



Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2024

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

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

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✖	3/6
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026		5/6
Jeff	Slomba	Art & Design	2027		6/6
		Athletics	2026		
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026		6/6
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025		6/6
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026		5/6
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2027		6/6
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025	✖	4/6
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025		6/6
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2027		4/6
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026		5/6
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2027		6/6
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2024		6/6
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2025		6/6
Younjun	Kim	Economics	2027		6/6
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026	✖	4/6
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	✖	5/6
Mike	Shea	English	2027		4/6
Eric	West	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025		5/6
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025		4/6
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025		5/6
		Health & Movement Sciences	2025		
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		6/6
Christine	Petto	History	2026		6/6
Polly	Beals	History	2026		6/6
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2027		6/6
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2027		6/6
Elizabeth	Wilkinson	Library Services	2026		6/6
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025	✖	5/6

Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025		6/6
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2026	✖	4/6
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025		6/6
Ray	Mugno	Mathematics	2025		6/6
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025		6/6
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026		5/6
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026		6/6
Elizabeth	Hurlbert	School of Nursing	2027		5/6
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty (HIS)	2026		6/6
Garbielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty (JRN)	2025		6/6
Michael	Sormrude	Part-Time Faculty (BIO)	2024	✖	0/6
Michele	Delucia	Part-Time Faculty (PSY)	2024	✖	0/6
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026		6/6
Evan	Finch	Physics	2027		6/6
Jonathan	O'Hara	Political Science	2025	✖	0/6
Katherine	Marsland	Psychology	2025		4/4
		Psychology	2027		
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2027		6/6
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026	✖	5/6
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026		6/6
Stephen Monroe	Tomczak	Social Work	2025		6/6
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		6/6
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2027	✖	5/6
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2027	✖	4/6
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025	✖	5/6
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026	✖	4/6
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2025		6/6
Dwayne	Smith	Interim SCSU President			6/6
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council			6/6
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		✖	5/6
Riyanna Sarah	Singleton Wittman	SGA			

GUESTS

Dyan Robinson
Initia M.
Julia Irwin
Jackie Toce
Jessica Paquette
Joanne Roy
Jonathan Wharton
Jules Tetrault

Karen Burke
Karla Jones
Kristie Rupp
Linda Cunningham
Lisa Lancor
Rabia Hos
Terrence Cheng
Trevor Broliar

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.

Faculty Senate Representation	Faculty Senate Representative(s)
Administrative Faculty Senate	Kate Marsland
Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Search Committee	Natalie Starling
Chief Information Officer (CIO) Search Committee	Matt Rothbard
Dean of the College of Education Search Committee	
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"> • Advancing Social Justice • Maintaining Academic Excellence • Engaging our Community 	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

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 6th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. J. Slomba shared that there will be a reception for the Art & Design Faculty exhibition on November 13 at 5 p.m. in the Buley Art Gallery. The exhibition is open through December 5.

II. Guest(s)

- A. Terrence Cheng, Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges & Universities.

i. Chancellor's Remarks

1. Chancellor Cheng emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication between his office, system leadership, and campus stakeholders to foster collaboration and transparency.
2. He acknowledged challenges in higher education but highlighted the positive developments within the CSCU system, urging faculty to also recognize and appreciate institutional achievements.

ii. Upcoming Presidential Search at Southern

1. The search will begin promptly, with efforts to establish an inclusive search committee and advisory group.
2. J. Paquette, Vice Chancellor, provided details about the process, which includes two rounds of campus visits and engagement forums to balance confidentiality with transparency.
3. The goal is to conclude the search within the academic year to ensure stability.

iii. System Accountability and Financial Oversight

1. Chancellor Cheng addressed recent reports regarding financial mismanagement, expressing accountability for past decisions and committing to tighter compliance and procedural improvements.
2. He confirmed full cooperation with state requests for financial records and emphasized the need to use this opportunity to enhance system governance.

iv. State Funding and Sustainability Planning

1. The Chancellor acknowledged the structural deficit across the system and the historical lack of adequate state funding.
2. He stressed the importance of continued advocacy to secure necessary resources and the need to balance short-term operational funding with long-term investment.
3. Faculty concerns about presenting sustainability plans that seem overly reliant on self-sufficiency were addressed, with Cheng affirming the shared responsibility between the system and state.

