

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – November 1, 2023, meeting

- 1) **Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget** – The Finance Committee chair Cindy Simoneau and I received an update that the University Budget Committee will meet Monday, 11/6 at 9 a.m.

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.

- 2) A note of gratitude to Provost Prezant for sharing a draft of his **Academic Program Planning (APP)** report. Below is an overview and summary of the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) response:

On Thursday 10/26, the Provost shared with the FLC the current draft of his summary report for the APP process. The FLC shared appreciation for the communication and for receiving some opportunity to read a draft of this document. As recognized by all, inadequate time was provided for conferring with our faculty constituencies or for giving meaningful feedback. The FLC's response would need to be shared with the Provost no later than Saturday 10/28.

On behalf of the faculty, the FLC shared its written response noting the positive reflection of our programs but did not endorse the document or the APP process due at least in part to these noted constraints. The FLC shared strong suggestions for some revisions to correct factual inaccuracies in the descriptions of the initial sharing of the APP process with faculty leaders in August. This response was met with appreciation from the Provost, and indication that some of the input would be included and served as a reminder that there was a good deal of shared input in the process, which was important.

The FLC's written response also included acknowledgement that although faculty leaders continue to stand ready to work with the administration to strengthen our university community, the FLC recognized that faculty contributions to the Provost's report were written under very significant time pressures, given faculty commitment to teaching and the range of other important activities, with inadequate access to reliable data and with ambiguous information about the purposes of the exercise. Thus, FLC believes the report's content cannot provide the same level of insight as Southern's current robust, well-defined, and ongoing departmental and university-wide curricular review processes. The FLC also recognized that both that program- and department-level contributions to the report are not considered by faculty to be a product of genuine shared governance, and that information generated outside established university curricular review reports are not grounds for decision-making about the continuation, reorganization, or discontinuation of departments, programs, or faculty positions.

- 3) The Provost shared that the System Office is looking for feedback on a draft policy for "**credit for prior learning**." The goal from the draft document indicates: "*The purpose of this policy is to establish transparency among the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) regarding the awarding of academic credit for Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) at the undergraduate level.*"

This policy establishes the expectation that all CSCU students at each institution will be presented with the opportunity to receive academic credit for prior learning experiences. CPL (also known as Prior Learning Assessment or PLA) is academic credit awarded to students who successfully demonstrate college or university-level knowledge achieved through informal or formal learning outside of credit-bearing programs. The CPL process grants students an opportunity to have their prior learning evaluated for academic credit and may result in time and cost savings toward degree completion. This policy also establishes expectations for transparent CPL promotion, review, awarding, and acceptance.” Information about our current transfer credit policies can be found at <https://catalog.southernct.edu/undergraduate/transfer-credit-policies.html> This information has been shared with the FS Executive Committee and with the chair of UCF on Monday, and discussion is planned.

- 4) Travel Funds Report for FY2024 AAUP Full Time & Part-Time Travel Funds, Creative RG & Travel (as of 10-15-23). 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.

Index	Description	Budget	Expenses (spent as of 10/15)	Encumbered	Balance Remaining
AUP768	AAUP Conf Workshop & Travel FT - 2024	\$ 853,068.10	\$ 21,390.35	\$ 163,610.49	\$ 668,067.26
AUP771	AAUP Conf Workshop & Travel PT - 2024	76,835.70	1,098.65	11,950.00	63,787.05
VPA017	Faculty Creative Activity-RG	85,000.00	69,833.78	1,204.28	13,961.94
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	\$ 829,747.44

- 5) **Senate visits to departments**– A reminder that, 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.
- 6) **Preparation for the 11/1/2023 meeting**– While there is no scheduled new business nor Resolutions for the meeting, multiple items and Resolutions are nearing completion by standing committees. Please thoroughly review minutes from standing committees and share questions and input with standing committee chairs at our 11/1 meeting in preparation for future meetings.
- 7) 2023-2024 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.