

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – October 16, 2024, meeting**

1) ***Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget*** – Please closely attend to messages from AAUP and SCSU-AAUP regarding upcoming events. A reminder that the Finance Committee continues to gather senators'/faculty perspectives and suggestions regarding budgetary issues. Please reach out to [Cindy Simoneau](#), FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair.

2) ***Faculty Evaluation: Reminders*** – If you have any questions regarding the digital evaluation process, please reach out to Klay Kruczek, [kruczekk3@southernct.edu](mailto:kruczekk3@southernct.edu).

If due dates in any evaluation process have been missed, please immediately send an email message to:

- Klay Kruczek ([kruczekk3@southernct.edu](mailto:kruczekk3@southernct.edu)),
- Kari Swanson ([swansonk8@southernct.edu](mailto:swansonk8@southernct.edu)),
- Linda Cunningham ([cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu](mailto:cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu)),
- Natalie Starling ([starlingn1@southernct.edu](mailto:starlingn1@southernct.edu)), and
- Maryanne Boyen ([boyenm1@southernct.edu](mailto:boyenm1@southernct.edu)).

3) ***The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration*** – The Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meets monthly with administration – This group met on 10/7 to discuss and monitor multiple topics. At the 10/7 meeting, the group discussed our institution's status having received updates from the University President and Academic Affairs regarding the number of doctoral programs and amount of grant funds our university has achieved. It was shared that Southern already meets minimum requirements for a change in status.

It is the faculty leaders' understanding that formal announcements and updates are planned, and it is anticipated that more information will be available before this semester concludes. The following were discussed at the 10/7 meeting: criteria for research status, concerns about resources and support for a change in status, questions about impact on undergraduate students, historical context of Southern's evolution as an institution, resource allocation and sustainability, faculty workload and resources, importance of maintaining teaching quality, and potential benefits of a research status for the institution.

At the 10/7 meeting, the group discussed budget and personnel issues, including the budget gap, importance of enrollment and external funding, personnel costs and hiring priorities, and the need for prioritizing faculty hires.

The group also discussed space and accessibility, including the space committee, the need for virtual access to university functions, and budget implications on space and facilities.

The group also discussed last year's Commencement Day, with a suggestion that faculty and student input be gathered during the planning for the upcoming Commencement ceremonies in Spring 2025.

- 4) **Travel Funds Report for AY 24-25** – as of 9/11/24. See table below. Budget Information below includes prior year carryover. “Encumbered” reflects those TA's processed and funds committed but does not include TA's that are in transit or pending in the Provost Office.

Index	Description	FY 2025 Budget	FY2025 Expenses	FY2025 Encumbrances	FY 2025 Balance	Index	Estimated FY24 Carryover
AUP769	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel FT - 2025	\$ 365,530.00	\$ 3,370.00	\$ 29,924.48	\$ 332,235.52	AUP768	171,304.30
AUP772	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel PT - 2025	40,614.00	-	2,800.00	37,814.00	AUP771	10,076.66
VPA017	Faculty CrActivity-RG	85,000.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	80,500.00	VPA017	-
VPA018	Faculty CrActivity-Travel	85,000.00	-	-	85,000.00	VPA018	-
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 576,144.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,620.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,974.48</b>	<b>\$ 535,549.52</b>		<b>\$ 181,380.96</b>

5) **Preparation for the 10/16/2024 meeting** –

- a. Resolution Regarding Amendment of the Senate Bylaws Governing Vacant Senate Seats** – This resolution is being presented by the Rules Committee and addresses questions about filling senator seats when a senator has a temporary absence (rather than permanently vacating the seat). The resolution proposes that “*temporary vacancies arising during the term of office of a Senator shall be filled by elections of the voting unit involved, ... at the time such vacancies occur. The term of a Senator elected to fill a temporary vacancy shall be for the duration of the vacancy, at which time the returning Senator shall complete the original term of office.*”
- b. Elections - Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation** – Senators, please anticipate upcoming announcements from Elections about opportunities, nominations, and elections to be held for the following:
- a. Liaison to the [Administrative Faculty Senate](#)
  - b. Faculty senate representative to the **Chief Information Officer (CIO) search**
  - c. Liaison to [Early College](#). In the past, this position as been split by semester. We can fill a position for the Spring 2025 semester, if filling for Fall 2024 is challenging.
  - d. Faculty senate representative to the [Faculty Development Advisory Committee \(FDAC\)](#).
  - e. Faculty senate representative to [University Library Committee \(ULC\)](#).
- c. Guests – Interfolio.** We expect our Faculty Coordinator for Interfolio, Klay Kruczek, to join our 10/16 meeting for Q & A. A reminder that, in addition, two Interfolio representatives will be on campus on Oct. 17-18th to finalize our set up and to offer in-person trainings.
- 6) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.