

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report - May 4, 2020

Recognition, thanks, and a fond farewell

Jerry Dunklee - We bid a fond farewell to Professor Jerry Dunklee, longtime Faculty Senator, who is retiring this year. For more than 34 years, Jerry has served as a professor and former, longtime chairperson of the Journalism Department. He came to the university after decades in radio broadcasting. He co-created a course now in the LEP on First Amendment rights, and co-authored a text on the subject. He has been the go-to instructor for broadcast reporting and media law and ethics. Beyond the classroom, Jerry has served as the longtime adviser of WSIN radio and as the adviser to the SCSU Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. His impact on the students he advises both academically, and in clubs, has created lifelong partnerships with department alums. Jerry has also represented the department for nearly his entire tenure on the Faculty Senate, where he is an outspoken advocate for faculty and students' rights. We turn to Jerry when it is time to call the question and will miss him dearly.

We also bid farewell to Walter Stutzman, Faculty Senator, representing part-time faculty. Walter has enhanced our Senate through his dedicated service on the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Technology Committee. He has tirelessly advocated for faculty and students in these roles. Walter will continue to teach and play an active role in other campus activities.

Finally, we bid farewell to Ilene Crawford, Associate VP of Academic Affairs as she leaves for a new position as VP of AA at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Ilene has been a tremendous resource and advocate for faculty and students in her position as AVP and in her prior position as Director of Interdisciplinary Studies. We wish her well in this new opportunity.

For the 5/6/20 meeting

Resolution on digital evaluation files and paper applications (to be sent Tuesday) - The impetus of this resolution is the concern regarding the use of paper files for the evaluation process and other paper applications, e.g., sabbatical. Given that our presence on campus in the fall is tenuous, the EC believes it to be in the best interest of faculty and all evaluators to move to an all-digital format for evaluations beginning in AY 2020-2021, as opposed to the phasing-in process that had been planned. Other considerations include the possible passing of germs through the handling of paper files and the greater necessity for human contact at a time when we may still need to mitigate such contact. Further, we wish to get the paper files back into the hands of their owners, recognizing that they are currently located in various places, so that faculty can begin the process of uploading their content to digital files in BB9 and have as much advanced notice as possible. We have had a more-or-less successful year in terms of our pilot project this year for utilizing digital files and believe we have the knowledge and tools that we need to successfully transition to all-digital in the coming year.

Resolution on course class enrollment caps (to be send Tuesday) - It is currently unclear whether our fall classes will be held online, on ground or a combination of these two options. The class cap of 25 is already utilized for all online courses; current on ground caps may be set higher, however, a higher cap will likely not be safe for the fall. The EC believes that urgent action is needed to address this issue now so that adjustments can be made ASAP to courses for which caps and registration exceeds 25 students. Any further delays will result in an even greater number of students who will need to be displaced from courses and moved to other sections.

Resolution on Research Reassigned Time (sent together with this report) - The impetus for this resolution was a request by the Provost last spring that the Senate come up with a proposal for a 9/9 teaching load with 6 credits of RRT in an academic year. As the PPC worked on the proposal and received clarification from the Provost, it became clear that this model would not be possible for SCSU, given the current limited number of RRT credits available. Therefore, the charge shifted midyear to the committee designing a procedure for the assignment of RRT in a manner that would be equitable and transparent and allow for faculty to apply for longer blocks of time in order to enable long-term planning for their creative activity. To this end, the PPC presents this resolution. The resolution for our deliberation this week is identical to the one sent out last week except for the addition of several new clauses which appear in red. These clauses were added as the result of three hours of meetings between the EC, PPC, Provost, and President and an additional 2 hours of meetings among the PPC and EC, all last Friday.

Updates

Referendum on the Constitution - The ballot is closed for this referendum. A total of 201 faculty voted, which met the 200-minimum needed. The Constitution has been approved with 193 in favor and 8 opposed.

All University Elections - The ballot will be available later this week, for a period of one week, through Blackboard 9, in a manner similar to that used for the referendum.

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

2+2 Adhoc Committee - As a follow up to the presentation by the Co-chairs of this committee, Jonathan Wharton and Barbara Cook, their report has been posted in its own channel (sidebar) in the Senate Team. Unfortunately, we did not have time for questions or comments at our last meeting, however, you may post these in the Posts section of that channel. If there is time at our meeting this week, we will open the floor to questions towards the end of the meeting. The timeframe and the urgency of several COVID-19-related resolutions did not leave the EC enough time to work on a resolution to outline the next steps in moving this project forward, however, this will be done in early fall.

Summer business - At our last meeting, the need for a contingency plan was discussed regarding Senate business that may arise over the summer and require input or decisions. In reviewing the resolution Authorizing the Faculty Senate EC to Act on Behalf of the Faculty Senate because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was decided that following the provisions of this resolution are adequate for our needs and there is no need to write a new resolution. Therefore, as issues arise over the summer break, current Senators will be invited to provide input within a 24-hour period of time. The EC will take this input into consideration to assist us in formulating our decisions. The EC is neither

encouraging nor discouraging Senators from participating; under no circumstance should a Senator feel obligated to do so.

Current Exigency policies - The EC discussed the current exigency policies in place for this semester, including pass/fail, incomplete grades, and course withdrawals. These provisions will expire at the end of the spring semester. At the current time, we have decided against putting any provisions in place for the summer semesters or the fall, recognizing that at some point we may need to revisit this decision.

Update from Registrar, Alicia Carroll

Pass-Fail

The Registrar’s Office has processed 1,910 undergraduate contracts and 48 graduate contracts to date. We still have another 150+ in the pipeline and understand departments/advisors may also be wrapping up approvals this week that still need to be sent in.

Important Dates

Spring Reading Day May 7th

Spring Finals May 11th – May 17th

Final Grades due May 20th

Summer Session A begins May 26th

Update from Julie Edstrom, Interim VP of Enrollment Management

Admissions Statistics Summary				
<i>Southern CT State University</i>				
<i>Same point in time previous year comparison</i>				
Graduate (05.04.20)				
	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Admitted</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>
Fall 2019	1355	346		118
Fall 2020	1534	549		121
Change	13.2%	58.7%		2.5%
Undergraduate (05.04.2020)				
First Year				
	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Admitted</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>
Fall 2019	8986	6105	1154	2
Fall 2020	8349	6575	738	7
Change	-7.1%	7.7%	-36.0%	250.0%
Transfer				

	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Admitted</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>
Fall 2019	1194	518	177	88
Fall 2020	1070	467	203	84
Change	-10.4%	-9.8%	14.7%	-4.5%

Clarifying notes for the above:

Graduate doesn't collect a deposit, so the confirmed column is blank for that reason.

Undergraduate confirmation deposits are traditionally due May 1st, so while we are -36% compared to this time last year, we have extended the deadline this year to June 1. It is not projected that we will ultimately end up 36% below last year for freshmen.

Travel Funds

Available Faculty Travel Funds as of: May 4, 2020 (for 5-6-20 Meeting)				
Fund	Starting Balance	Spent	Encumbered	Balance
FT "AAUP" Travel	329,387.78	127,399.40	114,052.13	87,936.25
PT "AAUP" Travel	35,505.07	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-2020-10	4/1/20 5/4/20	Faculty Senate Constitution	Approval - Senate Approval - Referendum	pending	
S-2020-11	4/1/20	Faculty Senate Bylaws	Approval	pending	
S-2020-12	4/1/20	Travel funds 2020-2021	Approval	Approved	
S-2020-13	4/26/20	Distance Learning	Approval	pending	

S-2020-14	4/26/20	Faculty title	Approval	pending	
S-2020-					