



## FACULTY SENATE

### APPROVED MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2024

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

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on April 10, 2024, at 12:13 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendance

| FIRST     | LAST               | DEPARTMENT                                | TERM ENDS (SPRING) | ATTENDANCE | TOTAL |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------|
| Lisa      | Haylon             | Accounting                                | 2025               |            | 12/14 |
| Valerie   | Andrushko          | Anthropology                              | 2026               |            | 12/14 |
| Melanie   | Uribe              | Art & Design                              | 2024               |            | 14/14 |
| Jillian   | Rispoli            | Athletics                                 | 2026               |            | 10/12 |
| Nicholas  | Edgington          | Biology                                   | 2026               |            | 13/14 |
| Kate      | Toskin             | Business Information Systems              | 2025               |            | 14/14 |
| Jeff      | Webb               | Chemistry & Biochemistry                  | 2026               |            | 13/14 |
| Shawneen  | Buckley            | Communication Disorders                   | 2024               |            | 13/14 |
| Melanie   | Savelli            | Communication, Media & Screen Studies     | 2025               |            | 13/14 |
| Shafaeat  | Hossain            | Computer Science                          | 2025               | *          | 12/14 |
| Matthew   | Ouimet             | Counseling                                | 2024               |            | 12/14 |
| Laurie    | Bonjo              | Counseling & School Psychology            | 2026               |            | 12/14 |
| Beena     | Achhpal            | Curriculum & Learning                     | 2027               |            | 11/12 |
| Maria     | Diamantis          | Curriculum & Learning                     | 2024               |            | 13/14 |
| Jennifer  | Cooper<br>Boemmels | Earth Science                             | 2025               |            | 3/3   |
| Jia       | Yu                 | Economics                                 | 2024               |            | 12/14 |
| Peter     | Madonia            | Educational Leadership & Policy Studies   | 2026               |            | 9/14  |
| Paul      | Petrie             | English                                   | 2026               |            | 14/14 |
| Mike      | Shea               | English                                   | 2024               |            | 14/14 |
| Matthew   | Miller             | Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences | 2025               |            | 3/3   |
| Sandip    | Dutta              | Finance & Real Estate                     | 2025               |            | 6/14  |
| Amanda    | Strong             | Healthcare Systems & Innovation           | 2025               |            | 13/14 |
| Robert    | Knipe              | Health & Movement Sciences                | 2025               |            | 6/6   |
| Daniel    | Swartz             | Health & Movement Sciences                | 2025               |            | 6/6   |
| Christine | Petto              | History                                   | 2026               |            | 14/14 |
| Troy      | Rondinone          | History                                   | 2026               |            | 14/14 |
| Yan       | Liu                | Information & Library Sciences            | 2024               |            | 10/14 |
| Cindy     | Simoneau           | Journalism                                | 2024               |            | 14/14 |

