

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2022

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

The 12th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2021-2022 was held on March 30, 2022, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

Dave Allen <i>Accounting</i> 10//11	Matthew Ouimet <i>Counseling</i> 12/12	Sandip Dutta <i>Finance</i> 7/11	Shibiao "Bill" Ding <i>Marketing</i> 12/12	Rex Gilliland <i>Philosophy</i> 12/12	Angela Lopez-Velasquez <i>Special Education</i> 9/12
William Farley <i>Anthropology</i> 9/12	Natalie Starling <i>Counseling & School Psychology</i> 12/12	Lawrence Brancazio <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 12/12	Joe Fields <i>Mathematics</i> 12/12	Christine Broadbridge <i>Physics</i> 12/12	Douglas Macur <i>Theatre</i> 9/12
Melanie Uribe <i>Art</i> 12/12	Helen Marx <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 11/12	Robert Gregory <i>Health & Movement Sciences</i> 12/12	Klay Kruczek <i>Mathematics</i> 12/12	Jonathan O'Hara* <i>Political Science</i> 8/12	Luke Eilderts <i>World Languages & Literatures</i> 12/12
Kevin Siedlecki* <i>Athletics</i> 6/12	Maria Diamantis <i>Curriculum & Learning</i> 12/12	Troy Paddock <i>History</i> 12/12	Jonathan Irving <i>Music</i> 4/12	Christopher Budnick* <i>Psychology</i> 3/5	
Sean Grace* <i>Biology</i> 9/12	Dushmantha Jayawickreme <i>Earth Science</i> 12/12	Carmen Coury <i>History</i> 12/12	Andrea Adimando <i>Nursing</i> 8/11	Kate Marsland* <i>Psychology</i> 11/12	Deborah Weiss <i>Faculty Senate President</i> 12/12
Mina Park <i>Business Information Systems</i> 12/12	Jia Yu <i>Economics</i> 12/12	Yan Liu <i>Information & Library Science</i> 12/12	Kelly Martinez <i>Nursing</i> 5/12	William Faraclas <i>Public Health</i> 12/12	
Jeff Webb <i>Chemistry</i> 12/12	Peter Madonia <i>Educational Leadership</i> 9/12	Cindy Simoneau <i>Journalism</i> 12/12	Obiageli Okwuka <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 12/12	Michael Dodge <i>Recreation, Tourism & Sport Management</i> 12/12	Meredith Sinclair <i>Undergraduate Curriculum Forum</i> 12/12
Barbara Cook <i>Communication Disorders</i> 12/12	Mike Shea <i>English</i> 12/12	Patrick Crowley <i>Library Services</i> 9/12	Michele DeLucia <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 9/9	Sebastian Perumbilly <i>Social Work</i> 12/12	Cynthia O'Sullivan <i>Graduate Council</i> 10/12
Wes O'Brien <i>Communication, Media & Screen Studies</i> 11/12	Paul Petrie <i>English</i> 12/12	Jacqueline Toce <i>Library Services</i> 11/12	Michael Sormrude <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 7/9	Stephen Monroe Tomczak <i>Social Work</i> 11/12	Kyle Mashia-Thaxton <i>Student Government Association</i> 12/12
Alaa Sheta <i>Computer Science</i> 12/12	Matthew Miller* <i>Environment, Geography & Marine Studies</i> 11/12	Carol Stewart* <i>Management, International Business & Public Utilities</i> 10/12	Virginia Metaxas <i>Part-time Faculty</i> 8/12	Gregory Adams <i>Sociology</i> 10/12	Dr. Joe Bertolino <i>SCSU President</i> 8/12
Guests:	R. Amenta T. Bennett T. Broliar S. Carter-David A. Girard	C. Hlavac B. Johnson B. Kalk A. Kerr M. Kingan S. Larocco S. Latorre	T. Lin H. Lockwood R. Prezant R. Regos K. Swanson T. Tyree D. Woolfolk	Aidan (?)	

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

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

I. Announcements

- A. C. Coury: Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program will host Dr. Carl Lindskoog April 5-7, with a keynote address on April 6 at 12:30 in ASC Ballroom on his book *Detain and Punish: Haitian Refugees and the Rise of the World's Largest Immigration Detention System*.
- B. K. Kruczek: Nominations for All-University committees closes at noon on Friday April 1.
- C. D. Weiss: Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Zoom discussion with Holocaust survivor and scholar Rabbi Philip Lazowski. April 4 from 1-2 p.m.
- D. K. Mashia-Thaxton: SGA has concerns about the number of faculty who do not submit midterm grades via Banner.
- E. P. Crowley: Celebrating Dr. Stephen Collins: Archives, Awards, and Activism. April 1, ASB 315 from 2-3:30.
- F. P. Crowley: Experiencing Immigration – Neil Proto Law & Social Justice Keynote Event. ENG C112 5-6 p.m.
- G. D. Weiss: Holocaust Exhibition in Buley Library Lobby until April 29. Co-sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program and the Philosophy Department.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 30, 2022, 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. Student Policy (M. Diamantis): Technology in Banner now allows more specific dates/timelines for incomplete contracts. A resolution is forthcoming.

V. Reports of the Special Committees

- A. Reports of the UCF and the Grad Council were received.

VI. New Business

- A. New Department Proposal: Women's and Gender Studies (T. Lin and H. Lockwood).
 - i. M. Diamantis **moved to support** the creation of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. **Seconded.**
 - ii. Vote tally.
 - 1. Yes 35
 - 2. No 1
 - a. Motion to support the creation of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies **approved.**
- B. On behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, D. Weiss **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding COVID Policy.
 - i. M. Shea **moved to amend** the resolution by inserting "Whereas, CSCU faculty are committed to improving both learning and learning conditions for all students" after the first two "Whereas" statements. **Seconded.**
 - ii. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes 34

- 2. No 7
 - a. The motion to amend the resolution **passed**.
- iii. D. Weiss asked if there was any objection **to tabling the motion** to welcome our Guests. No objection was heard.

