



Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2025

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

The 15th Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2024-2025 was held on April 16, 2025, at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Lisa	Haylon	Accounting	2025	✖	3/15
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026		12/15
Jeff	Slomba	Art & Design	2027		14/14
		Athletics	2026		
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026		14/15
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2025		14/14
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026		14/15
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2027		14/14
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2025		10/15
Shafaeat	Hossain	Computer Science	2025		13/15
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2027		10/15
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026		13/15
Beena	Achhpal	Curriculum & Learning	2027		14/14
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum & Learning	2027		14/14
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2025		14/14
Younjun	Kim	Economics	2027		14/14
Peter	Madonia	Educational Leadership & Policy Studies	2026		10/15
Paul	Petrie	English	2026		14/15
Mike	Shea	English	2027		13/15
Eric	West	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2025		14/15
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2025	✖	8/15
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems & Innovation	2025		14/15
Matthew	Rothbard	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		12/13
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2025		13/15
Thomas	Radice	History	2026		8/8
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026		5/8
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2027		14/14
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2027		13/15
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2025		13/15
Alison	Wall	Management & International Business	2025		14/14

Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2026	✖	4/15
Sebastian	Perumbilly	Marriage & Family Therapy	2025		14/15
Ray	Mugno	Mathematics	2025		14/15
Owen	Biesel	Mathematics	2025		14/15
Jonathan	Irving	Music	2026		9/15
Deborah	Morrill	School of Nursing	2026		14/14
Elizabeth	Hurlbert	School of Nursing	2027		14/15
Virginia	Metaxas	Part-Time Faculty (HIS)	2026		13/15
Garbielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty (JRN)	2025		13/15
Shenira	Billups	Part-Time Faculty (PSY)	2027		4/4
Mike	Sanger	Part-Time Faculty (WGS)	2027		4/4
Heidi	Lockwood	Philosophy	2026		8/8
Evan	Finch	Physics	2027		14/14
Jonathan	Wharton	Political Science	2025	✖	4/6
Katherine	Marsland	Psychology	2025	✖	5/14
Patricia	Kahlbaugh	Psychology	2027		8/8
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2027		14/14
Deron	Grabel	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2026		13/15
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2026		14/15
Stephen Monroe	Tomczak	Social Work	2025		14/14
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		14/15
Joan	Weir	Special Education	2027		13/15
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2027		13/15
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2025		14/15
Luke	Eilderts	World Languages & Literatures	2026		13/15
Natalie	Starling	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2025		14/15
Dwayne	Smith	Interim SCSU President			14/15
Barbara	Cook	Chair, Graduate Council			14/14
Meghan	Barboza	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form			14/15
Riyanna	Singleton	SGA		✖	0/8

GUESTS

Alicia Carroll
Dyan Robinson
Julia Irwin
Marilu Rochefort

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)
Ad Hoc Committee on AI Use for Faculty	Amy Jansen Elizabeth Hurlbert
Ad Hoc Committee for Formalizing Faculty Advising	Michael Shea Stephen Monroe Tomczak Virginia/Ginny Metaxas Jeffrey Webb
ACT/KPI Committee (concluded)	Natalie Starling
Administrative Faculty Senate	Kate Marsland
Blackboard Administrator Search Committee	Doug Macur
Chief Information Officer (CIO) Search Committee	Matt Rothbard
Commencement Planning Committees	Maria Diamantis
Dean of the College of Education Search Committee (concluded)	Joan Weir
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 (concluded)	Laurie Bonjo Elizabeth Hurlbert

April 30, 2025

Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling called the 15th meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:11 p.m. via Zoom.

I. Announcements

- A. B. Cook announced a new *Neurodivergent and Disability Affinity Graduation Ceremony* taking place on May 20, and encouraged senators to share with students who may wish to attend this or both graduation ceremonies.
- B. T. Lin shared an event tied to the launch of the new *Critical Disability Studies minor*. The event, titled "*Indigenous Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit Studies: Reimagining Futures*," will be presented on Friday from 11:30–1:30.
- C. O. Biesel announced a *May Day / International Workers Day Rally* taking place on May 1 at 5 p.m. on the New Haven Green. A banner in support of higher education will be present.
- D. N. Starling reminded senators:
 - i. Commencement ceremonies will take place on Thursday, May 22. Faculty may reserve transportation and academic regalia using links shared via email (April 28).
 - ii. A *Faculty-Focused CSU Town Hall* on May 1 from 2:30–3:30 p.m. via Teams will address faculty experiences and federal directives. The event will be co-hosted by Drs. Irwin, Rutledge, Heitkamp, Carrie Swanson, and Natalie Starling. Senators were encouraged to register and submit questions in advance.
 - iii. A summary of questions asked and answered in recent meetings with administration, the Chancellor, and CSU Council can be found in the President's report.
- E. Congratulations were extended to B. Cook, recipient of the *2025 Graduate Program Leadership Award*, and thanks were given to both B. Cook and M. Barboza for their leadership as Graduate Council Chair and UCF Chair, respectively.
- F. T. Lin announced that SCSU students, staff, and faculty are invited to join in the National Day of Action for Higher Education on Thursday, April 17th from 11am-2pm in the academic quad.

