



**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – October 26, 2022, meeting**

- 1) ***Faculty Senate Support/Endorsement*** – Clarification to ensure there is no misrepresentation or misunderstanding of Faculty Senate endorsement. Faculty Senate welcomes scheduled presentations at regular and special full Faculty Senate meetings, standing committee meetings, and Executive Committee meetings regardless of presenter status (i.e., senator or guest). Historically, presentations have occurred as part of regular Faculty Senate business. Faculty Senate also recognizes sharing of information occurs outside Faculty Senate meetings. This can include communication with and/or invitations to join in activities made to faculty members who are also actively serving as a senator. Senators can, and often do, serve many roles in our campus community.

Unless explicitly voted upon by the body, presentations and communications to individual senators or the body are deemed informational-only and do not constitute receiving Faculty Senate support or endorsement. In such cases, Faculty Senate is simply acting in its role as the recipient of information. If a senator or guest wishes to formally receive support or endorsement from the Faculty Senate, such a request would need to be made to the body before or at the time of the presentation and a subsequent motion to endorse said presentation would be needed from the floor and then voted upon in the affirmative by majority vote of senators before a claim of support/endorsement can be made.

- 2) ***Digital Files & Faculty Evaluation*** – The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) are aware of continuing issues related to digital files and are looking into the matter. If you've experienced any issues please reach out to Trudy Milburn [milburnt1@southernct.edu](mailto:milburnt1@southernct.edu), and copy me [starlingn1@southernct.edu](mailto:starlingn1@southernct.edu) and Linda Cunningham [cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu](mailto:cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu).

- 3) ***Announcements – Service Opportunities***

We are seeking a Senate representative to the Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC).

We are seeking two Senate representatives for the University Library Committee (ULC).

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact me [starlingn1@southernct.edu](mailto:starlingn1@southernct.edu). If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact Klay Kruczek at [kruczekk3@southernct.edu](mailto:kruczekk3@southernct.edu)

- 4) ***Faculty Referendum*** – A reminder that the Faculty Referendum regarding the UCF-Approved Changes to the LEP is open for voting via Blackboard—please see email announcement on 10/21/22 for instructions. Voting will close at noon on 11/1/22. Thank you to Karen Musmanno and Klay Kruczek/the Elections Committee for coordinating the voting mechanism and process.

A reminder that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee wishes to offer the availability of a virtual repository for optional submissions and viewings of narrative statements. The Executive Committee received and reviewed a concern presented about a letter posted in the repository. A

few reminders: that the posting of these statements does not represent an endorsement by the Faculty Senate. Moreover, the Faculty Senate will not review statements for accuracy in relation to the proposed changes to the LEP. The goal of both the fora and the repository is the informed voting of faculty.

- 5) ***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.

- 1) Physics – “The Physics Department was pleased to meet with President Starling in our recent department meeting, and grateful for her interest in our work. We took the opportunity to inform her of our world-class research efforts, the large amount of external funding that we generate for the university, our dedication to teaching and mentoring, and the wide range of opportunities we can offer students both in our department and beyond. Our department mission is to provide high quality education and research experiences, with an emphasis on reaching underrepresented and underserved populations. We look forward to working with the Senate, the Administration and our colleagues across the University to continue to highlight the University’s strengths in STEM, as well as their many connections to the broader intellectual ecosystem on our campus. We believe strongly that our shared strengths across disciplines can be a powerful recruiting engine for Southern.”

Additionally, we visited the Student Government Association (SGA) and wish to thank Kyle Mashia-Thaxton, SGA President, Trevor Boczer, SGA representative to the Faculty Senate, and all members of SGA for the opportunity.

