

Faculty Senate Resolution Number _____

To: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, Southern Connecticut State University
From: Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding _____

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: _____

- This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL
 This Resolution is presented for INFORMATION

In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), "When the Senate makes a written recommendation to the President, the President shall acknowledge and respond to the recommendation in writing within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the Senate's recommendation. "

After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form and return it to the President of the Faculty Senate.

Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate Date

cc: Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Resolution for Approval:

- Resolution APPROVED
 Resolution DISAPPROVED (Provide comments below or attach statement)

Resolution for Information:

- Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

Date

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

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, SCSU holds the health of everyone (students, staff, faculty, and administrators) in the SCSU community paramount;

Whereas, In recognition of risks to members of the campus community and the implications campus safety or lack thereof has for the larger community in which SCSU resides, the University has created a set of University Event Guidelines for the Fall of 2021;

Whereas, Not all members of the SCSU community have received notification of the Event Guidelines, and therefore are not aware of the requirements for holding optimally safe events;

Whereas, Maintaining a Covid-19-resistant campus depends in part on oversight of the application of the Event Guidelines;

Whereas, Representatives of the faculty and the administration have already engaged in discussions of practical problems with the roll-out of the Event Guidelines and potential solutions thereof; and

Whereas, Senate resolutions are the established means of formally communicating to the administration the requests and suggestions of the elected representatives of the entire faculty on important issues of university policy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the attached University Event Guidelines for Fall 2021, at a minimum, be revised as follows:

- Include required COVID event safety training for student leaders, faculty and staff
- Include COVID event guidelines in event announcements and publicity
- Require a trained COVID event coordinator be designated by the organization or department before the event is approved by the relevant office
- Require that a Covid safety event plan be submitted by the designated Covid coordinator prior to approval of the event by the relevant office
- Require training for use of the event registration portal

Resolved, That the Implementation of the University Event Guidelines for Fall 2021 address the following:

- The provision of training for use of the registration portal by designated covid event coordinators

- That the event registration issues be resolved so that all attendees are able to register (e.g, QR code and weblink)
- The provision of appropriate and adequate COVID safety supplies (e.g., hand sanitizer, gloves, masks) by the university administration at no cost to the sponsoring org/dept
- That the Sponsoring organization/department receives non-identified post-event registration data
- That the registration portal survey be revised to add survey question re: perceived COVID safety of event and suggestion for improvement of COVID safety
- That tented outdoor event spaces be provided as needed;

Resolved, That these guidelines shall be posted on the University Website and distributed to all members of the SCSU community; and

Resolved, That all members of the SCSU community shall be requested to acknowledge receipt of and abide by the guidelines.

09/28/21

Appendix A of Resolution – Comments from Dr. Tracy Tyree

I wanted to follow up on the Resolution Regarding University Event Guidelines for Fall 2021.

I met with the staff from Student Involvement and Leadership Development and Adanti Student Center last week to review the Faculty Senate Resolution and better understand them from their lens. I thought it might be helpful share some of the nuances before it goes forward again for more discussion.

First, there seems to be a conflating of the University Event Guidelines and the Student Event Guidelines. Both can be found at this link: <https://inside.southernct.edu/reopening/event-guidelines>. Below are some bullets to provide more understanding of the concerns that were raised and actions we have taken:

- Student leaders are regularly receiving COVID event safety training. As we are talking about a larger group of students (over 100 clubs and orgs with about 4 officers per club), it is a constant work-in-progress. The Student Involvement team is working with student organizations on an ongoing basis to inform, instruct, and enforce COVID safety protocols. I also know that Daphney has shared the guidelines with club and organization advisors, in addition to the student officers. Student Involvement (and other staff who work with student groups) works daily with the student leaders (and advisors, as appropriate) on planning and executing safe events. Not all events are created equally, of course. While not deviating from the guidelines, they do adapt their approach to the nature of activity, venue, projected attendance, etc. Larger events require more training and planning, while smaller, more intimate events may not require the same formality. The Student Involvement staff are working very hard at helping students to be safe. I believe several organizations have decided to hold their regular meeting virtually and host a combination of in-person and virtual events.
- As the events point-person out of the Student Center, Janet Klicsu will take lead on working with internal and external constituencies on knowing and implementing the event guidelines for non-student events. She will work with Arlene Lucibello, who schedules events in academic buildings, to ensure that we are widely sharing the guidelines and coaching on how to host a safe and successful event.

- The references to an event registration portal are specific to student events. They use Owl Connect to check-in students to their events. This is not a tool used for other types of events. First-year students receive an introduction to Owl Connect in INQ, and clubs and organizations receive training for their purposes. I do know that there was a problem at the Psychology Club event that Kate attended, but it was a localized problem and may also have resulted because it was so early in the year (the first day of classes). We have resolved that problem.
- We are now providing COVID safety supplies for student organizations (through Student Involvement) and to other event hosts (through ASC Conference and Events). I appreciated Kate asking me this question when we talked right after her event and we attended to that quickly. We did offer safety kits last year, so we just needed to roll that out again.
- We do have a reservable tent available for all members of the campus community. The Conferences and Events staff is managing this space. It is reservable similar to the Conn Hall Seminar Room. It will remain up until the middle or end of October.
- Since this resolution was written, ICM has created a [COVID Protocols and Mitigation Strategies](#) section so all of the COVID protocols can be found in one place. In addition to having a link in the menu bar on the left-hand side, it can be found prominently on the [Reopening 2021](#) front page in a box under Vaccination Requirements. We placed the event guidelines in the list of protocols and strategies.
- The only “Resolved” that I am not comfortable with is that all members of the SCSU community be requested to acknowledge receipt of and abide by the event guidelines. We have not asked for any acknowledgement of other COVID guidelines and I do not know why we would do so with these guidelines (at least not explicitly so). We definitely expect that members of our community will follow all of our COVID mitigations and we have mechanisms in place for responding when they do not. I just do not think that any specific acknowledgement is necessary. I would like to see us put this energy into getting our employee vaccination self-attestation numbers higher. As of Friday, it was only 62.19%, largely because of the non-responses, I believe. The students have done their part (at a 85.68% vaccination including non-responses) and we need faculty and staff to do their part.

It might also be helpful to know that there are venue specific guidelines in addition to the general event guidelines. For example, the Lyman is now requiring vaccinations for all events that have largely external audiences. Athletics events have a full set of spectator guidelines specific to athletic competitions. The Student Center is working with external visitors who wish to reserve space on an event-by-event basis to consider timing of the event (e.g., larger events

are more likely to be held when fewer faculty, staff or students are on campus), size of the event (beyond size limitations) and purpose of the event (to consider additional restrictions like vaccinate mandates).

As a result of numerous conversations with Faculty Leadership, including today's meeting and Friday's meeting, we are regularly updating and editing our approaches. For example, after Bill raised questions about the dashboard this morning, I opened it and agree that it is confusing. Jules is meeting with Jian Chan as I type to make it more user-friendly. Additionally, after my meeting with Kari on Thursday, we changed some of the language on contract tracing to make it clearer. And, because of the questions that had been raised about contact tracing, we asked Patrick to relaunch the COVID-Updates and focus the first one on that.

I want you to know that we do hear you and respond. It may not always be the response you want, but we do appreciate the input and truly desire to help our campus community feel confident in our approach to COVID. It isn't failproof (nothing about COVID is), but we take it seriously and are being as nimble and conscientious as possible in response to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic.