

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – October 4, 2023, meeting

1) *Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation / Shared Governance* – At our 10/4 meeting we will hold elections for the following opportunities:

- two senate representatives for the University Library Committee (ULC). Please find additional information about the ULC in its [posted by-laws](#).
- one senate representative to the Administrative Faculty Senate (following an informational presentation by Jordan Jones, President of the AFS)

A reminder that there is a proposal for Faculty Senate by-laws changes that could allow for senators who serve in formal capacities representing Senate (i.e., on the list below the attendance table on our agendas) to be excused from standing committee commitments. This proposal is under review by the Rules Committee as the committee assigned to on-going review of our by-laws.

2) *Senate visits to departments visits* – Continuing with these outreach efforts from last academic year, Luke Eilderts, Faculty Senate Secretary, and I are again offering our availability to meet with faculty via department visits. This is an optional and open opportunity and will remain open for the academic year. I found these visits to be some of the most helpful opportunities to learn from and listen to faculty in preparation for much of the work encountered last year. Please email me and Luke with any questions and to schedule a visit.

3) *Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget* –

A note of gratitude to faculty members Drs. Sean Grace, Professor & Chairperson of the Department of Biology, and Michael Nizhnikov, Associate Professor & Chairperson of the Department of Psychology, for their presentations addressing the APP process during the Public Comment section of the BOR meeting held on 9/21/23. Thank you to Interim President Smith, for helping to arrange for SCSU to host the meeting in our Adanti Ballroom and for Dr. Smith's comments highlighting our SCSU's community's strengths and achievements at the outset of the BOR meeting. Faculty and community members can view the recording of the meeting on the BOR's website: <https://www.ct.edu/regents/archives>

CSU-AAUP faculty leaders and other senate and curriculum faculty leaders across the system continue to engage in on-going communication regarding the fiscal issues impacting the system. This group held a summit at CCSU on 9/29/23 to discuss multiple topics, including the value of higher education and future advocacy work.

A reminder that the Finance Committee continues to gather senators'/faculty perspectives and suggestions regarding budgetary issues. Please reach out to [Cindy Simoneau](#), FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair.

4) ***The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration*** – The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meet monthly with administration – This group met on 10/2 to discuss and monitor multiple topics.

1. **Faculty Evaluation / Faculty Digital Facilitator role** – Faculty leaders inquired about the anticipated announcement about this opportunity and were informed this announcement is pending and more information will be forthcoming.
2. **The APP Process** – Faculty leaders re-introduced questions and comments related to the APP process. Faculty leaders communicated the impact remains faculty confusion and that the exercise is not a community-building exercise. Discussion ensued regarding the process as a budget-mitigation process compared to an advocacy process, with reflections among the group that both approaches are embodied in the APP process given the precipitating variable to the process was the BOR's Resolution 6/28/23 that specifically mentioned fiscal issues in its calling for the academic review.

It was confirmed through discussion that while school/colleges may be employing different approaches to completing the APP process, there exist a common set of questions that each are asked to address.

Faculty leaders expressed a desire to have available any information known regarding use of consultants from the Pilbara Group whose website lists “CSCU” as “Organisations We've Helped with Their Data Transformation”
<https://www.pilbaragroup.com/>

Faculty leaders asked if an advance copy of the report the Provost will deliver to the BOR in November could be made available to faculty and confirmation was provided that this report would be shared.

3. **Continuing Education, Micro-credentialing, Non-Credit Offerings** – APC co-chairs and the chairs of Graduate Council and UCF met with the new Director for Continuing Education as part of the APC's work this year. A process was shared by the new Director with these faculty leaders at the meeting. There are no formal written documents or written details shared with faculty leaders yet about the approval process for such offerings nor how the advisory council will be formed but assurances were given at the FLC meeting with administration that faculty representation would be included in the advisory council. At present, the process, as understood by those in attendance at the meeting with the new Director, is that the curricular bodies would be notified in the later stages of the approval process for Continuing Education, Micro-credentialing, and Non-credit offerings. Faculty leaders raised emphasis and encouragement in the FLC meeting with administration for inclusion of faculty and the curricular bodies in the process, not just as recipients of end-stage notifications. Finalized terminology and definitions of “Continuing Education”, “Micro-credentialing”, and “Non-credit”, and how these terms are being interpreted, applied, and how they relate to curriculum in this process are not yet clear.

