



# Southern Connecticut State University

## FACULTY SENATE

### APPROVED MINUTES OF [09/17/25]

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

The 1st Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2025-2026 was held on 08/27/25, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

#### Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
		Accounting			
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026	X	
Jeff	Slomba	Art & Design	2027	X	
Jessica	Case	Athletics	2026	X	
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026	X	
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2028	X	
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026	X	
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2027	X	
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2028	X	
Aashma	Upreti	Computer Science	2028	X	
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2027	X	
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026	X	
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum and Learning	2027	X	
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2027	X	
Yu	Jia	Economics	2028	X	
Peter	Madonia	Ed Leadership	2027	X	
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	X	
Mike	Shea	English	2026	X	
Eric	west	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2027	X	
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2028	X	
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems and Innovation	2028	X	
Matthew	Rothbard	Health & Movement Sciences	2028	X	
Daniel	Swarz	Health & Movement Sciences	2028	X	
Christine	Petto	History	2028	X	
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026	X	
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2026		
Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2028	X	
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2028	X	
Zheni	Wang	Management & International Business	2028	X	
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2026		

		Marriage & Family Therapy	2026		
Leah	Sturman	Mathematics	2027	x	
Danial	Cicala	Mathematics	2027	x	
Natalie	Starling	Mental Health Services	2026	x	
		Music	2027		
Deborah	Morrill	Nursing	2026	x	
Elizabeth	Hurlbert	Nursing	2027	X	
Gabrielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty	2025		
		Part-Time Faculty	2025		
Shenira	Billups	Part-Time Faculty	2027		
Mike	Sanger	Part-Time Faculty	2027		
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026	x	
Evan	Finch	Physics	2027	x	
Jonathan	Wharton	Political Science	2028	x	
		Psychology	2025		
Patricia	Kahlbaugh	Psychology	2025	x	
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2027	x	
Michael	Dodge	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2027	x	
		Social Work	2026		
Stephen Monroe	Tomczak	Social Work	2028	x	
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026	x	
Kristy	Hynes	Inclusive Education & Behavior Science	2027	x	
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2027	x	
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2028	x	
		World Languages & Literatures	2026		
Joan	Weir	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2026	x	
Sandra	Bulmer	Interim SCSU President		x	
Venezia	Michalson	Chair, Graduate Council		x	
Tricia	LIn	Chair, Graduate Council		x	
Meredith	Sinclair	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form			
William	Moroz	SGA		x	

#### GUESTS

Amy Feest  
Jordan Jones  
Emma Cayward  
Robert Yanez  
Dyan Robinson  
Craig Hlavac

09/17/25

Faculty Senate President Joan Weir called the 1st meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 12:12pm via Zoom.

**I. Announcements**

*No Announcements.*

**II. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 09/17/25 were accepted as distributed.**

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

**III. Faculty Senate President's Reports:**

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

**IV. Standing Committees**

- A. *Academic Policy*: Co-Chairs Debbie Morrill and Maria Diamantis Experiencing significant workload with multiple ongoing initiatives requiring guest speaker coordination.
  - 1. Senator Diamantis managing academic misconduct policy updates, DC template development, P & T letter procedures, and bookstore/textbook policy review.
- B. *Finance*: Chair Jeff Webb
  - 1. No report
- C. *Personnel Policy*: Co-Chairs Amy Jansen and Stephen Tomaczak
  - 1. No Report
- D. *Rules*: Chair Paul Petrie
  - 1. No report
- E. *Student Policy*: No elected chair at this time
  - 1. No report
- F. *Technology*: Co-Chair Aashma Uprety
  - 1. Managing critical system transitions affecting campus-wide operations.
  - 2. Randy Simpson is serving as interim LMS manager until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, after which time James Wilkie will take over.
  - 3. All technology requests must continue through the centralized help desk system.

**II. Special Committees**

- A. *UCF*
  - 1. DocuSign elimination requiring new automation systems for course proposals and revisions.
- B. *Graduate Council*
  - 1. Co-chairs Yi-Chun Tricia Lin and Venezia Michalsen conducting the first meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.
  - 2. Course proposal maintaining current paper-based workflow temporarily before full system integration.
- C. *Elections Officers*: Daniel Swartz
  - 1. Plea for senators to self-nominate or nominate colleagues for membership
  - 2. Two faculty senate representatives from the finance committee are needed on search committees for the Academic Business Coordinator (Zheni Wang volunteered) and Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs. Volunteer still needed for to sit on search committee for the Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs.

III. Guest Presentation: Amy Feest

- A. Amy Feest joined the meeting to share updates on the Office of Workforce and Lifelong Learning.
1. Program launched and are getting a lot of people attending trainings.
  2. Federal funding is accessed.
  3. Courses highlighted and running regularly:
    - a) *Medical Spanish (HHS)*
    - b) *Drone Academy*
    - c) *Drone program for disengaged youth*
    - d) *Teacher Leadership Academy*
    - e) *Next Gen Parent Academy*
    - f) *AI classes across various disciplines/professions/audiences (cybersecurity, Google project management, Python, SQL, CompTIA, CMMC)*
  4. Now located in Buley Library on the second floor near the back elevators
  5. They have a conference room for trainings
  6. Amy Feest shared their website, and pointed out the many courses and micro certifications
    - a) *Digital Badges/Credentials.*
    - b) *Self-directed learning for SCSU students is only \$99.*
  7. Cindy Simoneau, who served as the Faculty Senator representative on the OWLL Advisory Committee 2023-2024, highlighted the OWLL Advisory Committee work and she and Amy Feest highlighted the many members and partners.
  8. Questions regarding courses for credit, go through Trudy. If non-credit course, send to Amy Feest.
  9. There may be a unique opportunity to start trainings and see if there is an interest, to provide proof of concept of new programming, gather data, and if appropriate, consider moving to the credit "side".

IV. Unfinished Business

- A. None.

V. New Business:

- A. Jonathan Wharton raised concerns regarding the shooting in Utah and faculty concerns regarding what faculty might say, and potential consequences as a result. Is there support for academic freedom, will there be a protocol, and what is AAUP's stance?
1. Joan Weir shared discussion on WCSU ICE raids, universities are more concerns with student safety and wellbeing.
  2. Paul Petrie shared insight that the former interim president expressed faith in the legal process, and that eventually that will protect faculty. The system office indicated that they are following their procedures to check the legal state versus Federal. Given the Federal administration lack of respect for the judicial system. This issue is on the agenda for the first meeting with the provost and interim president. This needs to be pushed in a lot of ways since.
  3. Further discussion was had amongst senators regarding educators' freedoms in the classroom, conversation will be discussed with the AAUP.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

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Dr. Shawneen Buckley  
Secretary