

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – August 28, 2024, meeting

- 1) **>Welcome & Introductions** – I extend a welcome to a new academic year to the entire faculty, including new, returning, full- and part-time colleagues, teaching faculty, library faculty, counseling faculty, coaches and athletic trainers and faculty on special appointment. Well wishes to all for a productive and successful year!
1. **Welcome to our Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Julia Irwin!** I look forward to working together with Dr. Irwin as we all navigate this academic year.
 2. I would like to express a very warm welcome to our new and returning senators. Welcome to a new year of Faculty Senate business and important service to the University! **I will ask all senators to introduce yourselves at the 8/28 meeting.**
 3. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, I also send greetings to our colleagues throughout the University, along with a reminder that everyone is welcome to sit in on full Faculty Senate meetings as observers, when Faculty Senate conducts its business.
 4. Faculty Senate will host several guests including Dr. D., Interim University President, and Interim Provost Dr. Irwin to share messages of welcome at the 8/28 meeting.
- 2) **Executive Committee** – I'd like to share a message of sincere appreciation to the incredible leadership of the outgoing AY 23-24 Executive Committee.
1. **Maria Diamantis**
 2. **Luke Eilderts**
 3. **Klay Kruczek**
 4. **Elliott Horch**
 5. **Doug Macur**
 6. **Paul Petrie**
 7. **Michael Shea**
 8. **Cindy Simoneau**
 9. **Amanda Strong**
 10. **Stephen Monroe Tomczak "Zak"**
 11. **Melanie Uribe**
 12. **Jeffrey Webb**

The election for the AY 24-25 Faculty Senate Officers (President & Treasurer) occurred in Spring 2024 and I would like to thank **Cindy Simoneau** for continuing in the role of Treasurer and **Luke Eilderts** for agreeing to continue in the role of Secretary.

The election for standing committee chairpersons, who will also serve as members of the AY 24-25 Executive Committee and members of the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) is a priority of our 8/28 meeting. All faculty senators are eligible to serve as standing committee chairs, and co-chairs are permissible under our Senate documents, with a three consecutive 1-year term limit for the chairperson role.

Standing committee breakout rooms will be open via Zoom during this portion of the 8/28 meeting

and committees will vote for their chair(s) during this time. Following the conclusion of the 8/28 meeting, we will hold our first executive session. If you are interested in one of these positions, please plan to stay after the conclusion of the full senate session.

- 3) ***Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation*** – Senators, please engage with your constituents about the importance of faculty service as we prepare for the upcoming academic year. Service is not just a category of faculty evaluation; service is a mechanism by which faculty influence, give input, and engage the faculty’s voice within our collective community. Whilst you’ve understandably heard a similar message each year, given fiscal challenges, **it is critical to state that faculty service and engagement in shared governance remain of the utmost importance. A unified faculty is a strong faculty.**

Continuing with last year’s practice, a list will appear next to the attendance list on our meeting agendas. This is a list of senators empowered by the Faculty Senate to represent the Faculty Senate and thereby representing the faculty body in their role and contributions to the respective committee/group in which shared governance of business is being conducted with a duty to report back to the Faculty Senate minimally once per semester (additional reports determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate). It is recommended representatives also seek the Faculty Senate’s support and endorsement for matters determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate. **The goal of the list is to maintain organization and transparency of Faculty Senate representation. Only names appearing on this list have the support of the Faculty Senate to represent the Faculty Senate in the respective area or business conducted. If you are a senator serving or otherwise representing Faculty Senate in any capacity and your name and committee/group assignment does not appear on the list, please contact me starlingn1@southernct.edu and Luke Eilderts eilderts1@southernct.edu.**

- 4) ***Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget*** – CSU-AAUP faculty leaders and other senate and curriculum faculty leaders across the system are engaging in on-going communication regarding the fiscal issues impacting the system. Contract negotiations are also taking place this year. Please closely attend to announcements related to these topics as the year progresses.

A reminder that the Finance Committee continues to gather senators’/faculty perspectives and suggestions. Please reach out to [Cindy Simoneau](mailto:Cindy.Simoneau@southernct.edu), FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair.

- 5) ***Technology – Artificial Intelligence (AI)*** – A reminder that Faculty Senate upholds academic freedom and therefore cannot/will not propose requirements that faculty take any specific action related to use of technology in the classroom, including AI. Faculty Senate approved a [Resolution](#) last spring with suggestions for faculty wishing to clarify sanctioned or unsanctioned use of AI in their course syllabi and well as a [Resolution](#) in Spring 2023 declaring senate’s position on the use of AI-powered tools. Faculty Senate will continue to engage in on-going review of this matter to ensure faculty receive up-to-date information and recommendations.
- 6) ***Technology – Blackboard*** – Please see communications throughout the year from Academic Technology. Our learning management system (LMS) upgrade will continue with the transition from Blackboard Learn 9 to the more modern Blackboard Learn Ultra platform. [Trevor Broliar](#) of Academic Technology will available during our 8/28 meeting for questions.

- 7) **Technology – Faculty Evaluation** – SCSU-AAUP, Academic Affairs, Human Resources, the new Faculty Coordinator for Interfolio, and I engaged in conversations during Summer 2023, AY 2023-2024, and Summer 2024 and my impression is **the possibility of Interfolio use for faculty evaluation is still under review and faculty should be aware of the possibility of remaining with Blackboard as the platform for candidate files until further notice. More information will be announced as soon as it is available.**
- 8) **The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration** – This group is scheduled to meet on 9/3 to discuss and monitor multiple topics. Meetings are scheduled once monthly typically on select Monday afternoons.
- 9) **Preparation for the 8/28/2024 meeting** –
- a. Standing committee chairpersons election is priority for our 8/28 meeting.
 - b. A friendly reminder shared by Luke Eilderts: the Elections Committee has been officially disbanded since it was determined that the duties of this committee would be better served by **Elections Officers**.
 1. The **first Elections Officer** will also serve on the Executive Committee. The **second Elections officer** will assist the first Elections Officer where needed.
 2. If you are interested in nominating or self-nominating for these important roles, please send me (starlingn1@southernct.edu) an email. The Election Officers are appointed by the President of the Faculty Senate and approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. We kindly ask that nominations be submitted by midnight on August 28th as Executive Committee business and duties for the Election Officers begin expeditiously. If you have questions about the role, Klay Kruczek (kruczekk3@southernct.edu), former chair of the committee, would be happy to answer them.
 - c. Guests – As is our tradition, the President and Provost have been invited to address the Faculty Senate. We have a number of guests also planned, including those mentioned above as well as Kari Swanson, SCSU-AAUP President. This is an excellent opportunity for Q&A.
 - d. Travel Funds Report for AY 24-25 - TBA

Full Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
FT Rollover				
FT New				
Combined Total				

Part Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
PT Rollover				
PT New				
Combined Total				

- 10) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.