II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 16, 2025, 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. Natalie Starling thanked L. Eilderts for assembling the meeting packet (123 pages) and acknowledged the work of the executive team in preparing materials for the final meetings of the semester.
- B. A second call for nominations for Faculty Senate President and Treasurer would be made later in the meeting; senators were also reminded of upcoming university-wide committee elections.
- C. The next university budget meeting will take place on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m.; senators were thanked for their ongoing participation, and C. Simoneau was recognized for her continued advocacy regarding issues with P-cards.
 - i. L. Eilderts raised concerns about new layers of regulation for P-card use—especially for summer and study abroad programs—which risk limiting the quality of student experiences.
- D. M. Shea reported from FLC meetings that administration supports reducing enrollment caps in W courses. Though a previous resolution on this topic was not approved, the Provost and President are continuing discussions on a new approach. This follow-up is documented at the end of the President's report under "Resolutions."
- E. T. Lin thanked Provost Irwin and President Smith for listening to concerns regarding P-cards and acknowledged their support in moving progress forward.

- F. N. Starling noted that CSU Faculty Senates are discussing a mutual defense compact, and faculty interest on this campus will be gauged in the near future.
- G. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee also met with the Chancellor on April 23, sharing faculty concerns related to federal directives; this will be discussed further during the upcoming Open Forum.
- H. N. Starling shared that the AI policy resolution passed by Senate has been shared with the BOR Chair Marty Guay, the System Office, and the Board of Regents. She and L. Eilderts met with M. Guay on April 29 to provide additional context.

IV. Standing Committees

- A. Reports received.

V. Special Committees

- A. UCF (M. Barboza): Report received.
- B. Graduate Council (B. Cook): B. Cook expressed appreciation to T. Lin and D. Mickelson for accepting nominations to serve as co-chairs of Graduate Council for the upcoming year—the first time the Council will be co-chaired.
 - i. She noted that the Graduate Council approved five motions at its recent meeting and encouraged senators to review the submitted report.
 - ii. M. Diamantis raised a procedural question about the need for both co-chairs to sign official Graduate Council documents going forward, now that there are two leaders. B. confirmed that the co-chair structure was voted on and approved by the Council and used the opportunity to call on university leadership to better support and recognize such service roles in the context of promotion and tenure.
 - iii. N. Starling echoed B. Cook’s remarks, emphasizing the importance of faculty participation in leadership roles and the essential function of shared governance in benefiting the entire university community.
- C. Elections Officers (D. Swartz)
 - i. D. Swartz reminded senators that self-nominations for all-university committees were due by 11:59 p.m. that evening. He noted that the number of nominations was currently insufficient to fill all positions.
 - ii. Second round of nominations for Faculty Senate President and Treasurer was opened:
 - 1. Treasurer: One nomination received — J. Webb. No other nominations were made, but additional nominations can still be submitted at the next meeting.
 - 2. President: Multiple individuals were nominated, but all declined the nomination.
 - iii. Senators were encouraged to submit self-nominations by email before the May 7 meeting, when the election will take place.
 - iv. Concerns were raised about the lack of willing candidates:
 - 1. B. Cook suggested creating a “chair-elect” or mentoring model to better prepare future Senate leaders.
 - 2. P. Kahlbaugh and P. Petrie echoed the importance of mentoring and called on newer senators to consider stepping up, noting that while the role of President is demanding, support systems and institutional knowledge are in place to help.
 - 3. It was clarified that the Faculty Senate President receives six credits of release time per semester, making the role incompatible with adjunct teaching loads. Adjunct eligibility for the role remains complex due to credit load issues.
 - 4. The Executive Committee will discuss contingency planning in the event that no nominations for Senate President are secured by the next meeting.

VI. Reports from Faculty Senate Representatives

- A. Ad Hoc Committee on AI Use for Faculty (H. Lockwood):
 - i. The committee’s recommended response was unanimously approved by its 15 members and modeled on responses from Eastern and Central.

