

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2023

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

The 8th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2022-2023 was held on January 25, 2023, at 12:12 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL 8
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025		4
Kenneth	McGill	Anthropology	2023	X	5
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024	X	8
Kevin	Siedlecki	Athletics	2023		7
Elizabeth	Roberts	Biology & Biochemistry	2023	X	8
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025	X	7
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry	2023	X	8
Richard	Zipoli	Communication Disorders	2024		5
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025	X	8
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025	X	8
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024	X	8
VACANT		Counseling & School Psychology	2023		
Helen	Marx	Curriculum & Learning	2024	X	7
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024	X	5
Dushmantha	Jayawickreme	Earth Science	2025	X	8
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024	X	8
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2023	X	6
Paul	Petrie	English	2023	X	8
Mike	Shea	English	2024	X	8
Miriah	Kelly	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025	X	7
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025		5
Kyle	O'Brien	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025	X	7
Robert	Knipe	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	X	8
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	X	8
Carmen	Coury	History	2023	X	8
Troy	Paddock	History	2023	X	8
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024	X	
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024	X	7
Patrick	Crowley	Library Services	2023	X	8
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025	X	8
Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025	X	7

Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2023	X	7
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025	X	4
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025	X	8
Raymond	Mugno	Mathematics	2025	X	8
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2023		3
Krista	Prendergast	School of Nursing	2023	X	2
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024	X	8
Obigaeli	Okwuka	Part-Time Faculty	2023	X	1
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty	2023	X	6
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty	2024	X	8
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty	2024	X	8
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2023	X	8
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024	X	2
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025		4
Kate	Marsland	Psychology	2025	X	7
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024	X	8
Jon	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024		6
Michael	Dodge	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2023	X	8
Carmela	Smith	Social Work	2023	X	6
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025	X	7
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2023	X	8
Angela	Lopez-Velasquez	Special Education	2024	X	1
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024	X	7
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025	X	7
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2023	X	8
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2023	X	8
Joe	Bertolino	SCSU President		X	6
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council		X	7
Meredith	Sinclair	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		X	6
		SGA			

GUESTS

Jull Rispoli
 Robert Prezant
 Roland Regos
 Tom (Ace Fellow)

Trever Brolliar
 Terri Bennett

The following senators are empowered by the Faculty Senate to represent the Faculty Senate and thereby represent the faculty body in their role and contributions to the respective committee/group in which shared governance of business is being conducted with a duty to report back to the Faculty Senate minimally once per semester (additional reports determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate). It is recommended representatives also seek the Faculty Senate’s support and endorsement for matters determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate.

Early College Experience	Christine Broadbridge (fall) Michele DeLucia (spring)
Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC)	Klay Kruczek
Committee on Reassigned Time	Troy Paddock
Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) liaison	Cindy Simoneau
University Library Committee (ULC)	2 representatives – unfilled
Ad Hoc Committee for Non-credit, Continuing Education & Micro-credentialing	Melanie Uribe (APC rep) Rex Gilliland (APC rep) 2 senators (additional)– unfilled
FASP	Krista Prendergast

Faculty Senate President N. Starling called the 8th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:12 p.m. via Zoom.

