



FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024

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

The 13th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on March 6, 2024, at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025		11/13
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026		11/13
Melanie	Uribe	Art & Design	2024		13/13
Jillian	Rispoli	Athletics	2026		9/11
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026		12/13
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025		13/13
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026		12/13
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2024		12/13
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025		12/13
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025		12/13
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2024		11/13
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026		11/13
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2027		10/11
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024		12/13
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2025		2/2
Jia	Yu	Economics	2024		11/13
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026	*	8/13
Paul	Petrie	English	2026		13/13
Mike	Shea	English	2024		13/13
Matthew	Miller	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025		2/2
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025		5/13
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025		12/13
Robert	Knipe	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		5/5
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		5/5
Christine	Petto	History	2026		13/13
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026		13/13
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2024		9/13
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2024		13/13

Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026		12/13
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025		12/13
Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025		13/13
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2026		10/13
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025		12/13
Klay	Kruczek	Mathematics	2025		13/13
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025		13/13
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026		10/13
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026		13/13
Andrea	Adimando	School of Nursing	2024		12/13
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty (HIS)	2026		12/13
Garbielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty (JRN)	2025		9/9
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty (BIO)	2024		13/13
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty (PSY)	2024		12/13
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026		13/13
Elliott	Horch	Physics	2024		13/13
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	*	2/13
Kate	Marstand	Psychology	2025		9/13
Chris	Budnick	Psychology	2024		10/13
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2024		13/13
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026	*	8/13
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026		10/12
Stephen	Monroe Tomczak	Social Work	2025		10/13
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		13/13
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2024		10/11
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2024		12/13
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025		13/13
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026		13/13
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2024		13/13
Dwayne	Smith	SCSU President			12/13
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council			12/13
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form			11/13
Joseph	Merly	SGA			5/5

GUESTS

Christopher Piscitelli
 Craig Hlavac
 Daisy Torres-Baez
 Dushmantha Jayawickreme
 Jenna
 Jules

Kelvin Rutledge
 Marilu Rochefort
 Tracy Tyree
 Trever Broliar
 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 (Work complete)	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
Dean of the College of Education Search Committee	Laurie Bonjo

March 27, 2024

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 13th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

- I. Announcements
 - A. T. Lin shared information on the upcoming WGS Conference. Information can be found by visiting the website: <https://inside.southernct.edu/womens-and-gender-studies/conferences/2024>.
 - B. M. Uribe shared information on the Senior Exhibition for Graphic Design. An opening reception will be held on April 3 at 5 p.m. in the Buley Art Gallery.

- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 6, 2024, were accepted as distributed. <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

- III. Faculty Senate President's Report
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
 - A. N. Starling highlighted information in the report regarding the resolution for information regarding campus safety and belonging that would be discussed under new business. Since the distribution of the packet, Dr. Smith has sent out an announcement to the campus community.
 - B. M. Shea asked for an update on the Writing Center Coordinator. N. Starling answered that she has shared the 2010 Resolution regarding Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) with the SCSU-AAUP President K. Swanson, who has subsequently shared that information with the Office of Academic Affairs. K. Marsland asked how we should handle W waivers. M. Barboza answered that W waivers are being handled by M. Sinclair, Faculty Director of Advising; she shared concern over this arrangement since that is not a part of the job description for that position. There has been no additional information from Academic Affairs at this time. N. Starling shared that this is a priority issue and will be discussed at the upcoming Faculty Leadership Council meeting with the Provost and the President on April 1. T. Milburn shared that she had received the 2010 resolution and will be discussing the matter with the Provost upon his return to campus. K. Marsland shared her dismay at the current situation with the Writing center and the resources and support it has historically provided to students and faculty.
 - C. M. Shea asked about the status of negotiations with Barnes & Noble now that the Board of Regents (BOR) has voted down the contract with a plan to hold a special meeting on the matter. More specifically, M. Shea asked if information been shared on how this meeting will be held and how the BOR plans to collect additional information from stakeholders. N. Starling answered that there is no additional information to share at this time. The APC is officially charged with monitoring the bookstore issues, so they will keep the body informed. Any new information will be shared with the body as well as the SGA and the Administrative Faculty Senate. K. Marsland asked where she should send her questions/concerns for this special meeting. N. Starling answered that those questions could be sent to her with a cc to the APC co-chairs, M. Uribe and M. Diamantis. President Smith shared that Barnes & Noble will be able to negotiate specific needs for each campus and that this will be discussed further at the April 1 FLC meeting.

