

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2022

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

The 8th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on January 26, 2022, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 7/8	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 8/8	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 3/8	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 8/8	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 8/8	Angela Lopez-Velasquez* <i>Special Education</i> 6/8
William Farley* <i>Anthropology</i> 6/8	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 8/8	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 8/8	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 8/8	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics</i> 8/8	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 6/8
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 8/8	Helen Marx <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 7/8	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 8/8	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 8/8	Jonathan O'Hara <i>Political Science</i> 6/8	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 8/8
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 5/8	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 8/8	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 8/8	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 2/8	Christopher Budnick <i>Psychology</i> 1/1	
Sean Grace <i>Biology</i> 8/8	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 8/8	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 8/8	Andrea Adimando <i>Nursing</i> 6/7	Kate Marsland* <i>Psychology</i> 7/8	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 8/8
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 8/8	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 8/8	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 8/8	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/8	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 8/8	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 8/8	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 6/8	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 8/8	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 8/8	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 8/8	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 8/8
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 8/8	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 8/8	Patrick Crowley* <i>Library Services</i> 5/8	Michele DeLucia <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 5/5	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 8/8	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 7/8
Wes O'Brien <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 7/8	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 8/8	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 7/8	Michael Sormrude <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 5/5	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 8/8	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 8/8
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 8/8	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 8/8	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 8/8	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 6/8	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 6/8	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 7/8
Guests:	C. Blackmer T. Bennett T. Brolliar	M. Kingan R. Prezant R. Regos	A. Smyth T. Tyree D. Woolfolk	Jennifer (?)	

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 8th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - A. B. Cook recognized the birth of D. Weiss's grandchild. *Congratulations !*
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 1, 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. Guests
 - A. J. Bertolino, President, SCSU
 - i. President Bertolino shared that COVID positivity numbers look good for the campus. He then presented some of the priorities for the university in the next few years.
 1. Encouraged faculty to review the Five priorities he shared during the State of the University address.
 2. Our 10-year Strategic Plan is coming to an end. Matt Ceppi (American Association of State Colleges & Universities [AASCU]) will come to campus to help with this process. Due to all that has happened and the quickly changing environment, the new Strategic plan will cover three to five years.
 3. Regarding student retention, there will be new emphasis on mental health to help our students.
 4. Regarding recruitment, we will become more aggressive in attracting transfer students.
 5. We will need to discuss our relationship with the Community Colleges in greater detail, especially considering the move to one curriculum.
 6. Regarding DEI, we will begin a more aggressive campaign to hire faculty and staff who are more representative of our student body.
 7. President Bertolino has been visiting different community organizations and (re)introducing the University.
 8. President Bertolino asks that the Faculty Senate consider the following:
 - a. Drafting a strategic plan for the Faculty Senate; conducting its own self-assessment
 - b. Becoming more aggressive with 2+2 programs, discussing the possibility of a three-year bachelor's degree, developing more fully online programs.
 9. In late February there will be meetings with Matt Ceppi (AASCU) and the groups to talk about strategic priorities.
 10. Strongly recommend faculty read Arthur Levine And Scott Van Pelt's [*The Great Upheaval*](#).
 - ii. M. Shea asked President Bertolino to expand on the Yale Higher Education Summit he attended.
 1. President Bertolino shared that most participants at the summit are from private institutions and/or large research institutions, but since

Southern started to attend, there have been more regional public universities in attendance. It has become clear that the private institutions are in a different world from the one regional public universities are in, and the competition is significant. There is concern that a group of about 100 very prestigious institutions are pushing everyone else out. President Bertolino gave credit to President Salovey (Yale) who stated that there needs to be ways for public institutions to be better funded. He finished by saying that one of our challenges is meeting the demand of employers in the tech centers while simultaneously making sure we are teaching students how to think critically.

