

# Southern Connecticut State University

## FACULTY SENATE

### APPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2023

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

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on October 4, 2023, at 12:11 p.m via Zoom.

#### Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✓	4/4
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026	✓	3/4
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024	✓	4/4
Jillian	Rispoli	Athletics	2026	✓	2/2
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026	✓	4/4
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025	✓	4/4
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026	✓	3/4
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2024	✓	4/4
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025	✓	4/4
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025	✓	3/4
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024	✗	2/4
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026	✓	4/4
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2024	✓	2/2
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024	✓	4/4
Dushmantha	Jayawickreme	Earth Science	2025	✓	4/4
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024	✓	3/4
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026	✓	2/4
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	✓	4/4
Mike	Shea	English	2024	✓	4/4
Miriah	Kelly	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025	✓	4/4
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025	✓	2/4
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025	✓	4/4
Mark	Robertson	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✓	4/4
Sarah	Benes	Health & Movement Sciences	2025	✗	2/4
Christine	Petto	History	2026	✓	4/4
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026	✓	4/4
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024	✗	1/4
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024	✓	4/4
Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026	✓	4/4
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025	✓	4/4

Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025	✓	4/4
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2023	✓	3/4
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025	✓	3/4
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025	✓	4/4
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025	✓	4/4
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026	✓	4/4
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026	✓	4/4
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024	✓	4/4
		Part-Time Faculty	2026		
		Part-Time Faculty	2026		
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	4/4
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty	2024	✓	3/4
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026	✓	4/4
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024	✓	4/4
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	✘	2/4
Kate	Marsland	Psychology	2025	✘	2/4
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024	✓	4/4
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024	✓	4/4
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026	✓	3/4
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026	✓	2/2
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025	✓	4/4
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026	✓	4/4
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2024	✓	2/2
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024	✓	4/4
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025	✓	4/4
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026	✓	4/4
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2024	✓	4/4
Dwayne	Smith	SCSU President		✘	3/4
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council		✓	4/4
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		✓	3/4
Pierce	Kozlowski	SGA		✓	2/2

#### GUESTS

Diane Ariza  
Michael Dodge  
Jordan Jones  
Meredith Sinclair  
Patricia Gagliardi  
Robert Prezant

Roland Regos  
Rylee Massoni  
Terri Bennett  
Trevor 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)	Amy Jansen 1 Representative 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"> <li>• Advancing Social Justice</li> <li>• Maintaining Academic Excellence</li> <li>• Engaging our Community</li> </ul>	Miriah Kelly Kenneth McGill Michael Sormrude
DEI Advisory Council	Laurie Bonjo
Chief of Police Search Committee	Isabel Logan

October 4, 2023

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. L. Eilderts shared information on the pilot of Fireflies.ai for note taking and the drafting of the minutes. Any questions, please write him.
- B. M. Uribe shared information on a free event and talk by the director of the Housatonic Museum of Art sponsored by the Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS) program. The topic will be on pre-Columbian art and will take place October 16 from 1-2 in the Buley Art Gallery.
- C. D. Macur shared that the next performance will be *Footloose*. Tickets may be purchased by clicking [here](#).
- D. T. Lin shared that the event “Beyond the Binary: A Journey to Self-Love and Acceptance” will take place on October 10. Information may be found [here](#). ASK TRICIA ABOUT SECOND EVENT/link

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 20, 2023, were accepted as amended.  
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

III. Faculty Senate President’s Report

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

- A. T. Lin asked if the body might discuss soon some of the information presented at the University President’s Town Hall meeting, specifically the goals in the final slides.