- 5) Travel Funds Report for FY2024 AAUP Full Time & Part-Time Travel Funds, Creative RG & Travel (as of 09-18-23). 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 (these data have not yet been updated; this table is identical to the table presented in the previous President’s Report).

Index	Description	Budget	Expenses (spent as of 9/18)	Encumbered	Balance Remaining
AUP768	AAUP Conf Workshop & Travel FT - 2024	\$ 853,068.10	\$ 4,972.80	\$ 49,382.74	\$ 798,712.56
AUP771	AAUP Conf Workshop & Travel PT - 2024	76,835.70	-	3,125.00	73,710.70
VPA017	Faculty Creative Activity- RG	85,000.00	69,833.78	-	15,166.22
VPA018	Faculty Creative Activity- Travel	85,000.00	1,068.81	-	83,931.19
	Totals	\$ 1,099,903.80	\$ 75,875.39	\$ 52,507.74	\$ 971,520.67

6) *Preparation for the 10/4/2023 meeting –*

1. **There will be two elections:** As shared above,
 - two senate representatives for the University Library Committee (ULC)
 - one senate representation to the Administrative Faculty Senate (following an informational presentation by Jordan Jones, President of the AFS)
2. **Student Feedback Discussion:** At our meeting, time will be allotted for senators to engage in discussion about student feedback, specifically student feedback that takes the form of grades entered into Banner (i.e., midterm grades, grades in addition to final grades), to assist the senate body and Executive Committee in determining faculty priorities for senate business. While discussion of the topic’s merit has the potential to be helpful, the goal of the discussion on the floor of the senate is to aid determination of next steps. The Executive Committee is specifically seeking to learn sentiments and perspectives from senators to help determine if the matter and its merits should be explored more comprehensively by one of the standing committees.
3. **Guest Presentation:** We will be welcoming Dr. Diane Ariza, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, to share information about the work of DEI. Included below is the previously shared information from the President’s Report dated 9/20/23 to help provide context in preparation for the presentation.

At Southern, we value diversity of experience and perspective among members of the university community. In fact, we understand diversity to be a generative and necessary factor in any intellectual environment. In our pursuit to understand diverse perspectives and experiences, we envision the creation of a more inclusive and just Southern community willing to engage in institutional transformation where humanity, belonging, community, and systemic change are priorities in all we do.

The charge of the Southern Connecticut University Diversity Advisory Council (DEI Advisory Council) is to

model inclusive and equitable leadership across the campus community by raising the awareness of DEI principles in pursuit of Southern's commitment to becoming a social justice and anti-racist university. Through education and development, our goal is to effect institutional change which can be evaluated through benchmarking, statistical analysis, and other measurable outcomes.

Under the leadership of and in partnership with the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the DEI Advisory Council advocates for members of the Southern community by:

- *Elevating important DEI issues to the vice president of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and to the president of Southern.*
- *Providing, in partnership with the Division of DEI, consultation and leadership on current and new initiatives and learning opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and alumni.*
- *Advising the Division of DEI on best practices and approaches for creating a more inclusive and equitable campus community toward attracting and retaining a diverse faculty, staff, and student body.*
- *Serving as coaches, mentors, and accountability partners related the strategic priorities of the University as directed by the University Strategic Plan.*
- *Recommending, based on information gathered from their respective divisions, departments, and communities of identity, best approaches to ensure ongoing DEI efforts are effective and meet the needs of those who feel most marginalized.*

DEIAC Terms

- 1) The members of the DEI Advisory Council will serve either a one or two-year term and meet regularly with the Vice President of the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the DEI Advisory Council Co-Chairs to discuss issues and initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability, or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, and political beliefs.*
- 2) All members must participate in the DEI Management Training Program.*
- 3) All members will participate in monthly meetings.*

- 7) 2023-2024 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.