- iii. D. Weiss asked about the curriculum and the ability for the CSUs to maintain their standards in the face of the CC merger.
 - 1. President Bertolino answered that he and the other CSU presidents felt that each institution is unique, and each should be able to develop, manage, and maintain its own curriculum, and the standards by which we accept students. However, they all felt that the ability for students to transfer appears complex and bureaucratic. He would like to be proactive and create a model that we can share with others.
 - iv. M. Shea asked for clarification on the changes in the budget and how campus allocations have been modified.
 - 1. President Bertolino shared that the formula was changed regarding how the system office allocates money from the state. After much negotiation, we lost some money in some of the appropriation, but we gained money in other areas, like fringe benefit payments. This also helped sister campuses in need, something he hopes would benefit Southern should we be in a similar situation in the future.
 - v. President Bertolino closed by saying that we are not trying to position ourselves where the private institutions provide one kind of education, and we provide something else. What we have to offer is just as good and, in many cases, better; moreover, we are not just educating students for the job: we should not put aside the importance of a liberal arts education.
- B. R. Prezant, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- i. Provost Prezant provided updates on faculty creative activity, grants, and other initiatives the university is pursuing.
 - ii. At the start of the semester, approximately 70% of courses are on ground or hybrid, and about 35 courses took advantage of the initial 2-3 week move to online delivery.
 - iii. Encouraged faculty to read the newly published *Southern Connecticut Academic News* (SCAN). Thanks to Jackie Isabella, Colleen Bielitz, and Trudy Milburn.
 - iv. Reminded faculty of the Visiting Scholars program where faculty visit classrooms in the K-12 system; and of the Southern Seminar Series where faculty volunteer to deliver seminars to interested faculty/departments/institutions across the state.
 - v. The Early College Experience program now has 20 high school partners with about 250 students participating. Our goal is to reach 1000 high school participants.

- vi. R. Hedreen reported that for 2021 we had about 230 publications, and for the past five years there have been about 930 publications. These publications have been cited about 6067 times. This compares very well with our sister institutions.
 - vii. There have been several new courses and programs launched, and we will be able to offer a handful on Community College campuses. Provost Prezant would like to thank the Ad Hoc 2+2 committee: their report led the way to partnerships with Norwalk and Housatonic CCs. Thanks to Trudy Milburn and all the faculty who were involved.
 - viii. Encouraged faculty to share any ideas for partnerships, shared community activities, and shared research opportunities with the CCs.
 - ix. Last year we set a record for grants (\$8 million), and we are trending to break that record for 2022. There are about 125 submissions this year. He would like to congratulate SPAR, whose use of the KUALI platform has become a national model. SPAR also thanks the Faculty Senate for the recognition they received in a recent resolution.
 - x. There are 24 faculty searches in progress. We took advantage of a time when other CSUs were not doing as many searches, and we have benefitted from excellent pools of candidates.
 - xi. The search for a Dean of the School of Business has a large and impressive search committee, and there is a strong pool of applicants. The application deadline is in two weeks, so there will most likely be additional candidates.
 - xii. Encourage faculty to read *The Great Upheaval* by Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt. We are seeing new competition from places it has not existed before (Google, Amazon). We will need to take a serious look at how students get the education they need. He hopes that the Senate will take up President Bertolino's charge.
 - xiii. C. Simoneau reminded President Provost that many programs across campus require specialized technology (Graphic Design and the Adobe suite of products, for example), and many of our students do not have the means to purchase access to the software let alone the powerful computing devices required to run this software. She hopes that the university is working to address this. Provost Prezant agreed.
- C. J. Fields inquired about the erroneous information regarding the difference in yearly costs to attend Southern vs. Central and how this information is being corrected.
 - i. President Bertolino shared that they are aware of this error and has asked P. Dilger to investigate.
 - D. B. Cook shared that she appreciated the report on new programs and the new ways in thinking. Expressed that she hoped that we would get support in developing and implementing these certificates and micro-credentials, especially since not every field would benefit equally.
 - i. D. Weiss shared the UCF is working on these issues, and M. Sinclair corroborated this statement.