- IV. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees
 - A. Reports received.
 - B. Academic Policy (M. Uribe): No additional updates beyond the resolution that will be discussed under new business.
 - C. Elections (K. Kruczek): Reminded senators about the ongoing referenda. Reminders will also be sent out via email.
 - D. Finance (C. Simoneau): Shared updates on travel funds; the Faculty Creative Activity and Research Grant funds normally earmarked for faculty travel have been exhausted following past practice. At

the April 3 meeting, the committee will meet with J. Chabra to discuss the possibility of a resolution that would provide additional travel funds for next year as we have done for the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a reminder, this year's funds are \$3,000 for full-time faculty, and \$1,000 for part-time faculty, with the possibility of additional funds depending on special circumstances (e.g., keynote, international travel, tenure-track). M. Shea asked for clarification on the dates for this year's travel funds. C. Simoneau answered that this year's travel funds should be used until the beginning of next year's contract.

- E. Personnel (M. Shea): The committee will meet with T. Paddock, chair of the P&T committee, and possibly M. Diamantis, the previous chair of P&T, to discuss possible revisions to the P&T document and procedures. The committee is also looking for feedback on the statement on service, which we will discuss under unfinished business.
- F. Rules (P. Petrie & J. Webb): No additional information.
- G. Student Policy (A. Strong): The committee did not meet.
- H. Technology (D. Macur): Shared that IT is working on the calendar for course migration from Blackboard 9 to Blackboard Ultra. A pilot program is also in the works. Updates will be shared with faculty.

V. Special Committees

- A. UCF (M. Barboza): Reminded senators to vote as well as remind their constituents to vote in the referenda, which require 200 faculty to participate in order to be considered valid. Reminded senators to verify deadlines for courses to be reviewed/received by the UCF. This information is available on Confluence.
- B. Graduate Council (B. Cook): No additional updates. Thanked M. Shea for joining GC to share information on the Statement on Service. Shared that GC will need to elect the chairs of its committees for next year, and there may be a number of positions open. Please let your departments know about these service opportunities.
- C. FASP: Report received.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Proposed Statement on the Value of Service at the University
 - i. M. Miller presented his opposition to the proposed statement on service, arguing that service is overvalued on the campus compared to teaching. He highlighted discrepancies in the weights assigned to activities like load credit, creative activity, service, and professional attendance. M. Miller compared the percentages of workload at Southern to other institutions like UConn, emphasizing an undervaluation of teaching. He suggested that if teaching were valued at the same rate as UConn, the weight of service would decrease from four to 1.5, indicating a proposed change in the evaluation system (see figure 1). M. Shea mentioned that shared his belief that shared governance at Southern is strong, partly due to the emphasis on service. However, he acknowledged M. Miller's concerns about workload and undervaluation of teaching. R. Knipe raised a concern about how departmental statements about service in evaluation letters are honored as they move through the evaluative process. M. Shea noted the importance of trust among colleagues to follow contractual guidelines. P. Petrie supported the statement but distinguished between the issue of reweighting activities and ensuring respect for existing weightings. K. Kruczek expressed a concern that the proposed statement might lack actionable steps, suggesting a need for follow-up actions. O. Biesel suggested that the points system reflects the importance of activities rather than the percentage of time spent on them. Discussion also touched on the nature of the proposed statement, whether it should be a resolution or an announcement, and its intended impact on the evaluation process. M. Diamantis spoke in favor of the statement, highlighting the significant service contributions of faculty members

and the need for recognition. The discussion concluded with N. Starling acknowledging the ongoing discussion and thanking the participants for their engagement. The matter was left open for further consideration, with the potential for the statement to be used as a means of highlighting the importance of service contributions within the university.