- 6) ***Initiating Conversation about Interactions, Communication, Climate/Morale*** – While not an agenda item of business for our 10/26 meeting, I am asking senators, as representatives of their constituents, to reflect on the Faculty Senate’s role in this topic and to prepare to discuss perspectives about what Faculty Senate supports in terms of interactions within our community both internal and external to Senate business. I recommend senators first reflect on this item individually, then discuss within their departments, discuss within standing committee meetings, and come prepared to engage in discussion at a future full Faculty Senate meeting. A reminder that the Faculty Senate has made past efforts to help our institution and community improve in this area, including our Resolution On Misogyny, Gender-Biased Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct ([Resolution S-2019-16](#)) and our stance on discouraging use of terminology such as “junior” and “senior” faculty via our Resolution Regarding Faculty Title Terminology ([Resolution S-2020-14](#)) are some examples. I am asking senators to reflect on what further progress can be made as relevant to the role of Faculty Senate.
- 7) ***Zoom*** – Currently, it is understood that Zoom was purchased with non-recurring funds. These funds are no longer available, and no funding source (person or budget) has been identified. Discussion will remain underway with IT and Academic Affairs regarding next steps and more information will be forthcoming when available. Please reach out to Tech Committee chair, Doug Macur [macurd1@southernct.edu](mailto:macurd1@southernct.edu) and Grad Council chair, Barbara Cook [cookb5@southernct.edu](mailto:cookb5@southernct.edu) with input and questions.

8) *Preparation for the 10/26/2022 meeting –*

a) *Resolutions from Rules and Student Policy Committees –* Please review the packet.

- 1) One Resolution from the Rules Committee addresses clarifications to Faculty Senate By-laws.
- 2) Two Resolutions from the Student Policy Committee which address:
  - a. The [Never-Attended Policy](#). The SPC, in consultation with Alicia Carroll, Student Accounts, Veterans/Financial Aid and the Comptroller, are recommending clarifying language resulting in a change from 0% refund to 60% refund specifically for this part of the policy: “Student attended some courses, but not all, however did not initiate withdraw from course they did not attend. Reported by instructor at end of week 2 as Never-Attended”.
  - b. The [Pass-Fail Policy](#). Clarifying language will be recommended such that students are informed about the option to consult with other individuals beyond their advisor (e.g., department chair, Academic Advising Specialist in Academic Advising) and what serves as evidence that the student is aware of the potential impact of their decision (i.e., the Pass-Fail form).

Additional information about each Resolution will be provided by the chairs of the relevant standing committees at our 10/26 meeting.

b) *Guests –* Provost Prezant will be joining us as a follow-up to the meetings and discussions regarding the Provost’s proposal of the Southern Fellows in Residence program. An invitation was extended to the Provost to share updates at a full Faculty Senate meeting and to share any additional information resulting from the meetings held in September. This is will also be a great opportunity for further Q & A from the body.

c) Travel Funds Report for AY 22-23 - as of **09/12/2022** – will be updated when data are available

Full Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
FT Rollover	\$548,508.55	\$32,411.85	\$20,404.56	\$495,692.14
FT New (AY23)	\$313,772.00	--	--	\$313,772.00
Creative Activity	\$85,000.00	\$6,842.82	--	\$78,157.18
Combined Total	<b>\$947,280.55</b>	<b>\$39,254.67</b>	<b>\$20,404.56</b>	<b>\$887,621.32</b>

Part Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
PT Rollover	\$47,573.45	--	--	--
PT New (AY23)	\$34,863.00	--	--	--
Combined Total	<b>\$82,436.45</b>	<b>\$5,090.40</b>	--	<b>\$77,346.05</b>

d) **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) **Increase in administrative positions** –There appears to be an increase in the number of administrative positions- is this happening? If so, how is this impacting the type of governing structure of the university? What problem is this a solution for?
    - a. Additional information has been requested by me to the Provost and President. The Provost may be able to speak to this topic at our 10/26 meeting.
  - 2) **Alignment and Completion of Mathematics and English (ACME)** – How will SCSU (as a CSU) be impacted by these changes? Is it true that all community college courses/credits will transfer to the CSUs as required course equivalents, whether or not faculty consider the courses equivalent?
  - 3) **Reassigned Time Committee** – What is the status of this committee?
    - a. This committee is now scheduled to meet on 10/27/22
  - 4) **Renovation of the former HHS Dean’s office in Engleman** – What is the cost and rationale for the renovation?
  - 5) **Early College** – What is the status of the program (e.g., fall enrollments, faculty involvement)?
- e) 2022-2023 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.