V. Reports of Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- A. Reports of the Standing Committees were received.

VI. Reports of the Special Committees

- A. M. Sinclair (UCF): Report was received. She shared that the LEP Taskforce met over break twice, and this information has been added to the Confluence site.
- B. C. O’Sullivan (Grad Council): No report. GC will meet Monday.
- C. J. Webb (Faculty Development): FDAC will be convened later this week. Calls for awards and grants will go out shortly. The Celebration of Excellence will be held in the Fall.
- D. M. Shea (Faculty Advisory Committee, FAC): The FAC represents all campuses and advises the Board of Regents. Two issues were discussed at the most recent meeting: 1) the budget, and 2) curriculum. The One College curriculum that the BOR has approved will have to be accepted by the CSUs. The FAC drafted a resolution like Southern’s regarding the changes to English and Math requirements, but the BOR did not consider any of the suggestions that were made.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Resolution Regarding Operating Expense Allocation.
 - i. D. Weiss advised the body to vote down the pending amendment to the amendment, as well as the pending amendment so that a new amendment could be offered by W. Faraclas.
 - 1. With no objection, the amendment to the amendment **failed**.
 - 2. With no objection, the amendment **failed**. The resolution returns to its original wording.
 - ii. W. Faraclas **moved to amend** the resolution by striking “at least including reports by December 1, March 1 and the end of the fiscal year” and inserting “at least including reports within one week of the start of each semester and within one week of March 1” from the second to the last *Resolved* statement.
 - iii. The motion was **seconded**.
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes39
 - b. No2
 - i. The motion to **amend** passed.
 - iv. After debate, the body moved to a vote on the amended resolution.
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes39
 - b. No4
 - i. The motion to **approve** the resolution as amended **passed**.
 - B. Resolution Regarding a Statement on Freedom of Expression.
 - i. After discussion, K. Kruczek **moved to commit** the resolution to the Elections Committee.
 - 1. With no objection, the **move to commit** was **approved** through unanimous consent.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. M. Diamantis moved **to adjourn** the meeting. **Seconded**.
 - i. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

L. Eilderts, Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution Regarding Operating Expense Allocation

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, Section 9.4.7 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors and Board of Regents for Higher Education (CBA) specifies that “Each University will allocate funds from its annual budget to departments for the purchase of equipment and supplies,” said funds referred to herein as operating expense (OE) funds or OE allocations;

Whereas, Section 9.4.7 of the CBA specifies that “The allotments [of OE funds] will be made by the local University administration after consultation with the departments involved”;

Whereas, Section 5.16 of the CBA specifies that “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”;

Whereas, Some academic programs also receive an OE allotment;

Whereas, Funds allocated to departments and programs belong to all members of respective units;

Whereas, Therefore, the substance of department and program consultation on OE allotments shall be guided by majority vote of full-time members or other decision-making process specified in a department’s or program’s bylaws;

Whereas, Practices vary widely among departments and programs with regard to the participation of faculty members in framing requests for and determining the use of OE funds, and the provision of information to full-time members about the availability of OE funds to support the work of the department or program and its members;

Whereas, It is understood that the Department Chair and Secretary often manage and track OE funds allocated to a department;

Whereas, OE allocations are a valuable resource that must be handled with transparency; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate wishes to promote the involvement of the faculty in developing departmental budget requests and plans for using OE funds; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That to maintain transparency in the acquisition and use of OE funds, academic department and program bylaws shall include processes for ensuring that full-time faculty members shall be included in developing OE budget requests and approving OE allocation

spending plans, and shall be informed about the amount and status of departments' and programs' OE allocations on a regular basis, at least including reports within one week of the start of each semester and within one week of March 1; and be it further

Resolved, That upon approval of this resolution all full-time faculty shall be informed of its content and purpose through direct communication from the Faculty Senate.