

Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024

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

The 9th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on January 24, 2024, at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✖	7/9
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026	✖	7/9
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024		9/9
Jillian	Rispoli	Athletics	2026		6/7
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026	✖	8/9
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025		9/9
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026		8/9
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2024		8/9
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025		8/9
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025		8/9
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024		7/9
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026		7/9
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2024		7/7
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024		8/9
Dushmantha	Jayawickreme	Earth Science	2025		9/9
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024		7/9
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026		7/9
Paul	Petrie	English	2026		9/9
Mike	Shea	English	2024		9/9
Eric	West	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025		5/5
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025		4/9
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025		8/9
Robert	Knipe	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		1/1
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		1/1
Christine	Petto	History	2026		9/9
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026		9/9
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024		6/9
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024		9/9
Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026		8/9
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025		9/9

Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025		9/9
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2023		7/9
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025		8/9
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025		9/9
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025		9/9
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026	*	7/9
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026		9/9
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024		8/9
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty	2026		8/9
Garbielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty	2025		5/5
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty	2024		9/9
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty	2024		8/9
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026		9/9
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024		9/9
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	*	2/9
Kate	Marsland	Psychology	2025		5/9
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024		8/9
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024		9/9
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026		5/9
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026		6/7
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025		7/9
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		9/9
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2024		6/7
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024		9/9
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025		9/9
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026		9/9
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2024		9/9
Dwayne	Smith	SCSU President			9/9
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council		*	8/9
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form			8/9
Joseph	Merly	SGA			1/1

GUESTS

Ebony Perouse-Harvey
Preethi Varghese-Joseph

Trever Brolliar
Trudy Milburn

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"> • Advancing Social Justice • Maintaining Academic Excellence • Engaging our Community 	Miriah Kelly Kenneth McGill Michael Sormrude
DEI Advisory Council	Laurie Bonjo
Chief of Police Search Committee	Isabel Logan

January 24, 2024

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 9th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. J. Rispoli shared that 61% of our student athletes achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the fall semester and have been added to the NEA 10 honor roll. Specifically, 45 student athletes had a 4.0 while 162 had between a 3.5 and a 3.99 and 94 earned a 3.0 to a 3.49. These numbers also include our gymnastics student athletes, although they compete in Division 1.
- B. M. Diamantis reminded the body of the Jirsa Service award nominations. They are due February 9 by end-of-day.
- C. L. Eilderts invited the community to the French Film Series "Blurring Boundaries." The first film will take place February 29 at 6 p.m. in the Adanti Student Center Theater. For more information, a website has been created: <https://sites.google.com/view/southernct-french/>.
- D. T. Lin shared information about the upcoming WGS conference to be held on April 19 and 20, 2024. Information can be found by clicking [here](#).
- E. C. Simoneau shared that the *Southern News* would begin printing the following week and the *Crescent* magazine is starting work on the May edition. Please share any interesting news stories with the editor-in-chief or with C. Simoneau.
- F. N. Starling welcomed the new SGA Representative J. Merly, who introduced himself to the body. The Faculty Senate thanked P. Kozlowski for his service.
- G. L. Eilderts announced that an error in attendance had been discovered and the minutes have been updated to reflect this correction.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 6, 2023, were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

III. SCSU President Remarks: Dr. D. Smith

- A. President Smith reiterated how proud the Southern community is of our student/scholar athletes. He also shared his own personal experience with gun violence, highlighting the impact on his family and community. He also expressed optimism and desire to take action in his role as President of the University. He shared that studies have shown that education reduces the likelihood of incarceration, especially for African American men. President Smith shared that the University saw growth in enrollment and retention as well as first-year applications (see presentation below).
- B. Several members offered their condolences to President Smith.
- C. E. Horch asked about the number of Early College students. President Smith shared that there are around 600 Early College students.
- D. President Smith also remarked on all the hard work that the J. Edstrom and her team in Enrollment Management are doing.

IV. Faculty Senate President's Report

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

- A. N. Starling encouraged senators to read through the information regarding the resolution from the Senate at Eastern CT State U. She also shared that the SCSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee is not recommending that we move forward with a resolution at this time; however, senators should be aware of what is happening in the system.

