

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – September 17, 2025 meeting**

**1) Announcements –**

Please join me in congratulating our newly appointed Faculty Senate Secretary, **Shawneen Buckley** who will be filling in for **Luke Eilderts** this semester while he is on sabbatical. I would also like to thank **Dan Swartz** for agreeing to continue in the role of Elections Officer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome newly elected senators. Thank you for your service. Without your commitment, it would not be possible to do the work of the senate, and our fundamental premise of shared governance would suffer. In that vein,

I also extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of our executive committee for 25-26, who dedicate much of their time to the betterment of this university.

Shawneen Buckley

Maria Diamantis

Libby Hurlbert

Amy Jansen

Deborah Morrill

Paul Petrie

Christine Petto

Natalie Starling

Stephan Tomczak

Aashma Uprety

Jeff Webb

Jonathon Wharton

**2) Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation** – Senators, please anticipate upcoming announcements from Elections about opportunities and elections to be held for the following:

1. Liaison to the **Administrative Faculty Senate**
2. Liaison to **Student Government Association**
3. If you are interested in running the Newer Faculty Discussion Group, please contact Daisy Torres-Baez (torresbaezd1@southernct.edu). They are currently seeking interested parties.

**3) Meeting with the chancellor**

I and the other Senate Presidents of our system schools met with Chancellor Maduko before the semester began. He is formerly the President of the community college arm of our system.

Here is a summary of things discussed.

When asked about his vision for the system he began by highlighting the concept that CSU campus stories need to be told better/louder/more often

He said that he is working with the marketing firm retained by the system office (called **Rebellion**), telling them they should focus on the individual campuses, not on the system. He thought a system-wide meeting with all marketing directors had taken place. He emphasized that each campus has a unique presence and should be marketed as such. He very much wants to know about what is happening on campus and to be able to celebrate the successes we have.

I mentioned that there is a lot of anger on campus due to the debacle that was the presidential search and we wanted to make sure nothing like that happened again.

He stated that the search committee did a fabulous job and Southern presented itself well. He spoke about how the CSU system before the election was in the news more than the election and we were not presented in a good light. He felt a number of factors contributed to the situation. In order to avoid anything like that happening again, he wants to do a post-mortem of the process by gathering parties involved. Western would like to be involved as well because they just had a presidential search as well. I mentioned that many on the campus loved Dr. D and were very disappointed by the outcome and if there was something wrong with Dr. D's application, he should have been vetted before he was placed in the interim position. He agreed that this was reasonable. I also asked about the search for chancellor and how Southern would be involved. He stated that the choice of chancellor would be made by the board but he could advocate for our involvement and broker meetings between us and the board.

A big theme of the discussion involved transparency. He feels last year was one in which relationships were harmed and trust was broken. He wants to gain our trust through transparency and is working towards achieving that.

He then listed his 5 goals:

1. Create an **HR1 (the "big beautiful bill") Working Group** to examine the effects of the federal budget bill on our campuses. One thing he highlighted was the impact of the lifetime limit of student financial aid (\$200,000) and its effect on graduate students.
2. Create a **Workforce and Economic Development Advisory Council**
3. Develop a person-centered AI Policy
4. Create a **Roadmap to Digital Transformation** - this was specifically about the fact that **Banner** is moving into a cloud computing environment, which means the way Banner works is going to change significantly, and because it is so integral to our work, we need to understand what is coming down the pipe
5. Focus on accountability and rebuilding trust. He wants to establish a committee dedicated to creating transparency at the systems office.

He assured us that faculty would be a part of all committees, that it was a crucial component. I have invited him to meet with the Senate and will be issuing an invitation through his administrative assistant.

