

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – October 27, 2021 meeting

I. Announcements

- 1) Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification - Colleen Bielitz, AVP, Strategic Initiatives and Outreach
- 2) From Sousan Arafeh – On Friday, 11/5, the [Integrated Justice and Social Change Collaborative](#) will be launched at 1pm in the ASC Ballroom. This interdisciplinary hub for coalition-building and engaged action has been created to support justice, equity, and social change. As part of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Collaborative advances SCSU's commitment to social justice and equitable change through the areas of education, research and partnerships with community and institutional stakeholders in Greater New Haven, nationally, and internationally. Please register for the event using the link above. Light refreshments will be served.

II. Preparation for 10/13/21 meeting – There are two resolutions for this meeting:

- 1) Revised bylaws from the University Mediation Committee
- 2) Grade appeal policy from Academic Policy – Please read the Index of Proposed Changes which sums up the essence of the revisions.

III. Updates

- 1) Follow up with administration on Faculty Development (FD) issues
On 10/22, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Leadership Council met with the President, Provost, Dean of the College of Education (COE), and AVP of Academic Affairs (AA AVP) to discuss the changes made to Faculty Development in light of the recent approval by the BOR of the proposal for a Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). In the proposal, FD and the Center for Educational and Assistive Technology (CEAT)¹ were co-opted into the CTL, including resources such as personnel, office space, central operating funds, etc. that were listed as funding sources (e.g., seed funding) to establish and support the CTL. Faculty are very concerned about both the process in terms of how this was handled as well as the housing of FD and CEAT in the COE which would be a very atypical location for these University-wide resources. Faculty were unaware of these changes until the proposal was noticed in the BOR agenda since no conversations had taken place with faculty.

¹ The Provost has stated that CEAT was withdrawn at the last moment and not included in the CTL proposal that went to the BOR, however, in the document that was approved by the BOR which appears on their website, CEAT is still included.

While the complete disregard for shared governance is extremely concerning to faculty, our immediate focus is to repair the damage that has been done to FD. Currently there is no FD Director or any faculty member working in the FD Office for the first time in probably over 30 years. The AA AVP stated that she is currently running programs for that office along with a staff member, however, this in no way meets the requirements of CBA 9.8 in providing “activities by and for all full- and part-time members that enhance their ability to be productive and innovative professionals” and valuable time has been and continues to be lost. Prior to the 2019-2020 academic year, FD had a 9 credit per semester Faculty Development Director. In 2019-2020, the 9 credits were split among three faculty members (Fellows) when Michele Vancour, the previous FD Director was appointed as interim Dean to HHS and there was a time crunch. Somewhere along the way, three credits of the nine were assigned to the Office of Diversity and Equity, resulting in a posting in spring 2021 of a reduced FD position for 6 credits. That position was ultimately cancelled in the spring and was never filled. Subsequently the two remaining Fellows were removed from their positions at the beginning of the fall semester. Recently there was a call to fill a 3-credit position FD position.

Some clarifications or statements that have been made by the administration during the interim include:

- a statement at the 10/22 meeting that a proposal of this nature (CTL) is a non-binding guideline
- a statement that the proposal may have been ‘sloppily’ done,
- an email by the Provost from 10/7 that stated: “Specifics of what will be “housed” in Faculty Development programs are, as always, open for discussion.”
- an email by the Provost from 10/7 that stated “...the Office of Faculty Development would essentially remain intact (as does the FD budget), including hosting support teams (e.g. creating teaching forums), and will still be overseen by the Provost’s Office.”
- A statement at the 10/22 meeting that the inclusion of FD into the proposal was a last-minute decision²
- A statement by the President at the 10/22 meeting that in his opinion 9 credits per semester may not be enough and that even though we have a description and list of what is being done in FD, we need to ask whether that is enough. He would like to see FD as more robust so that the faculty feel positive about the resources they are getting.
- A statement by the Provost at the 10/22 meeting acknowledging that FD may require more than 9 credits per semester and that there should be a conversation about this and that pre-set limitations should not be placed on the number of credits.

² however, there is information that this was already being discussed as least as early as March 2021.

At the end of the meeting, the President expressed his desire for the faculty leaders and the administration to hold a follow-up meeting to continue the discussion. This has been tentatively scheduled for 11/1.

- 2) Meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with the Provost’s Council – 10/14/21 – Among the topics on the agenda for this one-hour meeting were student opinion surveys, the desire on the part of the administration to seek Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification, and a discussion about a future potential of awarding Ph.D. Degrees at the University. The EC felt that the meeting was helpful and positive, however, the Provost had stated that this was to be only a one-time meeting. The EC would be interested in participating in additional meetings since we believe that this could serve to foster better communication between faculty and administration.

IV. Travel Funds Report

Travel Fund Report			Date:	10/22/2021
Full Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
FT Rollover	\$262,837.31	\$11,121.23	\$2,139.31	\$249,576.77
FT New	\$297,970.00	\$2,803.98	\$19,676.28	\$275,489.74
Creative Activity	\$85,000.00	\$3,975.96	\$32,918.72	\$48,105.32
Combined Total	\$645,807.31	\$17,901.17	\$54,734.31	\$573,171.83
Total Spent & Encumbered (S&E)		\$72,635.48	% S&E 11%	
Part Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
PT Rollover	\$30,078.00	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$29,228.00
PT New	\$33,108.00	\$0.00	\$5,125.00	\$27,983.00
Combined Total	\$63,186.00	\$850.00	\$5,125.00	\$57,211.00
Total Spent & Encumbered (S&E)		\$5,975.00	% S&E 9%	

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