



## FACULTY SENATE

### APPROVED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2024

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

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2023-2024 was held on October 16, 2024, at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025		3/4
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026		3/4
Jeff	Slomba	Art & Design	2027		4/4
		Athletics	2026		
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	2027		4/4
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025		3/4
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025		4/4
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2027		2/4
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026		3/4
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2027		4/4
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024		4/4
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2025		4/4
Younjun	Kim	Economics	2027		4/4
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026		3/4
Paul	Petrie	English	2026		4/4
Mike	Shea	English	2027		3/4
Eric	West	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025		4/4
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025		3/4
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025		3/4
Matthew	Rothbard	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		2/2
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		4/4
Christine	Petto	History	2026		4/4
Polly	Beals	History	2026		4/4
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2027		4/4
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2027		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	2026		4/4
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025		4/4
Ray	Mugno	Mathematics	2025		4/4
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025		4/4
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026		3/4
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026		4/4
Elizabeth	Hurlbert	School of Nursing	2027		3/4
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty (HIS)	2026		4/4
Garbielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty (JRN)	2025		4/4
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty (BIO)	2024	✖	0/4
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty (PSY)	2024	✖	0/4
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026		4/4
Evan	Finch	Physics	2027		4/4
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	✖	0/4
Katherine	Marsland	Psychology	2025		2/2
		Psychology	2027		
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2027		4/4
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026		4/4
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026		4/4
Stephen Monroe	Tomczak	Social Work	2025		4/4
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		4/4
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2027		4/4
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2027		3/4
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025		4/4
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026		4/4
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2025		4/4
Dwayne	Smith	Interim SCSU President			4/4
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council			4/4
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form			4/4
Riyanna Sarah	Singleton Wittman	SGA		✖	

#### GUESTS

Dominika  
Dyan Robinson  
Klay Kruczek  
Marilu Rochefort  
Steven Hoffer  
Trevor Brolliar

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.

<b>Faculty Senate Representation</b>	<b>Faculty Senate Representative(s)</b>
Administrative Faculty Senate	Kate Marsland
Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Search Committee	Natalie Starling
Chief Information Officer (CIO) Search Committee	Matt Rothbard
DEI Advisory Council	Laurie Bonjo
Early College Experience	Joan Weir
Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC)	Kate Marsland
Social Venture Partners	Mike Shea Jeff Webb Melanie Uribe Stephen Monroe Tomczak Michael Sormrude
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
Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) liaison	Cindy Simoneau
University Budget and Space Committees	Nicholas Edgington Cindy Simoneau Christine Petto
University Library Committee (ULC)	Amy Jansen 1 Representative Unfilled
VP of DEI Search Committee	Laurie Bonjo Elizabeth Hurlbert

October 16, 2024

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

- I. Announcements
  - A. C. Simoneau shared that on October 18, Southern would host its 39<sup>th</sup> annual Southern High School Journalism day.
  - B. T. Lin shared that on October 24 at 5:30 in the School of Business Building, the Women's & Gender Studies Program and the Women in Leadership Academy will host the Women's Resiliency Forum.
- II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 2, 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. K. Marsland inquired about the status of remote access to university functions. N. Starling shared that she has shared that inquiry with President Smith. President Smith shared that they are considering the different needs and issues (e.g., time conflicts, accessibility), and that a solution should not be difficult to reach.
  - B. K. Marsland inquired about the status of the discussion regarding our change in status to R2 and its possible impact on our university mission and the students. President Smith shared that he did not believe this would change the university's mission. It is true that it would represent a change in our classification within the Carnegie system, but he reiterated that it would not change our mission. He also shared that there would be time for conversation about the change in status and that the entire university community would be invited. Academic Affairs has been charged with organizing those conversations. K. Marsland followed up with a question about how the Carnegie classification works and how it takes effect. President Smith shared that the classification is only that, a classification. It is based on two things: the number of doctoral grants awarded, and the amount of competitive grants received. For R2 status, that means a minimum of 20 doctoral degrees and \$5 million in grants. Currently at Southern, we receive nearly \$10 million in grants. He also shared that Southern has changed since its founding in 1893 in different and positive ways. He concluded by reiterating the importance of having an ongoing discussion about this status. M. Shea encouraged President Smith to begin the conversations soon. N. Starling reminded the body that the Provost should and will be a part of these conversations; however, J. Irwin was unable to attend the meeting today and has been invited to speak about them at our next meeting.
- IV. Reports of the Standing Committees
  - A. The reports of the Standing committees were received.
  - B. Finance (C. Simoneau): Shared that there was an update to the report submitted to the packet: in addition to the BOR Finance and Budget meeting planned for October, there will also be a special meeting on October 17. She also shared that Senators can review the capital requests from the CSUs and Community Colleges. The Finance and Budget committee will review and then make recommendations to the full BOR. K. Marsland inquired about the prioritization of Earl Hall and the School of Education. C. Simoneau answered that, while she did not have the exact information in front of her, one of them was number 2 on the BOR list and the other was number 9. President Smith shared that the budget submitted to the BOR Finance committee was still under review. He also shared that there is about \$300 million in funds that have not yet been released by the legislature. He also shared that he visited Representative DeLauro's office in Washington, D.C., and we have approximately \$10 million in funds from her office that have not yet been reduced or removed, so he is hopeful that we will be able to count on those funds.

