

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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

The 2nd Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on September 13, 2023, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✓	2/2
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026	✓	2/2
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024	✓	2/2
VACANT		Athletics	2026		
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology & Biochemistry	2026	✓	2/2
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025	✓	2/2
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry	2026	✓	2/2
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2024	✓	1/1
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025	✓	2/2
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025	✗	1/2
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024	✓	1/2
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026	✓	2/2
VACANT		Curriculum & Learning	2024		
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024	✓	2/2
Dushmantha	Jayawickreme	Earth Science	2025	✓	2/2
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024	✓	2/2
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026	✗	1/2
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	✓	2/2
Mike	Shea	English	2024	✓	2/2
Miriah	Kelly	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025	✓	2/2
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025	✗	0/2
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025	✓	2/2
Mark	Robertson	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✓	2/2
Sarah	Benes	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✓	1/2
Christine	Petto	History	2026	✓	2/2
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026	✓	2/2
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024	✗	0/0
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024	✓	2/2
Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026	✓	2/2
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025	✓	2/2
Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025	✓	2/2

Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2023	✘	1/2
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025	✓	2/2
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025	✓	2/2
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025	✓	2/2
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026	✓	2/2
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026	✓	2/2
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024	✓	2/2
		Part-Time Faculty	2026	✓	
		Part-Time Faculty	2026	✓	
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	2/2
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	2/2
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026	✓	2/2
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024	✓	2/2
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	✓	2/2
Kate	Marsland	Psychology	2025	✓	1/2
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024	✓	2/2
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024	✓	2/2
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026	✓	2/2
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026	✓	1/1
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025	✓	2/2
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026	✓	2/2
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2024	✓	1/1
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024	✓	2/2
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025	✓	2/2
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026	✓	2/2
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2024	✓	2/2
Dwayne	Smith	SCSU President		✓	2/2
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council		✓	2/2
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		✘	1/2
Pierce	Kozlowski	SGA		✘	

GUESTS

Betsy Lewis Roberts
 Craig Hlavac
 David Pettigrew
 Julia Irwin
 Karen Burke
 Linda Cunningham

Mike Nizhnikov
 Roland Regos
 Trever Broliar
 Trudy Milburn
 Virginia Metaxas

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
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)
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

September 13, 2023

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 2nd meeting (Special) of the Faculty Senate to order at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom.

- I. Announcements
 - A. N. Starling shared faculty leadership opportunities available through the Office of Academic Affairs (LEP Director; Writing Center Coordinator). Please contact T. Milburn with any questions.
 - B. L. Eilderts asked senators to send him the full-time faculty count, including emergency hires and those on special appointment, for each department.

- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on August 30, 2023, 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. New Business
 - A. On behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, N. Starling presented the Resolution regarding the CSCU Budget Crisis and Proposed Academic Program Planning Process.
 - A. A. Jansen **moved to amend** the resolution by inserting “academic program planning and” after “...focused approach to...” and before “...the impending fiscal crisis...” to the first “*Resolved*” statement so that it would read: “*Resolved*, That the faculty calls upon CSCU administration to amend their austerity-focused approach to **academic program planning and** the impending fiscal crisis to include and place greater emphasis on revenue-side solutions; and”. **Seconded**.
 - i. C. Simoneau **moved to call the previous question. Seconded**.
 - 1. Hearing no objections, the motion to call the previous question was **approved** by unanimous consent.
 - a. N. Starling asked if there were any objections to accepting the motion to amend the resolution. Hearing no objection, the motion to amend the resolution was **approved** by unanimous consent.
 - b. L. Eilderts **moved** to approve the resolution as a Resolution for Information. **Seconded**.
 - i. S. Monroe Tomczak **moved to call the previous question. Seconded**.
 - 1. Hearing no objections, the motion to call the previous question was **approved** by unanimous consent.
 - a. Vote tally
 - i. Yes..... 11
 - ii. No 33
 - 1. The motion was **defeated**. The resolution will be a resolution for approval by the SCSU president.
 - c. P. Petrie **moved to call the previous question. Seconded**.
 - i. Hearing no objections, the motion to call the previous question was **approved** by unanimous consent.
 - 1. Vote tally
 - a. Yes..... 41
 - b. No..... 1
 - i. The motion to approve the resolution as amended was **approved**.

