

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – April 2, 2025, meeting**

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

A reminder that four regularly scheduled full Faculty Senate meetings and two FLC meetings with administration remain this academic year.

The **Ad Hoc Committee for AI** held its inaugural meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to **Heidi Lockwood** and **Nick Pinkerton** for agreeing to co-chair this committee. The group is establishing its schedule and reviewing the information shared by Faculty Senate as well as the draft AI Policy from the System Office. Faculty with interest in contributing to this topic are encouraged to reach out to the ad hoc committee co-chairs.

***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 last day of the session is **Wednesday, June 4, 2025.**
- Thank you to **Dr. Lillian Wanjagi**, Vice President Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, for all recent efforts to organize and respond to the many topics of inquiry from the faculty. Dr. Wanjagi has scheduled the next two university budget meetings:
  - i. **Budget Committee Meeting #1 – Friday, April 4, 10am**
  - ii. **Budget Committee Meeting #2 – Friday, May 2, 11am**

Attached is also a **Shared Governance Budget Memo** from Dr. Wangaji.

- **The ACT Framework and related KPIs:** Following feedback from senators at our 2/26 meeting, the Executive Committee and I prepared additional details within the draft of the Goals and shared this with our Provost on 2/28, 3/10, 3/11, and 3/14. 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. **The final draft of both the external and internal goals and KPIs from Provost Irwin will be included in the 4/16 meeting's packet for senate discussion.**

***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 as introduced in the President's Report from 3/12. The following details are offered as follow up to a few specific items:

**Course Cancellations** – Faculty concerns about the cancellation of courses due to low enrollment were briefly raised at the 3/3 meeting 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 at the 3/3 meeting. 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.

**As the above two topics are related, the following has transpired since the 3/3 FLC/Admin meeting:**

- I spoke with Provost Irwin, who was unable to attend the 3/3 meeting. Provost Irwin and I recognized how course cancellations and Independent Study usage are directly linked and need to be reviewed together. Provost Irwin recommended we first meet with Dr. Craig Hlavac, Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences, to better understand at least one example on campus wherein there are some clear data-driven decisions about course cancellations.
- I met with Dr. Hlavac on 3/5 and learned more about course cancellations within A & S, particularly and only for winter/summer courses because of the nature of the information that is available about those semesters.
- Following this meeting, I requested a follow-up meeting to include additional administration. Provost Irwin, Dr. Hlavac, Cindy Simoneau (as Faculty Senate Treasurer), Dr. Wangaji (our new CFO), Mufu Weng (Director, Financial Planning and Budgets), and I met Wednesday 3/26 to discuss. Dean Kalk was invited but was unable to attend the meeting. It was a positive conversation and much was learned, and particularly about budgetary considerations from the perspective of the Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences.
- Our understanding of next steps was that Provost Irwin had a meeting with the PLT scheduled for later that day and would raise the topic among the deans for discussion.
- Later in the day Wednesday 3/26, the Executive Committee discussed a desire to hear what transpired next and where the Provost/PLT stand now that these discussions have taken place. At this moment, the EC is not recommending a taskforce but remains ready for further discussion and consideration pending more updates. In my follow-up email to all from the 3/26 meeting I shared: *Cindy and I shared what we learned today with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the committee looks forward to hearing further developments from Julia/PLT as we continue conversations about the benefits of moving from disparate approaches across campus to transparency and improved consistency, with the understanding of the multiple variables discussed today (e.g., budget/fiscal considerations, fall/spring vs. winter/summer, accreditation needs, retention/completion needs, cross listing, Early College, "closed" status for IS on Banner, among other items I may have missed). Faculty leaders support this topic for our upcoming FLC meeting on 4/7 and Julia and I are scheduled to connect beforehand as well.*
- Provost Irwin and I have not yet been able to follow up at the writing of this report but are scheduled to meet. The 4/7 FLC meeting with administration is also in the process of being rescheduled.

- **“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 was passed by the Faculty Senate on 3/12. As stated in the President’s Report for the 3/12 meeting, “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 was) “**a time-sensitive resolution if the implementation of the change is (was) to occur beginning in Fall 2025 (if passed and approved by the University President) —the 3/12 meeting is (was) the only remaining regularly scheduled senate meeting to deliberate this resolution.** I signed the Resolution on 3/14 after which time it was immediately forwarded to the University President. At the writing of this report, the Resolution has not been signed by the President.

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 4/2/2025 meeting** –

- Resolution regarding Discontinuation of the P & T Guidebooks* (unfinished business)– The Personnel Policy (PPC) will reintroduce this resolution which proposes elimination of the guidebooks. The Procedures document will remain regardless of the outcome of this resolution and deliberation.
- Draft: Resolution Regarding Supplemental Department P&T Guidelines* (unfinished business)– The Academic Policy (APC) will introduce this resolution which proposes that departments may develop supplemental guidelines with certain conditions.
- Resolution Regarding Abstentions in the Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Committee* (new business)– The Personnel Policy (PPC) will introduce this resolution which proposes to

eliminate the option for abstentions by members of the P & T Committee and instead require members to cast their final vote either to “recommend” or “not recommend.”

- d) *Resolution Regarding Automatic Reconsideration in the Promotion & Tenure (P&T) Process* (new business)– The Personnel Policy (PPC) and I will introduce this resolution which proposes to expand the process of automatic reconsideration to include promotion candidates.
  - e) *Draft: Resolution on CBS Travel Funds for AY 2025-2026 (new business)*– The Finance Committee will present these initial proposals at the 4/2 meeting in preparation for final voting on the Resolution and subsequent MOA developed with SCSU-AAUP and administration at a later meeting. The Resolution mirrors the faculty travel allowances from AY 24-25.
  - f) *Resolution Supporting the Administrative Faculty Senate And For The Calling For Standardized Inclusive Search Procedures For Senior Campus Leadership Positions* (new business)– The Executive Committee will present this Resolution which seeks to endorse the recent Resolution passed by the Administrative Faculty Senate and signed by the University President.
- 6) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.
- *Resolution Regarding “W” Course Caps* – as described earlier in this report, I signed the Resolution on 3/14 after which time it was immediately forwarded to the University President. At the writing of this report, the Resolution has not been signed by the President.
  - *Resolution for Information Statement on the Value of Service at the University* – I signed the Resolution on 3/14 after which time it was immediately forwarded to the University President. At the writing of this report, the Resolution has not been signed by the President.