v. System Office Adjustments

1. System Office staffing and structure are being evaluated to ensure alignment with institutional needs. A phased shift of shared services back to CT State Community College is underway to improve service delivery.

vi. ACT Framework and Institutional KPIs

1. The Access, Completion, and Talent (ACT) framework was developed to align institutional strategic goals with system-wide objectives.
2. Faculty raised concerns about the ambitious timeline for KPI development, to which Chancellor Cheng responded that while urgency is valuable, it should not compromise quality.

vii. Advocacy and the Role of Faculty and Staff

1. Chancellor Cheng urged faculty, staff, and unions to actively advocate for system funding and legislative support.
 2. He noted the importance of portraying CSCU's mission and impact clearly and cohesively to legislators and the public.
 - viii. Message to Future Faculty Senate Leadership
 1. Chancellor Cheng commended outgoing Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling for her service and professionalism.
 2. He encouraged future Senate leadership to be prepared for the responsibility, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, adaptability, and stewardship during challenging times.
- III. Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 30, 2024, were accepted as distributed.
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- IV. Faculty Senate President's Report
<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
- A. N. Starling provided an update on her recent meetings with other CSCU Faculty Senate presidents, including a special meeting on November 11th to discuss concerns about the December 1 deadline for the shared governance process related to the ACT Framework. The Senate presidents are considering sending a joint letter to Board of Regents Chair Guay to request an extension, ensuring faculty and stakeholders have adequate time to review and engage.
- V. Reports of the Standing Committees
- A. The reports of the Standing committees were received.
 - B. Academic Affairs (M. Diamantis): The APC is continuing its discussions on the pass/fail and withdrawal policies and is awaiting additional input from departments, the University Curriculum Forum (UCF), Graduate Council, and other relevant stakeholders. The committee has received some feedback and plans to further deliberate before presenting draft revisions to the Senate floor for a vote. Senators were encouraged to share any additional concerns or questions with committee members M. Diamantis or O. Biesel. M. Diamantis noted that the committee is not likely to bring the drafts forward at the next Senate meeting on December 4th and will proceed only when ready. She emphasized that once the committee presents its recommendation, the Senate as a body will deliberate and decide how to proceed, with the option to accept, amend, or return the policies to the committee if needed. N. Starling reminded senators of their responsibility to communicate these policy discussions with their departments and constituents to ensure informed deliberations and votes when the matter comes to the Senate floor.
 - C. Finance (C. Simoneau): The Finance Committee reported on the ongoing CFO search, encouraging faculty to attend finalist interviews and provide feedback, with sessions scheduled at 2:30 PM today in Engelman A120 and tomorrow in the ASC Theater. Additionally, the committee addressed travel fund allocations, noting that adjustments will prioritize expenditures from the \$85,000 non-rollover travel fund before using the rollover fund. This customary shift will be implemented later in the fiscal year, ensuring alignment with established practices.
 - D. Technology (J. Webb): The committee is continuing efforts to increase transparency regarding the faculty laptop refresh policy and exploring the process of transitioning the grading system to an electronic format, which is expected to be a long-term project.
- VI. Special Committees
- A. Reports from UCF and Grad Council were received.
 - B. Election Officers (D. Swartz and O. Biesel): The Elections Officers reported that invitations to vote in the all-university committee elections have been sent, with a delay due to technical issues but expected to be distributed later today. Senators were asked to remind their departments to participate in the election, which runs through the following Monday.

VII. New Business

A. ACT Framework

- i. The Faculty Senate discussed the ACT Framework and the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). N. Starling noted that shared governance structures are expected to be involved, with faculty representatives to be identified for Southern's KPI creation process. However, concerns were raised about the December 1 deadline, which limits the time for meaningful faculty input and deliberation. A joint letter from the Senate Presidents to the Board of Regents (BoR) requesting an extension will be signed to address this issue. President Starling directed senators to review the Chancellor's announcement and the ACT Framework website for available information. A link to the website was shared during the meeting, and senators were encouraged to familiarize themselves with the initiative and share questions or concerns. Updates from the administration on how Southern will proceed are pending, and additional communication with the Senate may occur via email due to the tight timeline.

VIII. Adjournment

A. M. Diamantis **moved to** adjourn. **Seconded.**

- i. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