VII. Guests

- A. Presentation on the Office of the Ombuds by A. Kerr and S. Larocco.
 - i. A confidential service to help members of the university community resolve disputes. At this time, this service is unavailable to undergraduate students. Annual report is publicly available.
 - ii. For more information: <https://inside.southernct.edu/ombuds>.

VIII. New Business (cont'd)

- A. The body **takes from the table** the amended Resolution Regarding COVID Policy.
 - i. J. Webb **moved to amend** the resolution by inserting “staff” into the following “Whereas” statement: “Whereas, Past CSU Covid policy decisions have inappropriately prioritized political and economic considerations over the health and well-being of faculty, staff, students, and their families”. **Seconded**.
 - 1. With No objection, the motion to amend the resolution was **approved by unanimous consent**.
 - ii. K. Kruczek **moved to amend** the resolution by adding the following language: “*Resolved*, That the SCSU Faculty Senate respectfully calls upon Presidents Cheng and Bertolino to include elected faculty leaders (at minimum the presidents of the CSU Faculty Senates, CSU AAUP chapters, and CSU-AAUP), **student leaders (at a minimum the presidents of the CSU SGAs), and staff representation** in meaningful consultation during discussions, planning, and decision-making (i.e., *before* policies have been decided upon and announced) regarding all future changes to campus COVID policies. **Seconded**.
 - 1. W. Faraclas **moved to amend the amendment by striking** “(at a minimum the presidents of the CSU SGAs” from the amendment.
 - a. Vote tally
 - i. Yes 18
 - ii. No 17
 - iii. Motion to amend the amendment **approved**.
 - 2. With no further debate, the body moved to a vote on the amended amendment.
 - a. Vote tally
 - i. Yes 16
 - ii. No 20
 - 1. Motion to amend the resolution **failed**.
 - iii. J. Fields **moved to amend** the resolution by adding a second resolved as follows: “*Resolved*, That appropriate consultation with other groups affected by such measures, including student and staff leadership, should be undertaken”. **Seconded**.
 - 1. P. Crawley **moved to amend the amendment by inserting** “elected” after “including” and before “student”.
 - 2. With no objection the amendment to the amendment was **approved**.
 - iv. C. Simoneau **moved to call the previous question**. **Seconded**.

1. With no objections, the motion to call the previous question was **approved.**

v. Vote tally

1. Yes 34

2. No 1

- a. The **motion to approve** the resolution as amended was **approved.**

IX. Adjournment

A. M. Diamantis **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**

B. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution Regarding COVID Policy

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, CSCU faculty are committed to improving both learning and learning conditions for all students;

Whereas, According to the majority of public health experts, another Covid surge is virtually certain to occur during the fall 2022 semester and is likely extend into spring 2023;

Whereas, As a rule, faculty and some staff members are the employees who have the most and closest contact with students within confined spaces;

Whereas, The primary concern during an ongoing pandemic should be to reduce transmission of infection to the greatest extent possible;

Whereas, Masking protocols and testing in particular, are easy, effective, and inexpensive to maintain;

Whereas, Past CSCU Covid policy decisions have inappropriately prioritized political and economic considerations over the health and well-being of faculty, staff, students, and their families;

Whereas, CSCU and SCSU administration has repeatedly set Covid policy without adequate and meaningful consultation with elected faculty leaders despite persistent requests from those leaders; and

Whereas, SCSU administration has twice made Covid policy commitments to faculty which have later been reversed and/or overridden by CSCU administration without prior consultation with elected faculty leaders; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the SCSU Faculty Senate respectfully calls upon Presidents Cheng and Bertolino to include elected faculty leaders (at minimum the presidents of the CSU Faculty Senates, CSU AAUP chapters, and CSU-AAUP), in meaningful consultation during discussions, planning, and decision-making (i.e., *before* policies have been decided upon and announced) regarding all future changes to campus COVID policies; and be it further

Resolved, That appropriate consultation with other groups affected by such measures, including elected student and staff leadership, should be undertaken.

Proposal for Department Status: Women's and Gender Studies

Please see the following documents (available to all Southern affiliated members; if you have trouble accessing the documents, please email the Faculty Senate Secretary):

- [Women's and Gender Studies Self Study](#)
- [External Review: Women's and Gender Studies](#)
- [Email Exchange re: Self Study](#)

Letter of Support from Dean Bruce Kalk located below.



March 25, 2022

Professor Deb Weiss
Faculty Senate President
Southern Connecticut State University

Dear Professor Weiss:

This letter is to extend my enthusiastic support for turning the Women's & Gender Studies program into a stand-alone academic department. I have discussed this with Provost Prezant and he shares my enthusiasm. There are several reasons for my excitement about the prospect of establishing a Department of Women's & Gender Studies at Southern.

- The program recently conducted its self-study and the external reviewers strongly recommended that it seek departmental status
- There are no Departments of Women's & Gender Studies anywhere in the CSCU System
- Our program is highly-ranked on at least two national surveys of Women's & Gender Studies programs
- The graduate program in WGS is growing in large measure because of its dual MSW/ M.A. in WGS program. This is an especially important dual-degree program for graduate students pursuing careers serving in agencies, foundations, and NGOs dedicated to women's issues and LGBTQ+ issues; it is also one of the only dual-degree programs of its kind in the United States
- Departmental status will provide the program the opportunity to recruit, retain, and advance the careers of faculty independently of other academic departments.

In conclusion, I thank you and the entire Faculty Senate for its advice on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Kalk, PhD

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences