

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – March 12, 2025, meeting**

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

Thank you to **Maria Diamantis** for stepping in to chair our previous Faculty Senate meeting on 2/26. I am deeply appreciative to both Maria and Luke for their support and organization under short notice.

Thank you to our Elections Officers and all who self-nominated and voted in the election for the part-time faculty representatives on the Faculty Senate. The two part-time faculty members elected to serve on the Faculty Senate are:

**Shenira Billups** – Psychology Department

**Mike Sanger** – Women's & Gender Studies

Please join me in welcoming our newest senators.

***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.

The legislative Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee heard public testimony on several bills on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please see recent email announcement from CSU-AAUP:

- **“H.B. 6885 An Act Expanding the Debt-Free Community College Program.** CSU-AAUP **supports** this bill because expanding this program to our students at the CSUs would help improve equity, enrollment and student success. [You can read more about why we are advocating for this bill here.](#)”
- **“S.B. 980: An Act Improving Safety on the Campuses of Institutions of Higher Education.** CSU-AAUP. CSU-AAUP opposes this bill as it provides an easy way for the state to surveil students and faculty under the premise of anti-discrimination protections. The bill calls for more police presence on campuses and echoes far-right proposals to increase surveillance on progressive activists and those in academia.”
- **The ACT Framework and related KPIs:** Following feedback from senators at our 2/26 meeting, I prepared additional details within the draft of the Goals and shared this with our Provost on 2/28. At the writing of this report, an updated/proposed final version of this document has not yet been shared with me for formal review and sharing with Faculty Senate. While I was not present at the 2/26 senate meeting, the faculty feedback expressed both during and after the meeting was pointed, and I expressed my hope to Dr. D. and Provost Irwin that the faculty have the opportunity to review the final version of this document. My understanding is that the Faculty Senate voted to “provisionally accept” the version shared at the 2/26 meeting, and it has been clarified with me by senators that the

intent to “provisionally accept” is not to be interpreted as support or endorsement for its content and wording at that time. I look forward to continuing to partner with stakeholders in this task.

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 3/3 to discuss and monitor multiple topics. While Provost Irwin was not available to attend the 3/3 meeting, we thank Dr. D. for the important conversations. Provost Irwin and I followed up on 3/4, and the Executive Committee thanks Julia joining us for additional discussion on 3/5.

- **Federal impacts, politicized funding, and grant freezes** – faculty leaders expressed concerns, and the President shared that administration, along with the System Office, will continue to monitor these topics. Updates specific to the topic of undocumented students will occur regularly on the [website](#).
- **P-cards** – faculty leaders expressed concerns about the how the changes to P-card policy have been implemented, for example, approval/disapproval for some departments, along with some specific examples of challenges faculty face with these changes. Faculty leaders thank Dr. D. for expressing receptivity to the detailed information shared.
- **Course Cancellations** – Faculty concerns about the cancellation of courses due to low enrollment were briefly raised and a follow-up is scheduled to review examples of practices across the university.
- **Practice/Use of Independent Study** – Faculty concerns about the Independent Study policy and usage were briefly raised. This topic is also reported as a concern from Graduate Council. This topic will remain an FLC topic as well as future discussion by the Executive Committee for review of how independent study’s are used, their purpose, and the related topic of underenrolled required courses.
- **“W” Course Caps** – Faculty revisited the longstanding topic of returning “W” courses to a cap of 20. Provost Irwin joined the Executive Committee for more in-depth discussion on 3/5 and the Executive Committee is proposing the related resolution which appears in the list below and the 3/12 meeting packet.
- **Procedures for Department Name and Status Changes** – In my opinion, the Executive Committee’s discussion with Provost Irwin on 3/5 regarding this topic is one of, if not the most productive meetings of shared governance I have witnessed here at Southern regarding the establishing of a procedure. The resolution and its procedure appear in the list below and the 3/12 meeting packet. Thank you, Julia, and the entire executive team.
- **Transfer Council Developments** – Faculty raised concerns about these developments. Follow up meetings also included Provost Irwin, and I have shared these concerns with the other CSU senate presidents and CSU-AAUP.

Thank you, **Meghan Barboza** (UCF Chair) and **Kauther Badr** (SCSU representative to the Transfer Council’s working group), for the information about this issue that I’ve included below: In sum, the BOR now requires alignment of 30 credits within the general education

programs of all CSU's and CT State (this is called the Framework30). We (Southern) worked with the other institutions to first create the Framework30 required categories, associated student learning outcomes, and rubrics to assess those outcomes. This was a collaborative effort. Those were approved by UCF and were meant to be implemented 2+ years ago. As far as we know, no assessment has occurred using these rubrics within CT State. UCF and the LEP director aligned our LEP with the Framework30 courses. This includes a detailed list of which LEP categories align within the gen ed programs, including the associated courses. This was completed over a year ago.

Currently, no assessment is being done at the CT State level and so we do not know if those transfer students are meeting the learning goals for those general education requirements. In addition, a revision to the process is being developed.

If the committee's responsibilities do not include oversight of the assessment of the general education program, then faculty will have no input into this curriculum and how it is assessed. In addition, CT State is advocating for a majority representation on the committee, **which would mean the CSUs would have no meaningful input for the general education program.**

The reason this is a concern for NECHE accreditation is that we need to assess our students in the general education program. If half of our student body (transfers) are not being assessed, this is a problem. In addition, the curriculum and its assessment must come from the faculty, not the BOR.

If there continues to be pushback on the satisfactory inclusion of meaningful and material CSU involvement with the management of the Framework30 through this Oversight and Compliance group, the following courses of action may be important:

- Most preferably, to resolve the matter by including a responsibility in the Oversight and Compliance group's charge to collect, compile, analyze, and disseminate general education assessment data across our system for each of the CSCU institutions, but most importantly, for our shared curriculum as contemplated by Policy # 1.26; the Framework30.
- If the Transfer Council so votes to exclude this responsibility from the Oversight and Compliance group's charge, to obtain an opinion letter from NECHE indicating that if Southern complies with BoR Policy # 1.26, Southern will continue to meet Standard 4 accreditation mandates when TAP-FIRC sunsets without any space available for CSUs to share in curricular management of the Framework30.
- Alternatively, provide an immediate timeline for Southern to review for when the CSCU Systems Office will provide the space for shared governance of the Framework30 and provide a solution for shared management until said space is, in fact, available. Please remember that TAP-FIRC is slated to sunset in May 2025 without any plans to extend further.

Thank you, again, to **Meghan Barboza** (UCF Chair) and **Kauther Badr** (SCSU representative to the Transfer Council's working group), for the above information.

- 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 3/12/2025 meeting –*

- a) *Resolution regarding W course caps (new)*– The Executive Committee meeting with the Provost on 3/5 facilitated this resolution’s development. This resolution highlights the extensive history of this topic, and through regeneration of language from previous resolutions repropose capping all “W” courses at 20 along with a pilot of information gathering in the areas of academics, retention, and completion. **This is a time-sensitive resolution if the implementation of the change is to occur beginning in Fall 2025 (if passed and approved by the University President) —the 3/12 meeting is the only remaining regularly scheduled senate meeting to deliberate this resolution.**
- b) *Resolution on Pass/Fail* - The Academic Policy (APC) will re-introduce this discussion about proposed updates to the Pass/Fail Policy.
- c) *Resolution regarding eliminations of the P & T Guidebooks (new)*– The Personnel Policy (PPC) is presenting this resolution which proposes elimination of the guidebooks. The Procedures document will remain regardless of the outcome of this resolution and deliberation.
- d) *Resolution regarding Establishing Procedures for Dept Name and Status Changes (new)*– The Executive Committee meeting with Julia on 3/5 facilitated this resolution’s development. This resolution seeks to formally establish the procedure through the shared governance process.
- e) *Statement on the Value of Service at the University (unfinished business)*– The 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 3/12 meeting.
- f) *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.

- g) *Department Name Change*– The Department of Communication Disorders seeks a name change to the Department of Speech, Language, Hearing Sciences. More information/rationale will be provided by a department representative as available.

The role of the Faculty Senate is to provide advice to an entity seeking to become established under a new status. While this is not an official status change for Communication Disorders, the department has been recognized in our SCSU community as the Department of Communication Disorders and is therefore proceeding with this step to communicate the change and engage Senate’s advice. Once information/rationale is shared, we will take a vote of support following Q&A. Though this has occurred in past practice, this vote is not required for department name changes and is non-binding.

- 6) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.