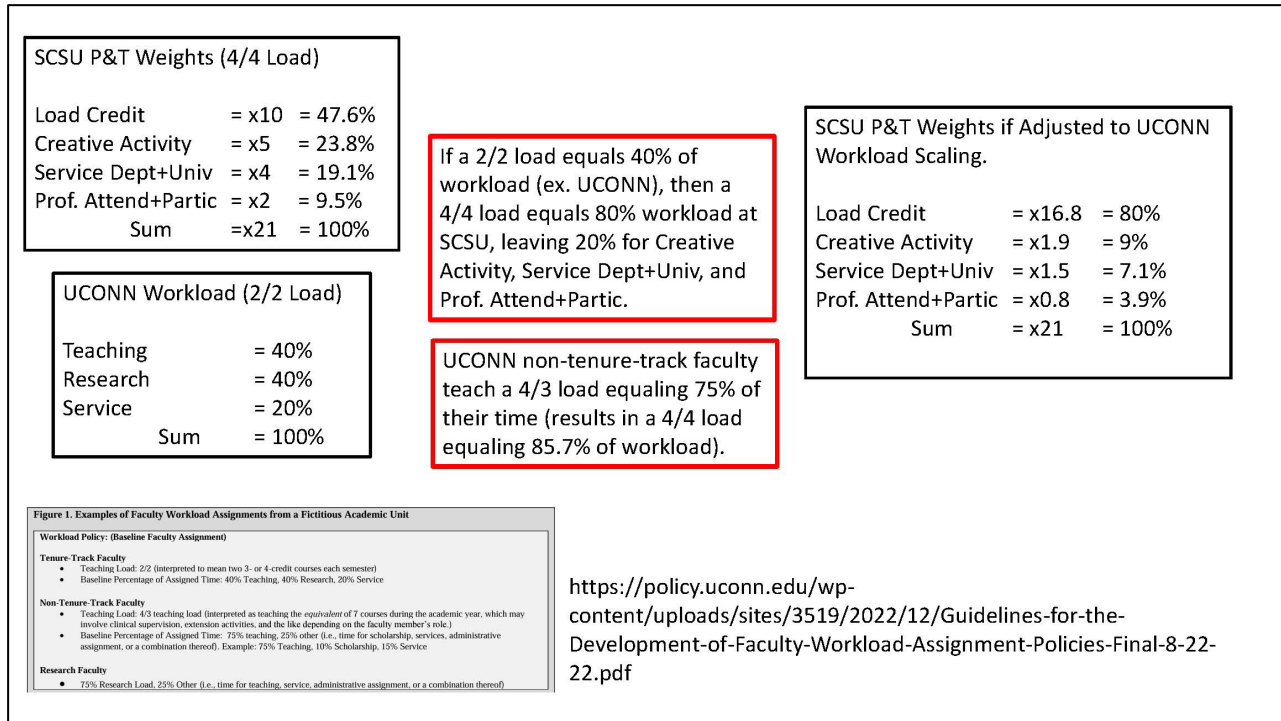


Figure 1

VII. New Business

- A. M. Uribe (APC) presented a draft of the Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Add/Drop Policy.
- i. The discussion revolved around a proposed resolution to increase the add/drop period from one week to two weeks for both graduate and undergraduate students. Melanie Uribe opened the floor for questions and comments, clarifying that the resolution came from the Office of the Registrar and was approved by the deans. M. Diamantis added that the change to a two-week period aligns with the calendar deadlines based on weekdays and follows the refund rules. They advised senators to consider the proposal and bring the information back to their departments for a future vote. P. Petrie asked about the origins of the proposal and the problems it aimed to address. M. Uribe explained that it was to give students more time to assess classes and to address issues with students being registered without faculty knowledge. M. Diamantis added that the new process would also streamline the procedure, shortening the time it takes for a student to drop a course. L. Eilderts shared concerns specific to language courses, where students might place themselves incorrectly and the need for flexibility in the add/drop process. He also mentioned potential issues with eight-week courses. There were discussions about the timeline of the semester affecting the add/drop period, examples given of classes that meet irregularly due to holidays, and concerns about students missing too many classes if they add late. C. Petto asked for clarification on when students would need instructor and department chair permission, which was confirmed to be required only after the first week of the add/drop period. C. Simoneau raised questions about the impact on summer classes, the process for freshman students, and whether the change was in line with other CSU campuses. M. Shea suggested consulting with the First-Year Experience (FYE) office, confirming the Deans'

approval of the change, and inviting appropriate personnel to speak on the matter. P. Petrie and O. Biesel shared concerns about students joining classes late and the potential impact on their preparedness. O. Biesel emphasized the importance of instructor discretion in such cases. Further points were raised about the role of Deans, checking with other universities, the attendance policy date, and potential conflicts. N. Starling recommended concluding the discussion and suggested sharing information with the APC chairs and constituencies for further consideration of the proposed resolution. The body would prepare for a potential future vote on the revised resolution.

