

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – September 18, 2024, meeting

1) Announcements –

A reminder about the **SCSU-AAUP Assembly** to be held on Thursday, September 26th, 2-3:30pm in EN B121. Please see recent email announcement.

Thank you to all who self-nominated for the new Elections Officer positions of the Faculty Senate. Congratulations to our First Elections Officer, **Owen Biesel**, and Second Elections Officer, **Dan Swartz**, and thank you both for your willingness to serve in these roles.

A reminder that the Faculty Senate will be conducting elections for All-University Committees. Faculty wishing to serve on a committee can fill out the self-nomination form available via the link in the upcoming email announcement. Self-nominations must be submitted by **the deadline specified in the upcoming email**. Please contact Owen Biesel at bieselo1@southernct.edu with questions.

I'd like to share a message of welcome and gratitude to the leadership of the AY 24-25 Executive Committee.

1. Luke Eilderts
2. Cindy Simoneau
3. Maria Diamantis
4. Owen Biesel
5. Dan Swartz
6. Doug Macur
7. Paul Petrie
8. Michael Shea
9. Joan Weir
10. Stephen Monroe Tomczak
11. Jeffrey Webb

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

1. **Part-time Faculty Senator** election
2. liaison to the **Administrative Faculty Senate**
3. Faculty Senate representatives for the **University Budget Committee** and **University Space Committee**. Thank you, President Smith and Mark Rozewski for the invitations.
 - i. I recommend our FS Treasurer and at least 2 faculty members will serve on these committees
 - ii. should no or a limited number of faculty senators indicate interest, the Faculty Senate will seek representatives from the faculty at-large

A reminder that our senate by-laws were recently updated to allow for senators serving in such roles to be excused from standing committee obligations. Here are the relevant passages: *“Accountability of Senators A. Senators are expected to attend Faculty Senate and Standing Committee (or Senate representatives on university committees) meetings regularly. An attendance roster as part of the meeting minutes will be present on the Faculty Senate website. B. Senators may be excused from attending Faculty Senate meetings by the Faculty Senate President (or designee) and from Standing Committee meetings by the Committee Chairperson (or Cochairperson) or by Faculty Senate leadership for work as a Senate representative on university committees. ...”*

- 3) **Technology – Navigate Issues** – UCF representatives reported to the UCF chairperson concerns about access and disclosure of personal information in Navigate. Thank you to those faculty members who brought this to faculty leaders’ attention.

At the time of the writing of this report, the matter remains unresolved. A summary of the issue, along with details provided by Academic Advising, is below:

- Faculty and those students designated as student workers can search Navigate and see all of any students grades and/or information including home address, phone, and Pell grant status. Contact info (address, cell, etc.) is also currently available in Banner Advisor.
- This information also shows for faculty members with current or past status as a SCSU student. For example, a search of a faculty member’s name who had at any time held status as a SCSU student reveals their home address.
- Academic Advising reported:
 - “Back when Navigate was being implemented, we gave all faculty/staff addition "student" roles in the system. This allowed them to "see what a student sees" when in the platform. This way, if they were working with a student who was trying to schedule an appointment, they could help them navigate the system.”
 - “THE ISSUE: Since every faculty/staff member also had a STUDENT profile in Navigate, all other faculty/staff/student workers (with Nav profile access) could see their contact info.”
 - “THE SOLUTION: We've removed the STUDENT role from almost all faculty/staff. The only faculty/staff who still have a student role in Navigate are those who actually have a genuine student role coming over from Banner. This should fix most of the issues. We're also working with EAB to help us to better customize the information that can be seen on a student's Navigate profile page. Right now, it's essentially all or nothing. We're asking for a way to simply turn off the contact info for certain user roles.”
- Academic Advising followed-up with our Navigate Support Specialist and shared:
 - “Currently, only faculty with the "faculty advisor" role can search on all students. Adjuncts can only see info on students in their courses.”
 - “99.9% of faculty/staff users who have the ability to view student info such as courses, grades, gpa, etc. in Navigate MUST BE given the advisor role in Banner first before they will be able to see this in Navigate. This is how we ensure that the university approves this access before seeing it in Navigate. So, the registrar is the one approving this access to student info, since having banner advisor access also allows faculty/staff to view the same info in Banner. We will likely need to make adjustments in Navigate so that they only have access to their assigned advisees and/or students in their courses. This is easy to set up. One thing we'll have to figure out...should professors have access to the grades of students in their classes whom

they don't advise?"

- “Perhaps most important...student workers can only see other students' BASIC profile...which includes major, current classes, contact info. Some with a slightly higher level of access (CASAS Peer Coaches/Tutors, etc.) can also see a very limited amount of appointment history. For example, a Peer Academic Coach could see notes from a student's previous visits to CASAS. NO student workers are able to view grades for any other student. If there are graduate assistants/interns who have access to grades, that has been granted via Banner.”
- “As far as student workers are concerned, the only inappropriate info they have access to is phone and address for other students. These student workers all should have gone through a FERPA training...just want to make sure that is known. Regardless, we're working with EAB to try and fix this address/phone issue ASAP.”

4) **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. **This information is unchanged and there are no further updates at the writing of this report.**

5) **Meeting with Chancellor Cheng** – Luke and I met with Chancellor Cheng on 9/18 as an initial conversation at the start of AY 24-25. Our impression from the conversation was a positive start to our working relationship for this year. We confirmed we received the invitation from NCHEMS for a second meeting following the first in Spring 2024 and will be sending multiple faculty representatives from the FS Executive Committee to the meeting to be held on Sept 18th. We also confirmed that NCHEMS was commissioned by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). We inquired specifically about the SCSU Presidential Search and learned that the search will not commence during Fall 2024 and that more information will be forthcoming. An invitation has been extended to the Chancellor to join any of the remaining Faculty Senate meetings this semester.

6) **Preparation for the 9/18/2024 meeting** –

- a. **Guests – Newer Faculty Discussion Group** – we will welcome the group facilitator, Patrick Crowley, to share information about this opportunity for faculty in their first five years of service at SCSU.
- b. **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.
- c. **Travel Funds Report for AY 24-25** – **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.

Index	Description	FY 2025 Budget	FY2025 Expenses	FY2025 Encumbrance	FY 2025 Balance	Index	Estimated FY24 Carryover
AUP769	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel FT - 2025	\$ 365,530.00	\$ 3,370.00	\$ 29,924.48	\$ 332,235.52	AUP768	171,304.30
AUP772	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel PT - 2025	40,614.00	-	2,800.00	37,814.00	AUP771	10,076.66
VPA017	Faculty Creative Activity-RG	85,000.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	80,500.00	VPA017	-
VPA018	Faculty Creative Activity-Travel	85,000.00	-	-	85,000.00	VPA018	-
Totals		\$ 576,144.00	\$ 5,620.00	\$ 34,974.48	\$ 535,549.52		\$ 181,380.96

- 7) 2024-2025 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.