- I. Announcements
 - A. N. Starling held a moment of silence in honor of student Kyle Granello, who passed on December 23, 2022.
 - B. N. Starling recognized new and returning Senators. *Welcome!*
 - C. N. Starling shared that Faculty Development would hold a workshop on ChatGPT. An email announcement has been distributed.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 7, 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. Guest(s)
 - A. Hearing no objection, N. Starling invited J. Bertolino, President of SCSU, and R. Prezant, Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, to take the floor.
 - i. R. Prezant shared the following: Welcomed faculty back to the Spring 2023 semester; shared that two searches concluded unsuccessfully: Director of the Library and Director of Online & Continuing Education—for the former, the committee would be reconstituted and J. Toce would continue in her role as chair, and L. Bier would continue as Interim Director of the Library; shared that submissions through the SPAR office are up—140 external submissions; during the Excellence awards ceremony, 12 faculty were inducted into the \$1 million club, while two faculty were inducted into the newly formed \$5 million club; the Visiting Scholar program saw 58 visits to 30 different schools; thanks to T. Milburn and O. Yavuz, the Early College program has about 100 students registered on campus, anticipating 500-600 students over the semester, and with that pace, we expect to see about 1,000 students next year; our Undergraduate enrollment continues to decline: in the Fall we saw had 6008 students and this spring we have 5647 students—faculty are encourage to go to the factbook to see where there is growth and where there is decline in programs; later this spring we will have an opportunity to meet with the New Haven Chamber of Commerce to discuss workforce skills; we plan to have another event for our book authors on April 21 in the evening; encourage faculty to participate in the survey on student scholarly and creative activity; extended his thanks to the Personnel Policy committee for working on embedding DEI into the Promotion & Tenure process; extended his thanks to the Ad Hoc Committee on Reassigned time and the work they are doing.
 - ii. J. Bertolino shared the following: Welcomed faculty back to the Spring 2023 semester; extended his thanks to the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) for their continued good work and partnership with administration; attended the Higher Education Leadership summit at Yale University, which is essentially 100 presidents from all over the country, with representation mainly from the private institutions—shared that the landscape across the US looks very similar, and that Southern was the only public institution in attendance from CT; shared that we had projected a 5% decline in the budget, and we are at 3.6% decline, which is good from a budget perspective but still not ideal; part of this decline is due to the discontinuation of the “Gear Up” program—the students involved in that program have graduated; first-year enrollment appears to be stable, asking Enrollment Management to do a deeper dive into retention, which is more of a concern now than recruitment; Budget committee met (*see C. Simoneau's*

report included in the minutes below --lle)—and we continue to engage in very conservative budgeting; between last year and this year, we are anticipating \$11 million in savings due to non-filled positions, which will greatly help with the projected \$22 million deficit as well as future budget cycles; the CSCU 2030 plan asks that the money we received as a one-time payment becomes permanent and asks for \$2 billion in new bonding for new initiatives; shared that he believes the Governor’s budget plan will not be as favorable since he is focused on delivering a middle-class tax cut; the office of policy and Management is also pushing for potential cuts to higher education across all institutions; expect to hear from us in the next few weeks asking everyone to engage with their state legislators; working with AASCU to create action plans, and there will be a number of opportunities for people to sit on working groups; on February 8 consultants from AASCU will be here and there will be an opportunity to meet with them.

iii. Questions

1. E. Horch: Can programs/departments volunteer for the working groups?
 - a. J. Bertolino: a notification will be distributed, and we encourage as many people to participate as possible.
2. M. Shea: Reiterate that the best way to retain students is excellent teacher in the first and second years; although our ratio of students:faculty is unsustainable, can we not take advantage of that?
3. B. Cook: Have we considered being able to have adjuncts here more often? Is retention an issue for transfer students?
 - a. J. Bertolino: The issue is more centered on year two to three; the pool of transfer students has shrunk.
4. T. Lin: How do we compare to our sister institutions?
 - a. J. Bertolino: Western is struggling; it is difficult to compare ourselves to Eastern since they are the residential liberal arts college of the system; they are seeing a 3-5% decline. Central’s enrollment varies; where it is seeing growth is in its engineering programs, which is their differentiator. Student in the STEM fields and especially interested in engineering find their way there. The Health Sciences are our differentiator, but our challenge is in clinical placement: we have limitations on how many students we can take into our programs, whereas Central does not have the same problems.
 - b. R. Prezant shared that they are looking into the data like our factbook for Central.
 - c. E. Horch shared that we do have an engineering program here within Physics, and J. Bertolino shared that we may need to take a different PR strategy for that program.
5. M. Diamantis: could they share data on graduate enrollment?
 - a. J. Bertolino: Graduate enrollment has been doing well; however, this year we have seen a slight decline.
 - b. R. Prezant: we have the largest grad enrollment in the system.
6. T. Paddock: inquired about number of transfers.
 - a. J. Bertolino: the numbers have been down all year, but no hard data at this time; will distribute that information to the Senate.

iv. N. Starling thanked J. Bertolino and R. Prezant for sharing information and answering questions.

V. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

A. Reports received.

- B. Finance (C. Simoneau): Reminded Senators that there is plenty of travel funds remaining— encourage faculty to use it. Shared information on the Budget committee meeting (see report below). 80% of the budget is salary and fringe benefits. Among the targeted areas in Academic Affairs are cost savings of 25% in the adjunct budget; 25% on reassigned time. The rainy-day fund for the state is at one of its highest levels. Encourage faculty to pay attention to the budget conversations and get involved when asked.
 - i. S. Perumbilly: asked if a faculty member could request additional funds above what is already allocated.
 - 1. C. Simoneau: no, but said that faculty can approach their departments or their dean.
 - ii. M. Uribe: asked for clarification between the FCARG and the AAUP funds.
 - 1. C. Simoneau: FCARG funds do not roll over from year to year and are used first for that reason; AAUP funds roll over from year to year.
 - iii. R. Knipe: shared that our colleagues in the system receive far less money for travel than we do.
 - iv. N. Starling: any changes to the amount of the AAUP funds would be for next year’s cycle.
- C. Personnel policy (M. Shea): shared that the committee has had lengthy discussions regarding the “invisible” service on campus and how to account for that within the evaluation process.
- D. Technology (D. Macur): shared information on ChatGPT, what it is capable of and what it is not. The committee is working on a resolution for information providing guidelines for ChatGPT.

VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

- A. UCF (M. Sinclair): Report received.
- B. Graduate Council (B. Cook): No report. Working on course creation and submission.

VII. New Business

- A. K. Kruczek (Elections) **moved** to approve the Resolution Regarding the Learning Technologies Committee.
 - i. With no discussion, the body moved to a vote.
 - ii. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes40
 - 2. No1
 - a. The motion to approve the resolution **passed**.
- B. K. McGill **moved** that the Faculty Senate will meet in person at least twice each semester beginning in Spring 2023. **Seconded**.
 - i. T. Paddock **moved to strike “Spring” and insert “Fall”**. **Seconded**.
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes.....8
 - b. No33
 - ii. N. Starling asked if there was any objection to extending the meeting until 2:05. Hearing no objection, the body continued deliberations.
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes.....20
 - b. No28
 - i. The motion was **defeated**.
 - C. M. Uribe (Academic Policy) **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Inclusions to The Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Renewal Procedures.
 - i. Motion will appear under “Unfinished Business” at the February 8 meeting due to the adjournment of the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution Regarding the Learning Technologies Committee

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, Within the context of shared governance faculty participation furthers such excellence;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is charged with maintaining and filling All-University committees;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate strives to maintain efficient All-University and full committees;
and

Whereas, Currently, the Learning Technologies Committee (LTEC) membership shall consist of one (1) member from each college/school appointed by the Faculty Senate President; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the one (1) member from each college/school be elected for a three-year (3-year) term using the All-University Committee election process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate Election Committee revise affected SCSU documents to conform to the new committee structure and develop a mechanism for dealing with staggering the terms on the committee.

Friday, Jan. 20

Executive Vice President Finance & Administration Mark Rozewski led a discussion with the budget committee about the mid-year budget report for the current 2022-23 fiscal year, and planning for the upcoming biennial budget for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Representing the Faculty Senate was Cindy Simoneau, Treasurer.

The following were topics discussed:

For the current 2022-23 budget, a review was completed of 60-65 current vacant positions. It was concluded 40-45 could be further paused to yield savings from unpaid salary and fringe benefits for a savings of more than \$4 million. As a result, the BOR permission given to use \$4 million in surplus to fund this year's budget will not be needed.

Continuing to pause some positions, in addition to replacing retired faculty with new faculty at lower salary levels and with special appointments/adjuncts, could yield more savings that could be applied to future budget planning.

Efficiencies, thus savings, are being sought in all budgetary areas.

Reducing the \$16 million adjunct budget, and \$5 million for faculty service credits for release time are being reviewed. Provost has discussed reductions with all deans for all schools.

Cutting incidental costs from OE accounts would not yield much in savings, but cuts to people associated costs would. However, other costs are being reviewed: outsourcing contracts, energy, shuttle service on campus (not to train station).

Mark said the university would be turning back control of the former Gateway Long Wharf location to the Board of Regents. That would save \$100,000 a year for maintaining the site. A total of \$600,000 has been spent by SCSU on the site.

Discussion focused on maximizing course caps and reducing the number of courses or course sections where possible. And the impact of changes from the referendum-approved LEP.

Undergraduate and graduate enrollment levels continues to decline from previous highs.

Discussion focused on revenue generating possibilities including additional residence hall housing to Gateway students (9 currently living on campus) and offering graduate housing. Also continuing education programming that could generate fees and offering convention/event services on campus to outside organizations in summer.

There is still hope the governor and state Legislature will offer support to the state system.