- VIII. On behalf of the Executive committee, N. Starling introduced the Resolution (for information) Affirming Safety and Belonging at Southern Connecticut State University.
- A. The resolution condemned acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred in the community, particularly those impacting the Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) Department. The resolution, drafted in response to recent incidents, highlighted the faculty's stance and the Council of Academic Chairs' support for WGS. R. Gilliland suggested clarifying the term "violence" in the resolution to encompass various forms of harm, including physical, emotional, and psychological. T. Lin shared specific instances of vandalism and threats targeting WGS since October 7. President Smith emphasized the need for action beyond condemnation, suggesting the installation of cameras for security and proposing ongoing discussions to address such incidents on campus. R. Gilliland further suggested specifying in the resolution the unacceptable nature of property damage and threats, along with physical, emotional, and psychological harm.
 - B. L. Eilderts **moved to strike** the final “resolved” statement from the resolution in light of the campus-wide announcement distributed by President Smith. **Seconded.**
 - i. N. Starling asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, the motion to strike was **approved.**
 - C. After discussion, the body moved to a vote.
 - i. Vote tally
 - 1. Yes34
 - 2. No 0
 - a. The resolution was **approved unanimously.**
 - D. T. Lin thanked the body and reminded everyone that events like this concern the entire Southern community.
- IX. Announcements (cont'd)
- A. C. Simoneau reminded senators to vote in the AAUP/SEBAC salary negotiation.
 - B. L. Eilderts shared that senators whose terms are ending this semester would receive an email reminding them to hold an election in their department.
 - C. N. Starling shared that there are three remaining full Faculty Senate meetings, with the possibility for a fourth special meeting as needed. She also shared that we are waiting to hear from Chancellor Cheng about our upcoming Presidential search.
- X. Adjournment
- A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**
 - i. The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution for Information

Resolution for Affirming Safety and Belonging at Southern Connecticut State University

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

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

Whereas, The Faculty Senate has historically expressed responses to incidents and events in our collective university community that impacted perceptions of safety and belonging ([Resolution S-2019-16](#): Resolution on Misogyny, Gender-Based Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct; [Resolution F-2021-09](#): Resolution Regarding Swastika Found on Campus; [Resolution F-2020-02](#): Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day);

Whereas, Acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred have been documented and/or reported within our university community during the 2023-2024 academic year, specifically targeting the Department of Women's & Gender Studies, its offices, and bulletin board spaces on 9/21/2023, 11/6/2023, 1/25/2024, 2/26/2024, 2/27/2024, 3/5/2024 and 3/18/2024;

Whereas, Such acts and threats, and any acts and threats in any area of our collective university community, are disturbing, especially on a campus that strives to be a social justice exemplar;

Whereas, Such acts and threats threaten all members of our community and make some members feel less safe on campus, the place where a sense of trust, safety, and belonging is paramount to the well-being of all members;

Whereas, Acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred negatively impact one's standing and advancement, professional growth, opportunities and ability to participate fully in the intellectual academic community; and

Whereas, Standing together in denouncing such acts and threats helps to make it clear that our university community will not tolerate any form of bigotry, violence or hatred in our community; and

Whereas, The Council of Academic Chairs (CAC) has formally responded on March 19, 2024, with the following Statement of Support for the Department of Women's & Gender Studies:

Dear President Smith, Provost Prezant, Deans, and Associate Deans,

The members of the Chairs Council of Southern CT State University stand in solidarity with Dr. Tricia Lin, affiliated faculty, students, and staff of the department of Women's and Gender Studies. We applaud their efforts to provide a safe place for students; to offer the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation and debate; and to raise awareness of challenging issues in a rigorous and thoughtful manner. We denounce hateful language and vandalism and call on campus administrators to ensure the safety of students, staff, and faculty;