V. Adjournment

- A. A motion was made to **adjourn**. Seconded.
- i. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Resolution Regarding the CSCU Budget Crisis and Proposed Academic Program Planning Process

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution Regarding the CSCU Budget Crisis and Proposed Academic Program Planning Process

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is the official governing body for shared governance;

Whereas, CSCU and SCSU are facing monumental and escalating projected budget deficits over the next several years;

Whereas, The CSCU Board of Regents resolution dated June 28, 2023, and titled "RESOLUTION Concerning THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES SPENDING PLANS FOR FY 2024 AND ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO RESOLVE CURRENT AND FUTURE BUDGET SHORTFALLS" calls upon each CSCU institution to devise, by November 1, 2023, a ... (see RESOLUTION dated 6_28_23);

Whereas, The faculty of SCSU have been tasked by the university administration, pursuant to the BOR's charge related to the projected multi-million dollar budget deficits across the CSU institutions, with undertaking an urgent comprehensive academic program review for purposes of identifying potential cost savings;

Whereas, An approach to academic program review focused only or primarily upon budgetary concerns places those concerns ahead of the academic and educational values, and thus endangers the academic integrity of the institution;

Whereas, Such an approach to the current budget crisis implies that the purpose of academic program planning is to generate decisions about the elimination of departments and programs and the termination of faculty positions;

Whereas, Neither the CSCU system office nor the SCSU administration has provided the faculty with crucial requested information defining the mechanisms and metrics by which information about academic programs and departments will be employed to reach such decisions;

Whereas, The pursuit of the current Academic Program Planning is redundant with several well-established and comprehensive ongoing mechanisms for said review, including annual department reports, StAR reviews, and reviews by numerous external accrediting agencies for the university, its schools and colleges, and its departments and programs;

Whereas, The Collective Bargaining Agreement between CSU faculty and CSCU already includes well-defined processes for the proposal, consideration, and implementation of program and department revision, reorganization, and/or elimination and for the termination of faculty, and it is not the role of faculty bodies to make any determination about changes to, or elimination of, programs outside of that process;

Whereas, Increasing the university's revenue and funding from the state government is the most viable pathway to fiscal solvency;

Whereas, The most practicable pathway to sustainable fiscal viability for the university, to the extent that it involves reducing the university's budget, is a gradual, predictable, and carefully planned diminishment of funding, rather than the abrupt and large-scale cuts proposed by Connecticut's governor and approved by the legislature; and

Whereas, The high-quality public education reflected in the programs at SCSU represent significant economic value for our state and provide an engine of social mobility for our citizenry; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the faculty calls upon CSCU administration to amend their austerity-focused approach to academic program planning and the impending fiscal crisis to include and place greater emphasis on revenue-side solutions; and

Resolved, That the faculty calls on the CSCU System Office to fulfill its pledge and make its intentions and process transparent around academic planning, so it can be reviewed, discussed, and debated by all stakeholders- including students, faculty, and staff- in a democratic process and so each program review is aligned with the missions of each institution; and

Resolved, That in the interest of shared governance, all currently collected data and reports (completed or in progress) regarding the academic planning process be given to the university senates so faculty can participate and properly evaluate the validity of the proposed metrics and results; and

Resolved, That in the interest of shared governance, the currently proposed timeline by the CSCU System Office be removed and redesigned in consultation with the university senates; and

Resolved, That the faculty calls upon CSCU administration to collaborate with us in creating and implementing a sustained campaign of public information and legislative and gubernatorial advocacy for the educational value of the university and the need for adequate, stable, and predictable state funding for public higher education.