|           |                |                                         |      |   |       |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|------|---|-------|
| Elizabeth | Wilkinson      | Library Services                        | 2026 | * | 12/14 |
| Amy       | Jansen         | Library Services                        | 2025 |   | 13/14 |
| Alison    | Wall           | Management & International Business     | 2025 |   | 14/14 |
| Melvin    | Prince         | Marketing                               | 2026 | * | 10/14 |
| Sebastian | Perumbilly     | Marriage & Family Therapy               | 2025 | * | 12/14 |
| Klay      | Kruczek        | Mathematics                             | 2025 |   | 14/14 |
| Owen      | Biesel         | Mathematics                             | 2025 | * | 13/14 |
| Jonathan  | Irving         | Music                                   | 2026 |   | 11/14 |
| Deborah   | Morrill        | School of Nursing                       | 2026 | * | 13/14 |
| Andrea    | Adimando       | School of Nursing                       | 2024 |   | 13/14 |
| Virginia  | Metaxas        | Part-Time Faculty (HIS)                 | 2026 |   | 13/14 |
| Garbielle | Ferrell        | Part-Time Faculty (JRN)                 | 2025 |   | 10/10 |
| Michael   | Sormrude       | Part-Time Faculty (BIO)                 | 2024 |   | 14/14 |
| Michele   | Delucia        | Part-Time Faculty (PSY)                 | 2024 |   | 13/14 |
| Rex       | Gilliland      | Philosophy                              | 2026 |   | 14/14 |
| Elliott   | Horch          | Physics                                 | 2024 | * | 13/14 |
| Jonathan  | O'Hara         | Political Science                       | 2025 | * | 2/14  |
| Kate      | Marstand       | Psychology                              | 2025 |   | 10/14 |
| Chris     | Budnick        | Psychology                              | 2024 |   | 11/14 |
| John      | Nwangwu        | Public Health                           | 2024 |   | 14/14 |
| Deron     | Grabel         | Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management | 2026 |   | 9/14  |
| Isabel    | Logan          | Social Work                             | 2026 |   | 11/13 |
| Stephen   | Monroe Tomczak | Social Work                             | 2025 |   | 11/14 |
| Gregory   | Adams          | Sociology                               | 2026 |   | 14/14 |
| Joan      | Weir           | Special Education                       | 2024 |   | 11/12 |
| Douglas   | Macur          | Theatre                                 | 2024 |   | 13/14 |
| Tricia    | Lin            | Women's & Gender Studies                | 2025 |   | 14/14 |
| Luke      | Eilderts       | World Languages & Literatures           | 2026 |   | 14/14 |
|           |                |                                         |      |   |       |
| Natalie   | Starling       | SCSU Faculty Senate President           | 2024 |   | 14/14 |
| Dwayne    | Smith          | SCSU President                          |      |   | 13/14 |
| Barbara   | Cook           | Chair, Graduate Council                 |      |   | 13/14 |
| Meghan    | Barboza        | Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form    |      |   | 12/14 |
| Joseph    | Merly          | SGA                                     |      |   | 6/6   |

#### GUESTS

Craig Hlavac  
Jordan Jones  
Kelley Frassinelli  
Meredith Sinclair

Preethi Varghese-Joseph  
Trevor 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)<br>Michele DeLucia (spring 2023)                                   |
| Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC)                                                                                                                                                 | Klay Kruczek                                                                                         |
| Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) liaison                                                                                                                                                  | Cindy Simoneau                                                                                       |
| University Library Committee (ULC)                                                                                                                                                            | Amy Jansen<br>1 Representative Unfilled                                                              |
| Working Group for Governing Bodies & Documents<br>(Work complete)                                                                                                                             | Paul Petrie (Rules rep)<br>Jeffrey Webb (Rules rep)<br>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<br>Kenneth McGill<br>Michael Sormrude                                                   |
| DEI Advisory Council                                                                                                                                                                          | Laurie Bonjo                                                                                         |
| Chief of Police Search Committee                                                                                                                                                              | Isabel Logan                                                                                         |
| Dean of the College of Education Search Committee                                                                                                                                             | Laurie Bonjo                                                                                         |

April 10, 2024

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:14 p.m. via Zoom.

- I. Announcements
  - A. M. Shea announced that there is an SCSU advocacy event at the state capitol on April 18.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 27, 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 shared that an addendum to the President's Report had been distributed earlier regarding information received from the office of the Chancellor.
  - B. Information was shared on a meeting of stakeholders regarding the Writing director position. T. Milburn confirmed that a follow-up meeting once a location and time was decided upon.
- IV. Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees
  - A. Reports received.
  - B. Elections (K. Kruczek): Thanked faculty for their participation in the referenda; both passed. Reminded faculty of the all-University elections taking place. Electronic ballots are due by April 19.
  - C. Personnel (M. Shea): Shared that they had a meeting with the current and past chair of P&T, T. Paddock and M. Diamantis, respectively.
  - D. Rules (P. Petrie): Shared that there will be upcoming discussions and a vote on revisions to three documents: Senate Bylaws, Terminations Committee, Sabbatical Leave document.
  - E. Technology (D. Macur): Shared status of the Blackboard Ultra updates. IT is working on a timeline for a pilot as well as full implementation. The pilot is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2025 to Spring 2026, with full implementation summer of 2026.
- V. Special Committees
  - A. UCF (M. Barboza): Shared that the referendum on the UCF-approved revisions to the LEP passed. The UCF will develop an expediated process for LEP course approval in light of these changes.
  - B. Graduate Council (B. Cook): Shared that the Grad Council has clarified its course numbering system: Master's level → 500s; Sixth-year degrees → 700s; Doctoral level → 800s and 900s.
  - C. FASP: Report received.
- VI. Unfinished Business
  - A. Proposed Statement on the Value of Service at the University.
    - i. M. Shea announced that the vote on the statement would be postponed due to concerns from the provost council. M. Miller shared feedback from his department, expressing a sentiment against the statement, suggesting that