- V. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - A. Standing committees did not meet.
 - B. Finance: C. Simoneau shared information on the travel funds. There is still a healthy amount of funds, so faculty are encouraged to use them.
 - C. Technology: D. Macur shared information regarding the Interfolio P&T coordinator position.
- VI. Special Committees
 - A. UCF: M. Barboza shared that the changes to the accelerated pathways were approved. She also shared that should the proposed changes to the LEP be approved by the UCF, they would require a university-wide referendum.
 - B. Graduate Council: Report received. Please send questions to B. Cook, as she was unable to attend today's meeting.
- VII. New Business
 - A. K. Kruczek (Elections) shared information regarding the search committee for the Dean of the College of Education. The committee is seeking one representative from the Faculty Senate. He then opened nominations.
 - i. M. Shea nominated L. Bonjo, who accepted the nomination.
 - ii. K. Kruczek explained that a digital portal would be opened for additional nominations. This will be sent via email.
 - B. V. Metaxas inquired about the vote of no confidence and how the body felt. Several senators shared that they felt that it was best to wait and see how things unfold at Eastern. It was also asked if Chancellor Cheng would visit the Faculty Senate. N. Starling shared that she, L. Eilderts (FS secretary), and K. Swanson (President SCSU-AAUP) had been invited to meet with the Chancellor, and she planned to ask him if he would attend a meeting. It was also suggested to ask the Chancellor about our own future Presidential search. N. Starling stated that she would report out about the meeting at the following Faculty Senate meeting.
- VIII. Adjournment
 - A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**
 - i. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

A Snapshot of Southern Connecticut State University



 Southern Connecticut State University

1

Five-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2028 LEADING THE WAY



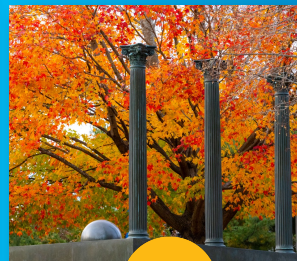
1

Enrollment
Success



2

Cultivating a
Community of Scholars



3

Justice, Equity,
And Excellence



4

Community
Engagement

2

Enrollment Goals FALL 2024



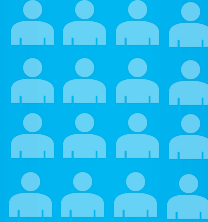
5%

=

403

Enrollment
Growth

Additional
Scholars



We will achieve this by increases in:

1%

New Scholar
Enrollment

73 Scholars

0.7%

Transfer and
Readmits

59 Scholars

2.2%

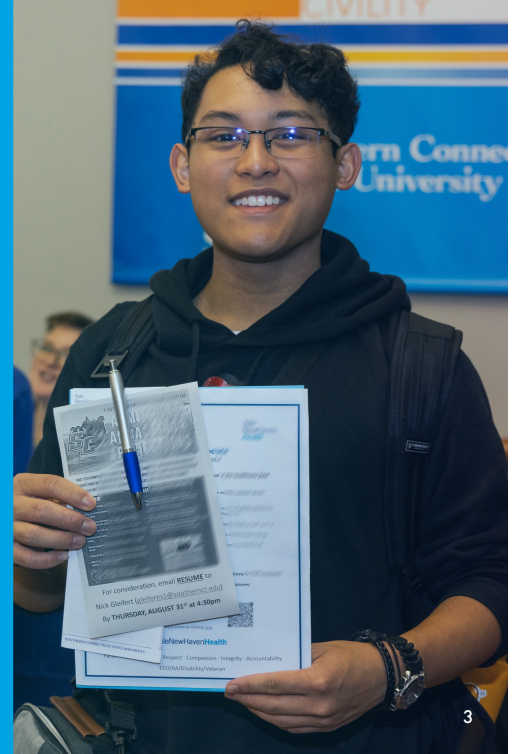
Retention

178 Scholars

1.1%

Graduate Enrollment
(New and Continuing)

93 Scholars



3

Progress to Date FALL 2024



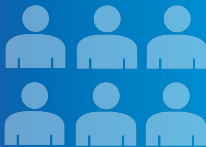
17.2%

First-Year
Applications
Are Up:

January 22, 2024

7,684

Applications
Submitted

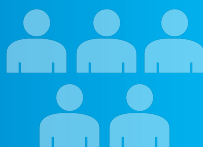


vs.

January 22, 2023

6,555

Applications
Submitted



From November 1st-15th, we received nearly triple the number of applications as last year.



4

Spring 2024 Enrollment

YEAR-OVER-YEAR COMPARISON



As of January 23, 2024:



1.1%

Total Head
Count (up 90
students)



26.5%

New
Undergraduate
First-Year
Students



3.2%

Full-time
Undergraduate
Head Count (up
157 students)



13.2%

New
Undergraduate
Transfer Students
(up 40 students)



4.8%

Full-time Graduate Head
Count (up 273 students)



Thank You!



6