

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF AUGUST 30, 2023

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

The 1st Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on August 30, 2023, at 12:13 p.m. in Engleman B121 & via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL 1
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✓	1
Kenneth	McGill	Anthropology	2026	✓	1
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024	✓	1
VACANT		Athletics	2026		
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology & Biochemistry	2026	✓	1
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025	✓	1
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry	2026	✓	1
Richard	Zipoli	Communication Disorders	2024	✗	
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025	✓	1
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025	✓	1
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024	✗	
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026	✓	1
VACANT		Curriculum & Learning	2024	✗	
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024	✓	1
Dushmantha	Jayawickreme	Earth Science	2025	✓	1
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024	✓	1
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026	✓	1
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	✓	1
Mike	Shea	English	2024	✓	1
Miriah	Kelly	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025	✓	1
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025	✗	
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025	✓	1
Mark	Robertson	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✓	1
Sarah	Benes	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✗	
Christine	Petto	History	2026	✓	1
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026	✓	1
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024	✗	
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024	✓	1
Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026	✓	1
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025	✓	1
Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025	✓	1

Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2023	✓	1
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025	✓	1
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025	✓	1
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025	✓	1
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026	✓	1
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026	✓	1
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024	✓	1
		Part-Time Faculty	2026		
		Part-Time Faculty	2026		
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	1
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	1
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026	✓	1
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024	✓	1
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	✓	1
Kate	Marsland	Psychology	2025	✘	
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024	✓	1
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024	✓	1
Deron	Gabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026	✓	1
VACANT		Social Work	2026		
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025	✓	1
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026	✓	1
VACANT		Special Education	2024		
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024	✓	1
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025	✓	1
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026	✓	1
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2024	✓	1
Dwayne	Smith	SCSU President		✓	1
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council		✓	1
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		✓	1
		SGA			

GUESTS

Craig Hlavac
Linda Cunningham
Robert Prezant
Cindy Stretch

Kari Swanson
Tracy Tyree

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 2022) Michele DeLucia (spring 2023)
Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC)	Klay Kruczek
Committee on Reassigned Time (discontinued)	Troy Paddock
Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) liaison	Cindy Simoneau
University Library Committee (ULC)	2 representatives – unfilled
Working Group for Governing Bodies & Documents	Paul Petrie (Rules rep) Jeffrey Webb (Rules rep) Michael Shea (senator, non-Rules member, rep)
FASP	Krista Prendergast
Strategic Action Plan Subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing Social Justice • Maintaining Academic Excellence • Engaging our Community 	Miriah Kelly Kenneth McGill Michael Sormrude

August 30, 2023

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 1st meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:13 p.m. in Engleman B121 A/B and via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. T. Lin reminded the body of the Multicultural & International Welcome Reception, which will be held August 31 from 4-6 in the Adanti Student Center Ballroom.
- B. L. Cunningham reminded the body of the upcoming Sabbatical Leave information session to be held September 1 at 1pm via Zoom.
- C. The Inaugural Social Justice Conference hosted by the Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion will be held on September 22 from 12:30-6 p.m.
- D. T. Tyree thanked everyone who participated in the beginning of the year events for students.
- E. N. Starling asked if there were any objections to changing the order of business. Hearing none, the order of business was changed to welcome President D. Smith and Provost R. Prezant.

II. Guests

- A. President D. Smith: welcomed Senators and shared his enthusiasm for the Fall semester. He shared that the number one priority is enrollment, retention, and degree completion of our scholars. He shared that we are facing a large financial challenge. He stated that he would like to be as transparent as possible. He shared that this fall we will launch our five-year strategic plan.
- B. Questions/comments included
 - i. A thank you to facilities: the campus looks great.
 - ii. Question regarding nontraditional students as a recruitment focus; also, does the university have plans to engage in more recruitment, to move more aggressively like some of our sister institutions?
 - iii. Question regarding communication: will the President's office continue the direct line of communication-style like under the previous president?
- C. President Smith shared that we cannot wait until January to being engaging with the legislature; we should be doing so on a continual basis. He reminded the body of the upcoming Town Hall with more details to come.
- D. Provost R. Prezant: welcomed new and returning Senators; he shared his enthusiasm for the Fall semester, but also shared that it will be a semester filled with challenges. He reminded the body of the upcoming meeting on September 1 at noon in Engleman C112 and Teams to discuss the Academic Planning Program as mandated by the Board of Regents (BOR). He shared that the plan is not definitive and is currently in draft form. He shared that first year student enrollment is flat, which is positive as previous first-year enrollment had been down. He shared that they are most concerned about part-time enrollment, which is down. He shared the transition plan in SPAR: J. Fowler is now in the role previously occupied by A. Taylor. He also shared that there are currently \$17 million in grants pending.
- E. Questions/comments included
 - i. question regarding our institution's aspiration to become a Hispanic Serving Institution: is that still a goal? President Smith said yes, it is.
 - ii. Question regarding the timeline for the Academic Program Assessment, since it overlaps with faculty evaluation. Provost Prezant shared that it was a timeline set by the BOR.
 - iii. Question regarding the university-wide Promotion & Tenure (P&T) event vs. college/school-wide event. President Smith and Provost Prezant stated that they would review this decision.

- iv. Concern that the union (AAUP) is not involved in the Academic Program Assessment since it may eventually impact faculty employment. Provost Prezant stated that this is a curricular issue, and the union would not have standing. Following up on this comment, the speaker stated that the financial troubles are due to decisions made above us at the legislature and their lack of financial support. There is concern that the assessment will provide a mechanism to merge or eliminate programs.
 - v. Comment regarding “free” tuition at Community Colleges and if the same program might be applied to the four universities?
 - F. The body thanked President Smith and Provost Prezant for their time.
- III. Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 3, 2023, were accepted as amended.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- IV. Faculty Senate President’s Report
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- V. Results of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees Chairperson(s) Elections
 - A. Academic Policy: M. Uribe and M. Diamantis.
 - B. Elections: K. Kruczek.
 - C. Finance: C. Simoneau (election held spring semester 2023).
 - D. Personnel Policy: M. Shea and S. Monroe Tomczak.
 - E. Rules: J. Webb and P. Petrie.
 - F. Student Policy: A. Strong and E. Horch.
 - G. Technology: D. Macur.
- VI. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees
 - A. UCF: M. Barboza is the incoming chair.
 - B. Graduate Council: B. Cook shared updates regarding steering committee composition.
- VII. New Business
 - A. Election of two Senators to the Working Group for Governing Bodies & Documents.
 - i. N. Starling reminded the body that the chair/co-chair of the Rules committee would sit on this committee.
 - ii. K. Kruczek opened nominations for a member who does not currently sit on the Rules committee.
 - 1. S. Monroe Tomczak **nominated** M. Shea. The nomination was **seconded**. M. Shea **accepted** the nomination.
 - 2. Hearing no additional nominations, K. Kruczek **closed** nominations.
 - a. M. Shea was **elected** to serve on the working group.
 - B. C. Simoneau reminded Senators of the CSU-AAUP Travel funds, which stand at \$3,000 minimum for full-time faculty and \$1,000 minimum for part-time faculty.
- VIII. Adjournment
 - A. Meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary