

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2022

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

The 9th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on February 9, 2022, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 8/9	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 9/9	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 4/9	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 9/9	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 9/9	Angela Lopez-Velasquez* <i>Special Education</i> 6/9
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 7/9	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 9/9	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 9/9	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 9/9	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics Sciences</i> 9/9	Douglas Macur* <i>Theatre</i> 6/9
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 9/9	Helen Marx <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 8/9	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 9/9	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 9/9	Jonathan O'Hara* <i>Political Science</i> 6/9	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 9/9
Kevin Siedlecki <i>Athletics</i> 6/9	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 9/9	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 9/9	Jonathan Irving* <i>Music</i> 2/9	Christopher Budnick <i>Psychology</i> 2/2	
Sean Grace* <i>Biology</i> 8/9	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 9/9	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 9/9	Andrea Adimando <i>Nursing</i> 7/8	Kate Marsland <i>Psychology</i> 8/9	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 9/9
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 9/9	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 9/9	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 9/9	Kelly Martinez* <i>Nursing</i> 4/9	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 9/9	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 9/9	Peter Madonia* <i>Educational Leadership</i> 6/9	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 9/9	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 9/9	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 9/9	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 9/9
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 9/9	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 9/9	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 6/9	Michele DeLucia <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 6/6	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 9/9	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 7/9
Wes O'Brien <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 8/9	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 9/9	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 8/9	Michael Sormrude* <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 5/6	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 9/9	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 9/9
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 9/9	Matthew Miller <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 9/9	Carol Stewart <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 9/9	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/9	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 7/9	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 7/9
Guests:	G. Bessenoff T. Bennett T. Broliar J. Edstrom	C. Hlavac M. Kingan D. Pettigrew R. Regos	M. Walker-Pickett B. Zamfir		

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

Faculty Senate President D. Weiss called the 9th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m.

- I. Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 26, 2022, were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- II. Announcements
 - A. President Bertolino: Southern will maintain its current protocols regarding masking through at least the end of the Spring 2022 semester.
- 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. Rules (J. Webb): Asked Senators to contact the committee if they are familiar with a time when a chairperson resigned during the summer.
 - C. Technology (J. Fields): Undergraduate response rates for Student Opinion Surveys (SOS) improved for Fall 2021 (approx. 43% response rate). While it is better than previous periods, the response rates for the paper-based SOS were much higher.
 - i. Senators engaged in a short discussion on ways to improve response rates. K. Mashia-Thaxton (SGA) shared that their social media posts had over 100 interactions and that the SGA would invite further collaboration. The reminders on Blackboard were also very helpful. C. Broadbridge encouraged faculty to give students time in class to complete the SOS.
- V. Guest
 - A. N. Pinkerton, Director of Counseling Services, spoke to Senators regarding the increased demand for mental health services on campus. A new partnership with the "JED Campus" has just recently started (see "resources" on the Counseling Services site: <https://inside.southernct.edu/counseling/mental-health-resources>). He asked Senators to help get the word out regarding a student survey that will help the campus better understand the mental health needs of our students.
- VI. New Business
 - A. Resolution Regarding Campus Masking Rules
 - i. In light of President Bertolino's announcement, D. Weiss asked if there were any objections to postponing indefinitely the resolution. Hearing none, the resolution was **postponed indefinitely**.
 - B. Discussion regarding Faculty Scholar Award Modifications (K. Kruczek)
- VII. Guest (cont'd)
 - A. J. Edstrom, Interim Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management, shared updates from her office.
 - i. There is now a dedicated department for incoming [Transfer Students](#) headed by C. Flynn.
 - ii. There are enrollment declines across the country; some regions have been hit harder than others (Northeast). These declines will have a significant impact on our institution.

- iii. Bright spot: rise in interest in “exploratory” tracks for potential incoming students.
- iv. There is a state initiative to create a mechanism for automatic admission to the state institutions for high school students who meet certain criteria (e.g., GPA, class standing).
- v. Applications are up about 10% from last year, and our admitted student pool is up 18%.
- vi. Conversations are ongoing regarding offering in-state tuition rates to surrounding states.

VIII. New Business (cont’d)

- A. On behalf of the Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Setting Enrollment Caps at 20 for Writing Intensive, Inquiry, and Critical Thinking Courses.
 - i. Discussion continued until adjournment. Some concerns/questions raised included:
 - 1. How to interpret the data provided by the Office of Institutional Research;
 - 2. Scope of the resolution being limited to “W”, Inquiry, and Critical Thinking Courses rather than all LEP tier-1 courses;
 - 3. The impact be on the number of sections needed.

IX. Adjournment

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

L. Eilderts, Secretary