- C. N. Starling, the Faculty Senate Representative to the CFO search, shared that the search was progressing she was hopeful that we would have a positive outcome before the academic year concludes.
- D. J. Nwangwu inquired about the status of the Faculty Fellows that were hired under the previous Provost. He shared his department's concerns that they were classified as "special appointments." N. Starling stated that she has shared those concerns with the current Provost and that J. Irwin would speak to that at the next Faculty Senate meeting. She also shared that any faculty employment with the university is dictated by the CBA and that the CBA must be followed unless an MOU were to be drafted and approved by the union and administration. Finally, she shared that since there is no other classification for the fellows other than "special appointment," their trajectory and renewal by which an affirmative action search must take place, is all dictated by the CBA. S.M. Tomczak confirmed that this is the case.
- E. K. Marsland inquired about the Statement on Service. S.M. Tomczak shared that conversations are ongoing in the Personnel Policy committee.
- F. K. Marsland inquired about the changes to the Honors Convocation ceremony and the criteria for student participation. She expressed concern that only students who had achieved a GPA of at least 3.0 could participate. She also expressed concern that this would disenfranchise students who may receive awards that are not necessarily tied to GPA achievement, like service awards. K. Marsland asked if this was being discussed in the Academic Policy committee (APC). N. Starling and M. Diamantis confirmed that this is not currently a charge of the APC. N. Starling stated that the Executive Committee would review the potential charge and determine next steps.

#### V. Special Committees

- A. Reports were received.
- B. UCF (M. Barboza): Shared that a call for volunteers to participate on a task force to develop the definition of high-flex classroom modality would come forward. Currently, UCF and Grad Council are working on this issue.
  - i. K. Marsland inquired about the requirement that an academic impact study would need to be completed before any major change could be implemented, and even if this is no longer in force, that this might be something the UCF should take up in regards to the change in status to R2. M. Barboza stated that she was not aware of such a requirement but that she would look into it. She also stated that, as a member of the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC), that she does engage in dialogue with Administration in that venue as a representative of the UCF, as does B. Cook for the Graduate Council. K. Marsland offered that the FLC is not a body with any official decision-making capacities. C. Simoneau, as former chair of the UCF, shared that the UCF has never conducted an independent impact study. Instead, the body has, when possible, worked closely with the Grad Council in a coalition to analyze a concern/issue, which is what is happening for the discussion on the high-flex modality. C. Simoneau also stated that while the FLC does not have decision making authority, it does have representation from all the units (Faculty Senate, UCF, Grad Council, Council of Academic Chairs, AAUP), and often helps in negotiations and decision making on certain issues. N. Starling asked that members send any questions or concerns via email to her or members of the Executive Committee. She also asked that senators discontinue discussion of any change in our status until the Provost can be present at the meeting. M. Shea shared that K. Marsland was referring to a previous resolution by the Faculty Senate, and therefore would not be found among UCF documents. M. Diamantis shared that the resolution being referred to was approved by the Senate in 2003. K. Marsland encouraged the body to take up the issue of asking for an academic impact study where appropriate, like the course modality question. She also apologized for her comments about the FLC; she did not intend to criticize this body. N. Starling shared that she received K. Marsland's comments about the FLC in a positive way.

