SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report - Update April 14, 2020

The Executive Committee has decided that it would be more beneficial for the standing committees to have an extra meeting this week, in lieu of a full Senate meeting. This will result in two standing committee meetings remaining for the semester, April, 15 and April 22, and full Senate meetings scheduled for April 29 and May 5. I would like to encourage you to participate in your standing committee meetings. Several committees are trying to conclude critical business for the year. Although the full Senate won't meet tomorrow, there are some issues that I'd like to provide an update on.

All University Elections - The call for self-nominations ends this Friday, April 17th. Currently, the number of nominations is down from last year, but will hopefully pick up over the next few days. Please remind your department faculty members to self-nominate if they are interested.

Referendum on the Constitution - Within the next few days, a referendum will be sent out to all full-time faculty to vote on the constitution. We must receive a simple majority of a minimum of 200 full-time faculty voting in order to approve the constitution, which we hope to achieve with a one-week deadline. Please encourage your faculty to vote once the referendum comes out.

Formation of DECs - An email has gone out to Department Chairs to remind them that DEC members as well as faculty who are serving in the hardship pool should be determined by May 1. We need to compile a list of the DEC members to submit to Karen Musmanno for the electronic review files for next year. Some departments won't be able to finalize their DEC lists until the hardship list has been provided by HR and candidates have been selected by the departments, however, many departments should be able to provide a completed list.

Election of Senators for next year - All Senators whose 3-year terms expire this year have been contacted by Luke Eilderts to inform them that their departments need to hold elections this spring. Likewise, the department Chairs have been contacted. Please make sure your department holds its election if your term has ended. Also, if you anticipate not serving on the Senate next year for another reason, please let Luke know and inform your Department Chair as well, so that an election can be held.

Final exam schedule - The final exam schedule has been published and may be found at https://inside.southernct.edu/final-exam-schedule

Updates from various constituencies across campus in the order they were received

Jules Tetreault, Associate Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs, reports that his office is working with about 650 students. Approximately 500 are on the 'not engaged in classes' list. Many of these students are very overwhelmed with everything going on, including the transition to learning. However, they are also navigating very difficult situations such as basic needs insecurities, access to

wifi and computers, and balancing everything. Many students are struggling with synchronized classes; they are dealing with limited technology and access to technology as well as sharing with younger siblings and parents working remotely. The other challenge students are facing is managing many different platforms that faculty are using. While the use of technology has been a difficult transition for faculty, it is intensified for students who may have five different faculty using five different platforms. Jules has also heard from a lot of faculty who have been very supportive of our students and appreciates their flexibility and support. He encourages as much flexibility as possible towards our students as they navigate this difficult time and encourages us to continue to communicate, using navigate alerts, basic needs referral form, student support referral form, direct email to him tetreaultj1@southernct.edu) and Dean of students email (deanofstudents@southernct.edu). Finally, he requests patience as his office manages a very full case load.

Online Teaching Academy - Trever Brolliar, Olcay Yavuz, Bo Zamfir - The Teaching Academy curriculum is largely driven by the survey (attached) that the Office of Online Learning (co directed by Bo Zamfir & Trever Brolliar, and assisted by many other constituents) sent out to all faculty. The response to participate in the Teaching Academy has been very strong. Originally, one Teaching Academy was scheduled over two days (April 17 & April 24, 9am-5pm). Day 1 is comprised of a series of conversations on different topics. Day 2 is based on what is covered in day 1; registration for Day 2 is available following completion of Day 1. All six sessions for the April 17 Academy, limited to 30 participants per session, are filled. Due to this popular demand, a second Teaching Academy has been scheduled for May 1 and May 8. Three of the six sessions are filled, so encourage your department faculty members to register and/or find more details if they are interested at https://inside.southernct.edu/online-learning/teachingacademy.

Trever Brolliar, Director, Academic Technology, has provided the following updates:
- **Student Computer Loans from IT -** The student computer loan program was started as we were transitioning to emergency remote learning. Considering the size of our student population, very few requests have been received. Of these requests, several students declined the loaner computer after the request submission. The computers had been delivered on premises until the university closed, then were shipped to the those in need.
- **Helpdesk Call Volume -** In the first two weeks off campus there was a 3x increase in helpdesk calls. Trever is happy to report that the call volume has leveled off and we are now back to a normal volume. He commends the team for its great work!

Academic Affairs Report - Provost Prezant
As we enter our fourth week of remote education, meetings, operations… we all seem to have found that the desire to return to our actual campus only grows. To that end we do not have the needed predictive data to offer a firm return date. The date will, of course, be predicated on the status of covid-19 and determinations by the state and our System office. Right now summer session A will be offered only remotely. We are hoping to have some clarity regarding our ability to offer summer session B back on campus within a week or so but right now that return to campus also seems, well, remote. Questions have arisen regarding required summer internships and other "on the ground" programmatic requirements that may not be possible depending upon our status. Right now, those questions are best attended to at the programmatic level (keeping in mind that some of these requirements are being waived or modified by some disciplinary oversight or accreditation agencies).

The Senior Honors Convocation Committee met on April 13th to consider options for the very important (and otherwise canceled) Senior Honors Convocation that was scheduled for May 3rd. The Committee, co-chaired by Margaret Huda and Linda Robinson, has opted to recognize the

approximately 400 students who would have been honored through a congratulatory video from President Bertolino (a link will be sent to the students on May 3rd) and, once we get back to campus, each student will be send a hard copy program (that would have been distributed at a physical event), a certificate, and a congratulatory letter. If we are not going to hold an in-person commencement in mid-August (which we hope to resolve by mid-July), students will receive their honor's cord then; if not we will also place these in the mail to the students with the other honor's recognition material. An email will be sent to these students to notify them of this plan and timeline.

For the Library: to better support our remote learning needs the Buley Library will have extended hours and days (including weekends) during the summer. Notice of specifics will be forthcoming.

Travel Funds

Available Faculty Travel Funds as of: March 30, 2020 (for 4-1-20 Meeting)				
Fund	Starting Balance	Spent	Encumbered	Balance
FT "AAUP" Travel	329,387.78	123.454.09	118,002.44	**87,931.25**
PT "AAUP" Travel	26,744.94	26,744.94	9,037.22	**-277.09**
Creative Activity	85,000.00	70,000.10	13,435.84	**1,564.06**

Status of AY 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Resolutions					
Number	Date	Resolution regarding…	For	Disposition	Comments (abbrev.)
F-2019-01	9/28/19	Digital Evaluation File Implementation	Approval	Approved	
F-2019-02	11/13/19	Revisions to the P&T Procedures Document	Approval	Approved	
F-2019-03	12/4/19	Revision of Grade Appeal Procedure and Form	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-04	2/26/20	Material Benefits to Retiring Faculty	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-05	3/25/20	Pass-Fail Option for Students	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-06	3/25/20	Course Withdrawals and Incompletes	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-07	3/25/20	Faculty Choice - Student Opinion Surveys	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-08	3/25/20	Authorizing FS EC to Act	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-09	3/25/20	Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-12	4/1/20	Travel funds 2020-2021	Approval	Approved	