

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – February 26, 2025, meeting**

***1) Faculty Senate Announcements –***

- **Chancellor / System Office** – The CT State Senate passed a resolution of No Confidence in the Chancellor on 2/6. The Resolution was included in the previous president's report and in the previous packet for our 2/12 meeting. This was the second No Confidence vote to pass, following Eastern's No Confidence vote in AY 23-24. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee understands there may be faculty questions and would like to support faculty discussions about these events. The committee continues to welcome your thoughts and questions.

**Follow-Up:** I met with the other senate presidents, along with the CT State Senate President, on 2/18 wherein it was shared that the resolution was not sent to the community college campuses prior to the vote. It was also reported that following the No Confidence resolution passed on 2/6 both the Chancellor and the Governor rescinded their respective prior acceptance of CT State Senate's invitations to previously scheduled upcoming senate meetings. It was also reported that the Chancellor has since re-accepted the meeting invitation.

Western and Central shared that as of our 2/18 meeting they have not passed, nor formally discussed within their senate bodies, a similar No Confidence Resolution. Eastern did not share an intention to act upon this matter beyond their previous action.

The Executive Committee discussed the above events at its last two meetings (those occurring since the 2/12 full senate meeting). Should the matter be raised by the faculty, the committee will honor senators' rights and responsibilities regarding future discussion at Faculty Senate.

***2) Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget –***

- **The 2025 legislative session:** Please continue to closely attend to announcements related to this item. The 2025 legislative session is underway and advocacy for fiscal support for the CSUs remains at the forefront of our efforts. A reminder that our senate meeting agendas will now include a representative from SCSU-AAUP to share information with the Faculty Senate. We thank our colleagues for their partnership.
- **The ACT Framework and related KPIs:** Following feedback from FLC, a draft of the Goals and KPIs was prepared for our 2/26 meeting and is included in the packet. Senators please thoroughly review this draft. Given the **February 28<sup>th</sup>** deadline, prioritizing this item for review and potential vote (of support/non-support) will be important for our meeting.

- **P-Cards:** Please see campus announcement on 2/19 – “SCSU is transitioning to a new P-Card Program! As part of a larger State of Connecticut initiative, all agencies are required to move to this updated program.”
  - “There is a \*NEW\* P-card Application. Your application must include the index/indices you are requesting and must be signed by your Vice President or Dean.”
  - “Once your P-Card is approved and processed by P-Card Administration, you will receive further instructions on when to pick up your new card in person at Wintergreen and complete the required in-person training. P-Card Training Sessions will be held February 24th- February 26th.”

Faculty leaders shared questions we received from the faculty with administration. As we understand these clarifications are: The change in banks, effective date for change, shut-off date, requirement for training are all system wide and that deans have authority for approvals for their departments.

### 3) *Technology* –

**Blackboard** – At this time, the Helpdesk ticket system remains the pathway for Blackboard support. The Executive Committee thanks the faculty for sharing their challenges regarding Blackboard this semester. We are welcoming **Walter Schwarz, Interim Vice President for Information Technology**, to the 2/26 meeting to share information and for Q & A. Please share your questions.

- We will also hold an election during the 2/26 meeting for a **Faculty Senate representative to the search committee for the full-time permanent position for the Blackboard Administrator**. If there are no volunteers, the opportunity will be extended as an all-call to the faculty.

**Artificial Intelligence** – Following faculty concerns raised about AI and its impact on faculty activities, the Executive Committee composed the Resolution for Information and Ad Hoc Committee Proposal that were presented in the 2/5 meeting packet (and remain for the 2/26 packet). Following my learning that the other campuses share our concerns, the below letter was sent to BOR Chair Marty Guay on 2/20:

*Dear Chair Guay,*

*The BOR recently discussed the creation of a system-wide artificial intelligence (AI) policy. Additionally, the Charter Oak Scaling Taskforce report indicates intention to “make strategic investments in proven best in class technology tools such as adaptive learning content in addition to innovative technology, particularly artificial intelligence” and intention for Charter Oak State College serving “as a model for integrating advanced tools, such as artificial intelligence, into academic advising, career counseling, and course delivery. These tools can enhance student engagement, improve retention, and streamline pathways to graduation.” These references to AI are immediately followed by direct reference to the system: “As part of the system, Charter Oak can partner with other CSCU institutions to offer hybrid programs, evening courses, and weekend schedules that complement the in-person offerings of community colleges and state universities. Such collaboration can help address longstanding challenges...”*

*This has prompted discussion on our campuses. In the spirit of shared governance and open communication, the Senate Presidents are writing to encourage the BOR to include robust faculty input presented by duly elected faculty members from all CSCU institutions into any policy development that affects issues which are the purview of faculty. These would include, but are not necessarily limited to, the use of AI and other technology tools for course development, pedagogy, student advisement/mentoring, creative activity, and service to our universities, communities, and/or professions, as well as faculty decisions regarding students’ use of AI to complete course requirements. We look forward to collaborating with the BOR to develop a strong AI policy for CSCU.*

*Sincerely,*

*Stephen Adair (CCSU)*

*William Lugo (ECSU)*

*Jeff Schlicht (WCSU)*

*Natalie Starling (SCSU)*

The response received on 2/24 is as follows:

Senate Presidents,

Thank you for your perspectives and feedback on system-wide AI policy development. We will ensure that we have solid faculty input and engagement before creating policy on issues that affect pedagogy and faculty. I have confirmed this we Chancellor Cheng and Regent Yang.

Marty

**Martin Guay**

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- 4) **Travel Funds Report for AY 24-25** – as of 2/10/25. 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. FY2024 FY 24 Carryover estimated still has encumbrances (FT - \$150,708.76, PT - \$15,592.86. Depending on what still needs to be paid, carryover amount could change.

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	\$ 76,926.75	\$ 91,373.02	\$ 197,2230.23	AUP768	171,304.30
AUP772	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel PT - 2025	40,614.00	14,369.91	6,203.10	20,040.99	AUP771	10,076.66
VPA017	Faculty CrActivity-RG	85,000.00	71,235.00	-	13,765.00	VPA017	-
VPA018	Faculty CrActivity-Travel	85,000.00	85,000.00	-		VPA018	-
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 576,144.00</b>	<b>\$ 247,531.66</b>	<b>\$ 97,576.12</b>	<b>\$ 231,036.22</b>		<b>\$ 181,380.96</b>

5) **Preparation for the 2/26/2025 meeting** –

- a) **ACT and related Goals and KPIs**– As described above, following feedback from FLC, a draft of the Goals and KPIs was prepared for our 2/26 meeting. **Given the February 28th deadline, prioritizing this item for review and potential vote (of support) will be important for our meeting.**
- b) **Statement on the Value of Service at the University** (unfinished business)– The Personnel Policy (PPC) will re-introduce this discussion. At the 2/12 meeting, senators were asked to discuss information shared at the meeting with departments for a potential future vote on this item. This item may come forward for a vote at the 2/26 meeting.

- c) *Resolution for Information Regarding Artificial Intelligence Policy Development* (unfinished business)– This Resolution remains as “unfinished business” from the 2/12 meeting and is being presented by the Executive Committee.
  - d) The Executive Committee will also present a proposal for an *Ad Hoc Committee for Artificial Intelligence Use by Faculty* to discuss and address the rising faculty concerns and questions about AI in the classroom and its impact on the wide range of faculty activities.
    - o Following my meeting with the FASP Committee on 2/24, consideration of including membership invitation(s) to FASP in the proposal may be of value.
  - e) *Resolution on Pass/Fail - The Academic Policy (APC)* will re-introduce this discussion about proposed updates to the Pass/Fail Policy.
  - f) *Guests – Walter Schwarz, Interim CIO*, – As described above, please present any questions about the Blackboard and technology related information during this presentation.
- 6) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.