- C. Grad Council (B. Cook): Shared that they are beginning a discussion on the potential of dual degrees at the graduate level. She also shared that they are working on a collaboration with UCF about the independent study policy, which, at the graduate level, is different from the undergraduate level. The goal of this group is to review and recognize the discussions between undergraduate and graduate student work. B. Cook also shared that the GC is working in collaboration with the Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies on the establishment of graduate awards. C. Petto asked if this would be a separate ceremony from the Honors Convocation; B. Cook shared that she did not know but that the question had been noted.
- D. T. Lin urged the administration to involve faculty and students in the decision making regarding the Graduate Commencement ceremony. K. Marsland asked where the discussion currently stands. B. Cook shared that the event is led by Integrated Communication and Marketing as well as members from the Lyman Center and the Adanti Student Center. Students and Faculty have traditionally not been a part of this discussion. B. Cook shared that requests have been made to President Smith to include students and faculty. N. Starling confirmed B. Cook's statement. She also shared that when the social media announcement was made about this year's ceremony, that she contacted J. Irwin about the concerns raised from faculty, especially in light of the efforts to collaborate and communicate about this specific event.
- E. Elections
  - i. Elections Officer, O. Biesel, **moved to open nominations** for a Faculty Senate representative to serve on the Chief Information Officer search committee. Hearing none, O. Biesel **closed nominations**, but encouraged members to contact him via email if interested.
  - ii. O. Biesel **moved to open nominations** for a Faculty Senate representative to serve as the liaison to the Administrative Faculty Senate. K. Marsland self-nominated. Hearing no additional nominations, O. Biesel **closed** nominations.
  - iii. O. Biesel **moved to open nominations** for a Faculty Senate representative to serve as the liaison to the Early College Program. J. Weir self-nominated. Hearing no additional nominations, O. Biesel **closed** nominations.
  - iv. O. Biesel **moved to open nominations** for a Faculty Senate representative to serve on the Faculty Development Advisory Committee. K. Marsland self-nominated. Hearing no additional nominations, O. Biesel **closed** nominations.
  - v. N. Starling shared that there are usually two representatives that serve on the University Library Committee; currently, we only have one (thank you. A. Jansen!). If there are any seats that senators are interested in, please reach out to her and O. Biesel. If seats are not filled, an announcement to the entire faculty will be made.

## VI. New Business

- A. P. Petrie **moved to accept** the Resolution Regarding Amendment of the Faculty Senate Bylaws Governing Vacant Senate Seats.
  - i. After discussion, the body moved to a vote.
    - 1. Vote tally
      - a. Yes .....39
      - b. No .....1

## VII. Guests

- A. K. Kruczek, Faculty Coordinator for Interfolio
  - i. K. Kruczek provided an update on Interfolio training sessions for faculty. An Interfolio representative will join campus constituents to introduce the platform. A session specifically for first-year faculty will take place from 3:00 to 3:45 pm, followed by a session for the Promotion and Tenure Committee from 4:00 to 4:30 pm. Future training sessions will be organized for DEC's, P&T chairs, deans, and provosts, with recordings made available for faculty who cannot attend. The initial rollout includes only new first-year hires, with

Blackboard still in use for other faculty members until Interfolio is fully implemented. Faculty members can create Interfolio accounts individually in the interim. Kruczek demonstrated the platform's functionality, highlighting dossier management, document uploading, and the automated transfer system based on tenure and promotion deadlines. K. Marsland expressed gratitude for the work invested in implementing Interfolio and advocated for ensuring accessibility for differently-abled faculty members. She urged continued collaboration with accessibility and DEI resources to make the digital transition inclusive for all faculty. S. Dutta inquired about the timeline for Interfolio access for first-year hires, which Kruczek confirmed was communicated, though attendance at the workshop is optional. K. Marsland reiterated the importance of accessibility considerations during implementation to ensure a smooth and fair transition for all faculty, especially those who may encounter challenges with digital platforms.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. C. Simoneau **moved to** adjourn. **Seconded.**
  - i. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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L. Eilderts  
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Amendment of the Senate Bylaws Governing Vacant Senate Seats

Whereas,	Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;
Whereas,	The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty; and
Whereas,	The Faculty Senate is responsible for making changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws document; and
Whereas,	The Bylaws currently require replacement of a temporarily absent senator by an elected substitute who serves the remainder of the absent senator's term; and
Whereas,	Temporary instead of permanent replacement of an absent senator during a vacancy would be less disruptive for departments, more respectful of the temporarily absent senator, less burdensome for the substitute senator, and more respectful of the department's wishes; now, therefore, be it
<i>Resolved,</i>	That the following revision to the Faculty Senate Bylaws take effect upon ratification of this resolution.
	<p>Amend article II.E. as follows:</p> <p><b>E. Vacancies</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Permanent</b> <del>V</del>vacancies arising during the term of office of a Senator shall be filled by elections of the voting unit involved, by the above-mentioned procedure (Section II, Parts B or C) at the time such vacancies occur. The term of a Senator elected to fill a <del>premature</del> <b>permanent</b> vacancy shall be for the remainder of the vacated term, unless the vacancy occurs with one semester or less remaining; in that case, the term of the newly elected Senator shall be the remainder of the semester plus a regular three-year term.</li> <li><b>2. Temporary vacancies</b> arising during the term of office of a Senator shall be filled by elections of the voting unit involved, by the above-mentioned procedure (Section II, Parts B or C) at the time such vacancies occur. The term of a Senator elected to fill a <del>premature</del> <b>temporary</b> vacancy shall be for the duration of the vacancy, at which time the returning Senator shall complete the original term of office.</li> </ol>