- ii. The committee also recommended its continuation as a standing university-wide committee for two years, with members representing key areas (e.g., Faculty Senate, Grad Council, UCF, IT, students, Writing Center).
 - iii. The committee was convened in response to the February 26 resolution and has met weekly since late March.
 - iv. Initial data was collected from 95 students via Kay Feinberg's Honors thesis, but the committee strongly advocates for a faculty-wide survey in the fall to ensure data-driven decision-making.
- B. Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Advising (J. Webb):
- i. The committee met with J. Irwin and is close to finalizing plans for a pilot program. One more meeting is scheduled for this week to finalize the details.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. O. Biesel (APC) **moved to approve** the Resolution Regarding Undergraduate Pass-Fail Option
- i. The Senate continued debate on the resolution revising the undergraduate pass/fail (P/F) policy. Key changes proposed included:
 - 1. Allowing students to take *LEP* (Liberal Education Program) courses pass/fail, with a lifetime cap of five P/F courses and one per semester.
 - 2. Barring students from using the P/F option for cognates or major-required courses.
 - 3. Extending the deadline to declare P/F to the 12th week of the semester.
 - 4. Changing grading language from "F" to "NS" (Not Satisfactory) for a failed P/F course, to avoid GPA impact.
 - ii. Discussion:
 - 1. J. Slomba and others expressed concerns about first-year students using P/F for classes that may later be needed for their major, as well as LEP students potentially disengaging from classes.
 - a. V. Andrushko **proposed an amendment** to limit students to *no more than two LEP courses* taken pass/fail. The amendment was seconded and **adopted without objection**.
 - 2. J. Webb raised concerns about students using the P/F option to fulfill *W course requirements*. He proposed an amendment preventing students from using P/F for W requirement courses.
 - a. After clarification and revision, **the final wording adopted was**: "A student may not use a course taken with the pass/fail option to meet the W course requirement."
 - 3. Discussion of Grade Notation ("NS"):
 - a. Concerns were raised that "NS" would not carry the same academic weight as an "F", possibly diminishing student accountability.
 - b. A. Carroll from the Registrar's Office explained technical implications of creating a new "NS" grade code and its impact on transcript management.
 - c. H. Lockwood spoke in favor of "NS" for consistency and fairness, while others favored maintaining "F" for transparency and rigor.
 - i. An amendment by L. Eilderts to retain the traditional "F" rather than introducing "NS" was seconded and **passed with 81% in favor**.
 - iii. Final Vote:
 - 1. After incorporating all amendments (two LEP cap, W requirement restriction, and keeping the "F" designation), the body moved to vote on the entire resolution.
 - 2. The amended undergraduate pass/fail resolution **passed with 24 in favor and 14 opposed**.
 - a. Thanks were extended to **APC**, particularly **O. Biesel**, and to **A. Carroll** for fielding technical questions and assisting with clarity on implementation and recordkeeping.

VIII. New Business

- A. O. Biesel (APC) **moved to approve** the Resolution to Revise the Undergraduate Course Withdrawal Policy.
- B. Due to time constraints, the **discussion was postponed**.

IX. Adjournment

- A. J. Webb **moved to adjourn. Seconded.**
- B. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

L. Eilderts
Secretary

Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Pass/Fail Undergraduate Policy

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, Revising the Undergraduate Pass-Fail policy will provide undergraduate students with increased clarity; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the existing Pass-Fail Policy for Undergraduate students be revised according to the changes indicated below in green for revisions, and in red font color for stricken-out; and be it further

Resolved, That the effective date shall be the Fall semester of 2025.

Pass-Fail Option – Undergraduate Policy

With the required consultation of the ~~ir~~ **student's** advisor (if the advisor is the instructor for the course, consultation with the department chairperson or an advisor in the Academic Advising Center) matriculated students ~~who have completed at least 45 credits~~ are eligible to register for certain courses **on a to be graded as pass-fail basis**. The pass-fail option is blind in that the instructor is not aware of the student's use of the pass-fail option until after the grades are submitted.

The pass-fail option may only be used for ~~a free elective or cognate~~ **general education (Liberal Education Program [LEP]), or free elective** courses that ~~is~~ **are** not applied or shared with the ~~general education (LEP),~~ major, or minor requirements. Students may take a total of five courses, **no more than one per semester, and no more than two general education (LEP) courses** on a pass-fail option, ~~with only one taken in any given semester. A student may not use a course taken with the pass-fail option to meet the W-Writing Intensive Course requirement.~~

~~The final grade will be reported as 'S' if~~ if the final grade earned is 'D-' or higher, **it will be reported as 'S' on the transcript**. This grade has no effect on the **grade point average (GPA)** but does count as attempted credit. If the final grade earned is not passing, the final grade will be reported as 'F'. This grade will impact the GPA and does count as attempted credit. Once a student selects the pass-fail option it will not be possible to revert to a graded option ~~following the add/drop period for the course.~~

Courses taken for **as pass-fail option** might not be accepted for transfer credit when attending another institution; are excluded from GPA calculations which may impact a student's ability to meet certain GPA requirements needed for their major, graduation, or honors; and may not be satisfactory in meeting prerequisite requirements when applying to graduate programs. ~~Consulting an advisor, as documented with the Pass-Fail Contract, serves as evidence that the student is aware of the potential impact of their decision.~~

The Pass-Fail Contract must be ~~endorsed~~ **signed** by their ~~ir~~ **student's** advisor ~~prior to the start of the 4th week of the fall or spring semester, or prior to the start of the 2nd week for courses in a shorter~~

~~term.~~ prior to the end of the 12th week of classes (for shorter terms see the pass-fail deadlines on the academic calendar)., ~~or for an eight-week course, prior to the end of the 6th week of classes.~~