Jeff Schlicht from Western then asked him to address one of the concerns that arose at the BOR meeting, as expressed by Professor Rob Whittemore, regarding the activity of immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) in Danbury. He did not have anything new to add from a system level. **He stated our local police department should be the people who interact with ICE agents that may come on campus** (asking them for warrants, etc.), and he emphasized that this is a very complicated legal situation. His personal perspective is that the best thing we can do is avoid the spotlight so we don't attract attention (because that would make our vulnerable population even more vulnerable). This was said in a personal capacity, not in his role as Chancellor, but I think it's useful for us to understand his perspective.

I emailed Chancellor Maduko last week for an update on the working group for HR1. He replied,

*Regarding HR1, we continue to closely monitor developments while updating our state government partners. There remain rulemaking matters at the federal level that must be finalized before states and higher education institutions can make the necessary plans and adjustments. At CSCU, we have shared a draft HR1 workgroup charge with our institutional presidents with the intention of including institutional representatives and working with our institutional senates to ensure meaningful shared governance involvement.*

I have invited Chancellor Maduko to meet with the senate on our meeting of November 12, 2025. In addition, I will be meeting with him next week to discuss the presidential search at Southern. Please feel free to email me with any questions or insights you have about the process.

#### **4). The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration –**

The Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meets monthly with administration –We will typically meet on the first Monday of the month, but due to the holiday, we found an alternative date for this month. The FLC met with President Bulmer and Provost Irwin on September 18, 2025. Topics discussed included the termination of Aporto and Zoom. Aporto was purchased to help our students during COVID with COVID funds. The university did not renew it. Zoom is active until January, but we will lose access after that. The provost said that individual departments can purchase their own Zoom accounts, but it will not be supported University-wide. We also spoke about the Travel office backlog. The administration apologized for the inconvenience and have pulled people from other work to try to decrease the backlog.

There are upcoming training sessions on how to fill out Travel Authorization Forms. The schedule is below.

#### **Accounts Payable Fundamentals (Online)**

- [Microsoft Teams](#): October 3rd, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- [Microsoft Teams](#): October 10th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

#### **Travel Basics - Travel Authorizations & Travel Reimbursements (Online)**

- [Microsoft Teams](#): October 3rd, 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- [Microsoft Teams](#): October 10th, 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

#### **Travel Drop-In-Session - Hands-on Guidance (In-Person)**

Bring your Travel Authorization or Travel Reimbursement to discuss directly with AP staff.

- *Wintergreen Banner Room*: October 17th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We will be holding an additional meeting to discuss faculty concerns regarding the HR1 impact on our university.

#### **5). BOR meeting**

The latest BOR meeting took place on Thursday September 25, 2025. The Board of Regents meetings are a nice place to share stories of what we are doing at Southern. Please consider making public comments at the BOR to advertise the wonderful work we do here and the impact of what we do with our students. It is available to watch on YouTube.

#### **6). Calendars**

The calendars for Promotion & Tenure (P&T), Renewal, and Assessment are posted on the Faculty Senate (FS) website. The Faculty Creative Activity and Research Grant FCARG calendar is also posted. Additionally, it was emailed out on 8/29/25. The calendar listing Senate meetings is on the FS website too. The Sabbatical calendar is also posted.

#### **7). Preparation for the meeting on 10/1/25**

If you have not yet chosen a subcommittee, please do so. We will be having Jordan Jones from the Administrative Faculty Senate address us. It will give us a chance to hear what the AFS is focusing on this year and discuss ways in which we can collaborate. I have also invited President Bulmer to share with us what her vision for Southern and ways in which we can support her work. I have also invited Chair Guay to attend one of our meetings. I will keep you updated when I hear back.



**4) Preparation for the 9/17/2025 meeting –**

- a. Resolution Regarding **Revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws** – this resolution and the update to the by-laws is a clarification to the intended changes to the by-laws that occurred in Spring 2024, specifically that the intent was not to exclude Elections representation on the Executive Committee but to continue this representation.
- b. Travel Funds Report for AY 25-26 – as of 9/11/24. 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.

- 5) 2025-2026 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.