service work should be devalued in favor of research. T. Lin inquired about the connection between service and research quality, emphasizing that service should not detract from research. S. Monroe Tomczak provided a counterpoint, emphasizing the importance of service in shared governance and rejecting the idea that service equates to mediocrity. P. Petrie endorsed S. Monroe Tomczak views and clarified that the statement reinforces the existing Promotion & Tenure (P&T) document's stance on service valuation. K. Marsland highlighted the importance of valuing service, citing examples from her experience and emphasizing its impact on student development. M. Miller noted a potential conflict between the statement and the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) regarding the prioritization of creative activity over service. M. Shea welcomed the discussion and diverse viewpoints, encouraging further dialogue. C. Simoneau shared examples from the Journalism Department, underscoring the uncompensated time spent on beneficial service activities.

## VII. New Business

- A. C. Simoneau (Finance) presented for discussion a draft of a Resolution Regarding CBA Travel Funds for AY 2024-2025.
  - i. The proposal suggests providing \$2,000 for full-time faculty and \$850 for part-time faculty for the next academic year. Additional steps are outlined, such as \$250 for non-tenure track faculty, \$125 for part-time faculty, and more for certain circumstances like keynote speakers or international travel. C. Simoneau explained that the decision to cap at \$2,000 was due to budget estimates and the number of faculty members. The funds are supplemented annually, with rollover funds from previous years also considered. Last year's rollover was over \$488,000, and currently, there's around \$370,000 available. C. Simoneau encouraged feedback and information submission by the committee meeting the following Wednesday for a final recommendation.
  - ii. During the discussion, R. Gilliland inquired about the decision not to maintain the \$3,000 amount from last year. C. Simoneau explained that with around 425 full-time faculty, even with an estimated rollover of \$350,000, the budget wouldn't cover \$3,000 for everyone. The committee opted for a safer \$2,000 amount, with any excess funds rolling over for future increases. N. Starling shared data from the travel office, indicating a high number of faculty submitting travel authorizations. L. Eilderts clarified the typical limit of \$1,500 for full-time faculty per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). T. Lin expressed agreement with the decision based on the financial situation. M. Shea thanked the Finance Committee for their work and supported the proposal, suggesting a limit of one step for faculty rather than several.
- B. M. Uribe (APC) presented the Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Add/Drop Policy.
  - i. M. Uribe explained that the resolution would require both instructor and department chair signatures for adding classes, as opposed to the current process that only requires the Dean's signature. This is aimed at improving communication and ensuring faculty are aware of these changes. S. Dutta

asked for clarification on the process of explicit instructor permission, which M. Uribe explained would involve updating the form to require instructor and chair signatures. L. Eilderts expressed hesitancy from some World Languages & Literatures department members due to concerns about students missing crucial class material. M. Shea shared feedback from the English department, mentioning concerns about the impact on skill-based classes. P. Petrie mentioned that no one opposed the second provision of extending the drop period. T. Lin raised questions about the impact on transfer students and financial aid, highlighting the need to consider these aspects. K. Marsland echoed concerns about the impact on students catching up in skill-based courses and suggested emphasizing student responsibility for catching up. M. Shea supported K. Marsland's idea, particularly emphasizing the student's responsibility, especially for part-time faculty. M. Sinclair clarified the current policy allowing students to add classes in the second week with the Dean's permission. The proposed change would give instructors more power to deny late adds. T. Milburn mentioned concerns about transfer students' awareness of policies and the impact on financial aid, emphasizing the need for faculty to guide students. G. Adams emphasized the need for faculty to refer students to financial aid offices when making drop decisions to ensure students are aware of the consequences. K. Marsland agreed with G. Adam's point and highlighted that the extended drop-add period allows students more time to consult with financial aid.

1. After the discussion, a vote was held.

a. Vote tally

i. Yes.....36

ii. No.....2

1. The resolution was **approved**.

2.

