhere are holding final grades until a student completes the survey; having a lottery where students who participate in an SOS are entered into a drawing for a prize. Please send additional ideas to J. Fields.
  - ii. Routing of SOS information: traditionally when the forms were paper, they would come to the department and the chair would distribute them to the faculty; practice varied widely among departments, where chairs would review the SOS forms before giving them to faculty and others would pass them directly to faculty without review. Now that the process is digital, the question of who receives the SOS information and when is no longer simply a pragmatic issue. Some Senators felt that when a faculty member is not up for review, promotion or tenure, the SOS be routed directly to the faculty member; when a faculty member is up for review, promotion, or tenure, that the SOS be routed simultaneously to chair and faculty member. Some Senators also shared that the SOS information for adjunct faculty can be very helpful to chairs.
  - iii. Additional concerns included the flawed nature of SOSs and their inherent biases; the value of SOSs vs. peer review or SOSs in addition to peer review; the ability to have a core set of questions for the University and then a customized set of questions for each department.
- D. An open discussion on the following topics took place: the importance of submitting mid-term grades; how to address the misunderstandings around mid-term grades (e.g., the pacing of a course may mean that a large portion of the coursework comes after mid-term grades are handed in); concerns over when the due date for mid-term grades is announced and where to find that information during course planning).

VII. Adjournment

- A. M. Diamantis moved to **adjourn** the meeting. **Seconded**.
  - i. Meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

From “The Department Operating Expense (OE) Budget”: A working document of the Faculty Senate Finance Committee

07/11/2021

From “The Department Operating Expense (OE) Budget”

A working document of the Faculty Senate Finance Committee

Each academic department annually receives a budget appropriation for operating expenses. The CBA (9.4.7) specifies that these funds are given to departments after consultation with those units.

9.4.7 Equipment and Supply Budgets.

Each University will allocate funds from its annual budget to departments for the purchase of equipment and supplies. The allotments will be made by the local University administration after consultation with the departments involved. Barring demonstrable fiscal exigencies such allocations shall not be arbitrarily withdrawn, reduced, postponed, or cancelled once made.

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From “The Department Operating Expense (OE) Budget”

A working document of the Faculty Senate Finance Committee

Within guidelines for their use, these funds are available for discretionary spending by departments to support their programs. CBA 5.16, which specifies that departmental decisions derive from the majority vote of full-time faculty members, establishes that use of OE funds should be determined by department members, unless otherwise specified in a department’s bylaws.

5.16 A department shall make its decisions by majority vote of its full-time members, except where otherwise provided by this Agreement or in the department’s bylaws.

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**Interest:** To ensure transparency in the use of available resources and to promote involvement of the faculty in developing and using department OE budgets.

Questions about Operating Expense Funds related to faculty participation include:

- Are faculty members aware that their departments receive an OE budget?
- Are department members involved in creating budget requests?
- Do department members determine the use of allocated funds?
- Do faculty members know how much their departments receive for its OE allocation?
- Are faculty members able to make requests to use OE funds for departmental work?