

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – February 3, 2021**

**Announcements:**

Welcome back, Senators! I hope you've had a restful break and a good start to the semester.

1. **Renewal files** – Please refer to the latest dates for the renewal files (revised and announced previously due to changed spring academic calendar) that appears at the end of the [Renewal Procedures document](#) under [Faculty Evaluation](#) in the Senate website.
2. **College of Education LTEC GOV position** – An announcement for this position has now been sent to all faculty since we have been unable to fill the position through the Senate.
3. **Update on resolutions:**
  - Student opinion survey – The new questions, approved at our last meeting, were added to the student opinion surveys for the winter session. Please be sure to inform the faculty in your department regarding the changes to the surveys as well as the fact that for this entire academic year, although surveys will be sent out to students automatically, faculty are not required to include surveys from these semesters (or spring 2020) in their evaluation materials.
  - ACME resolution – We unanimously approved a resolution at our last meeting that expressed our concerns regarding the ACME proposal that would change community college pre-requisite to co-requisite requirements for math and English, change the math requirement without faculty approval and allow for self-reported high school grades for placement in math and English. Our stake in this is how this may affect the TAP agreements as well as concerns for the CT student population, whether they be community college or university students and concerns for students who will transfer to Southern and how this may affect their level of preparedness.

Upon trying to submit our feedback on the invited commentary site, I kept receiving an error message. I contacted Interim CSU President, Jane Gates on several occasions about this and submitted our feedback directly to her. I submitted our feedback to Ken Klucznik, Central Office Associate VP of Academic Affairs as well. I was informed by him that CSU faculty were intentionally blocked from submitting commentary to the commentary site. It is unclear who made this decision and why CSU faculty were blocked from submitting commentary, especially since we had all received the ACME

proposal and cover letter and commentary was requested. We have received no further word regarding the outcome of our feedback and the proposal. I am aware that another CSU and a number of community colleges and faculty have submitted similar concerns as well.

4. ***AAUP initiative regarding Zoom*** - CSU-AAUP was successful in its grievance to obtain faculty rights to use Zoom as a resource for online teaching and learning. Thank you to all of the Senators who provided feedback regarding the Zoom platform over the fall and encouraged faculty participation in signing the petition.
5. ***Update from IT*** - The Information Technology Department has successfully implemented the video teleconferencing platform Zoom. The Office of Online Learning will be offering trainings over the next few weeks.
6. **CBA Negotiations** – Recently, you received a copy of TableTalk the communication of CSU-AAUP to its members that informs them of the progress of contract negotiations with the CSCU-BOR. An AAUP meeting will be scheduled in mid-February to provide further updates. Please encourage faculty in your department to do the following:
  - If the proposed contract language would jeopardize your accreditation, please inform the Organizing Committee Chairs, Cindy Stretch ([stretch1053@gmail.com](mailto:stretch1053@gmail.com)) or John O'Connor ([joconnorsbr3@gmail.com](mailto:joconnorsbr3@gmail.com)).
  - Encourage your faculty members to let their representatives in the Connecticut General Assembly know that the Board of Regents is attacking academic freedom and trying to corporatize Connecticut public higher education, eliminate research funds and curriculum development grants, shred any semblance of shared governance, and pursue unbridled union busting. Ask for your legislators' support of public higher education as a public good. If you're not sure what to write, click here for a template email that you can personalize and send to your state representatives. Click here to find your legislator and send them an email or give them a call.
  - Sign up to speak at the Board of Regents meeting on February 18.
  - Sign up to speak at the online General Assembly's Appropriations Committee meeting in mid-February.
  - Encourage your students to sign up to speak at these meetings.

Please contact the AAUP Office with any questions.

### **Preparation for our 2/3/21 meeting:**

We have no unfinished or new business for this meeting. The President and Provost have requested time to address the Senate. Given our light agenda, there will be ample time for Q&A as well. Helen Marx will also update us regarding student advising issues.

*Travel Funds*

	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
<b>FT Rollover</b>	\$192,472.58	\$4,368.99	\$11,666.70	\$176,436.89
<b>FT New</b>	\$298,700.00	\$1,424.26	\$2,434.79	\$294,840.95
<b>Combined Total</b>	\$491,172.58	\$5,793.25	\$14,101.49	\$471,277.84

	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
<b>PT Rollover</b>	\$6,247.79	\$0.00	\$534.02	\$5,713.77
<b>PT New</b>	\$33,189.00	\$840.00	\$768.57	\$31,580.43
<b>Combined Total</b>	\$39,436.79	\$840.00	\$1,302.59	\$37,294.20

2020-2021 [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – The latest updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.