SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – January 25, 2023, meeting

1) ***Information from Technology Committee regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI), OpenAI, & ChatGPT –*** We have received many questions about artificial intelligence and its impact on higher education, and concerns about ChatGPT, specifically. Updates to policies and further guidelines will be needed throughout our campus community. The Technology Committee will share some preliminary information about AI and ChatGPT at our 1/25 meeting. The initial goal is to help rapidly increase faculty awareness, support an informed faculty body about this topic, and to prompt all faculty to reflect on the potential immediate impact, advantages, and disadvantages of AI on their courses and other work. Following this preliminary presentation, a Resolution that establishes the faculty's stance on both the potential benefits and misuses of AI will be forthcoming (anticipated for a February Senate meeting). **Please share the information you receive at the 1/25 meeting with your constituents as soon as possible.**

2) ***Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation / Shared Governance*** On-going challenges with filling faculty service opportunities remain. To help address these challenges, the following actions are being taken:
   a. The Executive Committee and FLC communicated these challenges to the President and Provost at our recent 1/23/23 meeting when discussing the possible future impacts of budget and fiscal issues (e.g., reduction of reassigned time) and recounted the Graduate Council's challenge filling a critical curriculum committee chairperson role in Fall 2022 as a prime example.
   b. The Elections Committee will present a Resolution to move the filling of LTEC seats to the All-University Committees election process.
   c. The Personnel Policy (PPC) has the topic of revisiting the value of service, both in terms of university functioning and faculty roles/responsibilities as outlined in faculty evaluation language from the CBA, as one of their charges.
   d. The Executive Committee is drafting a Resolution (anticipated for a February Senate meeting) that proposes that senators who serve in formal capacities that represent Senate (i.e., on the list below) may be excused from standing committee commitments.
   e. Faculty Senate will continue to maintain a list of senators empowered by the body 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 upon request). The goal of the list is to maintain organization and transparency of Faculty Senate representation. **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 eildertsl1@southernct.edu.**

3) ***The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration –*** This group met on 1/23/23 to continue discussions and monitoring of the following:
   a. ***Budget/Fiscal Issues*** – In addition to the details provided above, the group confirmed that

Deans/departments have been asked to explore if and how a 25% reduction of reassigned time might be possible given the need to address gaps in budgets for upcoming fiscal years (particularly 2025). President Joe is scheduled to address the Faculty Senate at our 1/25 meeting and may speak further to budget and fiscal issues.

b. ***Digital Files & Faculty Evaluation–*** The potential for a different platform (other than Blackboard) for future evaluation cycles was discussed by the group. Though no commitment to purchase another platform has been made, AAUP, the chairs of the P & T Committee, PPC, and the Technology Committee along with other stakeholders will be attending a demo of **Interfolio** in early February.

> A reminder that if you've experienced any issues with Blackboard and the current faculty evaluation process please reach out to Trudy Milburn milburnt1@southernct.edu, and copy me starlingn1@southernct.edu and Linda Cunningham cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu.

c. ***Ad-hoc Committee for Non-credit, Continuing Education & Micro-credentialing*** –The Executive Committee and FLC were informed that the search for the new Director for Continuing Education "failed." The Provost shared with faculty leaders that the candidate cited a reason was Faculty Senate's establishment of this ad hoc committee. Faculty leaders and administration will endeavor to keep this item of business on future meeting agendas. It is my hope that we can continue discussions and move forward together in a way that supports the goals and interests of all parties to create a robust, high-quality, and sustainable offering of continuing education, non-credit, and micro-credentialing opportunities here at Southern. As there has been and continues to be faculty interest, efforts, and collaboration among faculty, administration, staff/IT, and students, the ad hoc committee will continue as outlined in the document voted upon and approved by the body on 12/7/22. The committee met on 1/17/23, established a Teams account, and is proceeding with scheduling meetings with Meredith Sinclair fulfilling a coordinator role until such time as the committee establishes its full membership and elects a chair.

4) ***University Budget Committee meeting on 1/20/23***– The committee met to review progress toward addressing the goals outlined in President Cheng's letter to each of the CSUs and meetings will continue this spring. President Joe is scheduled to address the Faculty Senate at our 1/25 meeting and may speak further to budget and fiscal issues. **The Finance Committee would like to gather senators'/faculty perspectives and suggestions to bring to future meetings. Please reach out to Cindy Simoneau, FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair, simoneauc1@southernct.edu.**

5) ***Reassigned Time Committee***– The group reviewing the allocation of reassigned time across the university will continue its work this semester and will continue to review existing data for all reassigned time with a goal to present recommendations. **Please reach out to Troy Paddock, the Faculty Senate representative to this committee, with input and questions, paddockt1@southernct.edu.**

6) ***Senate visits to departments***– This is an optional and open opportunity and will remain open for the academic year. Please email me and Luke with any questions and to schedule a visit. Luke and I visited the following departments since the previous President's report and wish to thank the faculty for the opportunity.
   a. Library Faculty

7) ***Senate President Meetings***– In Fall 2022, the other Senate presidents and I established a monthly meeting schedule to remain united and in regular communication about joint and individual needs

and happenings across Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western. Our meetings have highlighted the need to continue to emphasize with our respective faculty bodies the importance of faculty awareness and attention to the events at Western and the NCHEMS WCSU Report sent in December – please see emails from 12/14/22 and 12/15/22. Please read the report thoroughly and encourage your constituents to also read the report.

8) *Preparation for the 1/25/2023 meeting* –
   a. Please attend to Technology's presentation during our meeting about AI and ChatGPT. Please ask questions and share these topics with your departments and constituents.

   b. *Resolution Regarding the Learning Technologies Committee (from Elections Committee)* – Please review the packet and item #2 above for additional context. The Elections Committee wishes to bring forward this Resolution for deliberations and voting.

   c. *Resolution Regarding Inclusions to The Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Renewal Procedures (from Academic Policy)* – Please review the packet. These updates would directly impact all faculty in the Renewal, Promotion, and Tenure evaluation process. Academic Policy has spent considerable time over multiple academic years inquiring with faculty and deliberating potential opportunities to streamline the faculty evaluation process as it pertains to candidate files and preparation of files. This Resolution is a result of those efforts and seeks to establish parameters to "remedy two perceived problems: file size and lack of clarity about what to include in the file." The proposed updates are:
      i. "Add professional statement with overview of overall file content of no more than 1000 words (approximately 4 double-spaced pages)"
      ii. "Add professional statement for each section of file, as defined by the first four contractually defined categories of evaluation. (See article IV.C.3)). Each statement shall be limited to 1000 words (approximately 4 double-spaced pages)"

   d. *Proposed Motion on in-person Faculty Senate Meetings* – Please review the packet. There is motion to meet at least twice in-person for Faculty Senate meetings beginning Spring 2023.

   e. *Guests* –
      • As is our typical practice at the start of a new semester, the President and Provost have been invited to address the Faculty Senate. This is an excellent opportunity for Q&A.
      • The Senate proudly recognizes the **new Student Government Association (SGA) representative Pierce Kozlowski**. Pierce's introduction will occur at the beginning of the 1/25 meeting. Pierce is extended a recurring invitation as a guest to the Student Policy Committee. Thank you to SPC members for their welcoming of our SGA representatives.

9) **On-going topics / "What's Going on with….?"**
   This section of the President's report is a repository of questions received by the Executive Committee in which information is still being gathered and on-going discussions are still being held. The Executive Committee welcomes additional questions and information from the university community.
      1. **ChatGPT –** See above.
      2. **Early College –** What is the status of the program (e.g., fall enrollments, faculty involvement)?

10) 2022-2023 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.