C. M. Uribe presented for discussion a Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Withdrawal and Pass/Fail procedures.

i. M. Uribe explained changes to the pass/fail policy, including extending the deadline to the 12th week, removing credit requirements, and allowing access to general education courses for undergraduates. L. Eilderts asked about taking Writing (W) courses as pass/fail, and M. Sinclair clarified it could be allowed for LEP courses, W courses, but not major or minor courses. R. Gilliland expressed concern about students aiming for a minimum passing grade. L. Eilderts added that it might encourage exploration. M. Shea questioned the limit of one pass/fail course per semester, suggesting cases where students might need more. M. Sinclair explained the rationale behind the extension of the deadline and its benefits. B. Cook brought up issues with the policy's clarity regarding elective courses and differences in grade requirements among graduate programs. P. Petrie expressed skepticism about the policy's impact, mentioning concerns about students aiming for minimum grades. K. Marsland emphasized the benefits for struggling students and the policy's potential to address retention issues. The discussion shifted to the withdrawal policy changes introduced by M. Uribe, including updates on

GPA impact, financial aid impact, and a two-day grace period for withdrawal decisions. P. Petrie requested clarification on the changes. The conversation highlighted the need for clearer language regarding elective courses, grade requirements in different programs, and the purpose of the "S" designation for pass/fail grades.

- ii. P. Petrie asked why the course withdrawal period wasn't extended to the end of the semester since the need for late withdrawal approval was being removed. He raised concerns about the philosophical change this removal might bring, moving from a commitment until a certain deadline to a more flexible approach. M. Sinclair explained that even with the removal of the approval requirement, instructors still needed to sign off on late withdrawal forms. This step aimed to ensure that students engaged in a conversation with their instructors about their status in the course. She highlighted that the change was meant to relieve instructors of the pressure of deciding on extenuating circumstances, shifting the conversation culture towards a more supportive and collaborative one. The goal was to help students make informed decisions about withdrawing, aiming to prevent unnecessary withdrawals that could set students back academically. P. Petrie followed up by suggesting a mechanism to force students to talk with instructors before withdrawal, proposing a revision to the regular withdrawal policy. He elaborated on the philosophical implications of the change, noting that it might make late withdrawal seem more lenient, allowing for a wider range of reasons. M. Sinclair responded by discussing the possibility of involving instructors or advisors from the beginning of the semester to reduce unnecessary withdrawals. She noted that while this might involve more paperwork, email notifications could serve a similar purpose without the added administrative burden. Throughout the discussion, members weighed in on the importance of student-instructor conversations, the potential impact on paperwork, and the need to support students in making well-informed decisions about their academic paths. The conversation concluded with an acknowledgment of the research done on the practices of other CSUs, which was included in the committee's minutes.

VIII. Adjournment

A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**

- i. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

Resolution Regarding Revisions to the ADD/DROP Policy and its Extension to Two (2) Weeks

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

WHEREAS, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty;

WHEREAS, The Faculty at SCSU have a deep commitment to the intellectual development and success of our students;

WHEREAS, The current ADD/DROP policy allows students only one week to add or drop courses without penalty;

WHEREAS, Students often require more time to assess the suitability of their course selections in relation to their academic goals and workload; and

WHEREAS, An extension of the ADD/DROP period would provide students with additional time to make informed decisions about their course registrations, contributing to improved student satisfaction, retention, and academic success; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the SCSU Faculty Senate (FS) recommends the extension of the ADD/DROP Dates policy from one week to two weeks, effective Fall 2024 semester;

*Resolved*, that the Office of the Registrar, in collaboration with the FS, shall announce the ADD/DROP Policy revisions to all academic departments, faculty, students, and staff; and

*Resolved*, That the Office of the Registrar, in collaboration with the academic departments, shall implement the necessary changes to accommodate this policy revision.

1. Allow students to **add a course in the second week**:
  - a. Change: Now requires explicit Instructor permission and Department Chairperson permission.
  - b. Change: No longer requires Dean permission.
  - c. Change: Students no longer required to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances.
2. Allow students to **drop a course in the second week** of the semester in Banner Student.
  - a. Change: No longer requires a late drop form, student drops directly online.
  - b. Change: No longer requires Dean permission.
  - c. Change: Students no longer required to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances for approval.