IV. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- A. Reports of the standing committees have been received.
- B. Academic Policy (M. Uribe) shared that the committee is continuing its work and conversations with the Director of Continuing Education. A second topic was the ongoing discussions regarding the bookstore. Please contact her or M. Diamantis with any questions or issues with the bookstore.
- C. Elections (K. Kruczek) shared that self-nominations for part-time faculty is due Friday. Email announcement has been sent.
- D. Finance (C. Simoneau) reminded senators that the committee continues to gather information on how decisions on department operating expense (OE) budgets are structured and how OE budgets are decided with faculty input. Also reminded senators that new policies have been distributed regarding food purchases; additional approvals may be required.
- E. N. Starling shared that the membership for the working group for governing bodies and documents has been finalized.
- F. Student Policy (E. Horch) shared that the committee has reviewed the charges and prioritized the readmission policy, the academic misconduct policy and the grade appeal policy. In the long term the committee will work on recruitment, retention and persistence and perhaps invite President Smith.
- G. Technology (D. Macur) shared that the committee has been considering the student response rate to surveys.

V. Reports of the Faculty Senate Special Committees

- A. Reports received from UCF and Grad Council.

- B. UCF (M. Barboza): Drew senators attention to the feedback requested regarding the LEP referendum changes. Additionally, please engage with your UCF representatives about the proposal from the LEPC regarding having five exploration categories and one elective versus four exploration categories and two electives.
- C. Graduate Council (B. Cook): Shared that their curriculum committee is working to make sure all the documents follow the revised flow of proposals that was approved last year. Please see the Confluence page for GC for the flow of proposals and forms.

VI. New Business

- A. Election of a Faculty Senate representative to the University Library Committee.
  - i. K. Kruczek **opened nominations**.
  - ii. A. Jansen **self-nominated. Seconded**.
  - iii. Hearing no additional nominations, nominations **closed**.
    - 1. A. Jensen was **elected** to serve as the Faculty Senate representative to the University Library Committee.
- B. Election of a Faculty Senate representative to serve on the Administrative Faculty Senate.
  - i. J. Jones, President of the Administrative Faculty Senate, shared the background of the body.
  - ii. K. Kruczek **opened nominations**.
  - iii. M. Diamantis **self-nominated. Seconded**.
  - iv. Hearing no additional nominations, nominations **closed**.
    - 1. M. Diamantis was **elected** to serve as the Faculty Senate representative on the Administrative Faculty Senate.
      - a. A short discussion about how the Faculty Senate might formalize the participation of a representative of the Administrative Faculty Senate. In the short term, without changes to governing documents, the representative would be a non-voting member similar to UCF, Grad Council, and SGA. The issue will be taken up by the Executive Committee.
- C. N. Starling asked the body to change the order of business to welcome guests. Hearing no objection, the body welcomed members from the office of DEI.

VII. Guests

- A. D. Ariza, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and P. Gagliardi, Director for Inclusion and Restorative Justice Education Development.
  - i. The DEI Advisory Council has implemented a Campus Climate Support protocol as an informal solution for people on campus to report incidents of bias. This is not meant to replace formal processes but provides a space for individuals who have experienced harmful incidents that do not rise to the level of the law. The protocol, previously known as the Anti Bias Protocol, aims to foster a welcoming campus environment where all members can be authentic in their identities. The protocol includes restorative practices and offers resources for resolving concerns through informal means. It also collects data on submissions to provide insights into areas of harm and impact on different identities within the campus community. Questions were raised about how faculty should approach classroom conversations regarding sensitive topics, and support will be provided to students who may find these discussions difficult.

VIII. New Business (cont'd)

- A. Senators engaged in a discussion on student feedback through the submission of mid-term grades, which are currently recommended but not mandatory. Many senators expressed the need for some kind of flexibility in the reporting of mid-term grades. Many also expressed the need for providing context to the meaning of mid-term grades.
- B. M. Shea **moved** to invite H. Marx and M. Sinclair to the next full Faculty Senate meeting. **Seconded.**
  - i. Vote tally.
    - 1. Yes.....34
    - 2. No.....12
    - a. The motion **passes.**
- C. M. Shea **moved** to charge the Executive committee with deciding which standing committee would explore mid-term grade reporting. **Seconded.**
  - i. Vote tally
    - 1. Yes.....29
    - 2. No.....4

IX. Adjournment

- A. M. Diamantis **moved to adjourn.** **Seconded.**
  - i. The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

