

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – November 9, 2022, meeting

1) ***Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation / Shared Governance***

Within this week's packet and going forward, there will be a list of senators empowered by the Faculty Senate 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 determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate). It is recommended representatives also seek the Faculty Senate's support and endorsement for matters determined by the respective representative or upon request by the Faculty Senate. 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 this initial draft of the list, please contact me starlingn1@southernct.edu and Luke Eilderts eilderts1@southernct.edu such that we may update this list.

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. If you have any questions about these two service opportunities, please contact Klay Kruczek at kruczekk3@southernct.edu

- 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 discussion began and remains underway regarding the organization, process, and roles for those involved in the digital file coordination. More information is expected to be forthcoming. If you've experienced any issues please reach out to Trudy Milburn milburnt1@southernct.edu, and copy me starlingn1@southernct.edu and Linda Cunningham cunninghaml1000@southernct.edu.
- 3) ***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) Educational Leadership
- 4) ***Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education (FAC) System-Wide Conference on 11/4/22*** (Conference hosts notably emphasized that the conference's three sessions include speculative information).
- a) Session on the Consolidation Proposal to Eliminate Department Chairs at the Community Colleges
 - The four CSUs are working with other unions to negotiate as a result of the change to Connecticut State Community College advocating for the preservation of department chairs. Not all 12 community colleges use department chairs in the same way or have

department chairs. A faculty committee is actively discussing what it means to preserve department chairs and what those duties may look like at the community college.

- b) Session on Math ACME Progress
 - Programs and departments are asked by the presenter to review course requirements/pre-requisites as they relate to math. Presenter indicated that math programs in ACME may perhaps still be modified. English ACME was not included in this presentation.
- c) Session on WCSU's Financial and Curricular Situation
 - Financial problems are the aegis under which some of Western's programs are being considered for closure. Presenter feared that closing these programs is the first step in greater administrative overreach involving curriculum.

For questions and information, please reach out to Mike Shea, FAC representative, sheam1@southernct.edu

- 5) ***University Budget Committee meeting on 11/4/22*** – President Joe may be available at our 11/9 meeting to speak in more detail and answer questions. Fiscal issues continue to be a critical topic. For fiscal year 2024, there is an expected \$22-23 million gap, mostly due to no longer receiving short-term recovery funds from the state. Increases in tuition, housing, and dining fees are anticipated for next year. Enrollment and housing occupancy are down over the long-term. Some use of reserves will be necessary along with expense reductions. Examples of expense reductions from M. Rozewski:
 - a) Pausing or leaving vacant empty positions (~70 currently) would save \$5.6 million in salary and position us better for fiscal year '24
 - b) Pausing or leaving vacant empty positions (~70-80 more positions) after fiscal year '24
 - c) Salary savings from change in faculty ranks (retirement from position filled with newer faculty at different rank)
 - d) Reduction in part-time personnel expenses
 - e) Reduction in reassigned time

FS Finance Committee would like to gather senators' perspectives and budget suggestions to bring to the next meeting on 12/2/22. Please reach out to Cindy Simoneau, FS Treasurer and Finance Committee chair, simoneauc1@southernct.edu.

- 6) ***Ad hoc Reassigned Time Committee/Group meeting on 10/27/22***– The group reviewing the allocation of reassigned time across the university held its first meeting and reviewed existing data for all reassigned time. The group discussed organization, coding, and interpretation of the data. Additional meetings are currently being planned.
- 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 and Grad Council chair, Barbara Cook cookb5@southernct.edu with input and questions.

8) *Preparation for the 11/9/2022 meeting –*

- a) *Proposed Student Survey* – Please see email correspondence to senators on 11/4/22. Communication was sent in advance about this item such that senators could have additional time to connect with their departments, to become informed, and understand a fuller picture and multiple perspectives. Additionally, such a survey has potential impact on all courses and faculty and therefore there is a heightened need to share as much information ahead of time as possible.

The Executive Committee was informed of a proposal from individuals on behalf of the DEI 360 subcommittee on inclusive teaching for a student survey ([follow this link to review the proposed wording](#)). The Executive Committee supports the goal of understanding student experiences, particularly as their experiences relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion for the purposes of improving or otherwise strengthening our support for students is highly valuable and we support this principle of academic belonging and community (we would want a survey such as this to be successful).

The Executive Committee wishes to share this item with the Faculty Senate body to afford senators the opportunity to become informed and weigh in. Concerns and questions were raised about the survey's goal(s), potential evaluative nature of the survey and how this relates to the CBA, and use and/or handling of identifiable information and data. **It would be helpful for senators to have reviewed this information in advance to increase efficiency in our discussion on the floor during our meeting. Please bring questions and feedback about this proposed survey to our meeting on 11/9.**

- b) *Resolution for Information from the FS Executive Committee* – Please review the packet. The Executive Committee wishes to bring forward this Resolution for deliberations and voting. Below is a brief summary of the series of events leading up to this proposed formalizing of SCSU Faculty Senate support for social sciences at Western Connecticut State University and motion to endorse CCSU Senate response to Western Connecticut State University.
- 1) Please see email from CSU-AAUP President Patty O'Neill on 10/14/22 announcing the petition and highlighting that *“the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Provost at Western have recommended closing majors in Economics, Anthropology/Sociology, and Social Sciences, due to “low completion rates” and “low fill rates.” WCSU-AAUP and CSU-AAUP vehemently oppose this move, which will undercut the value of the liberal arts education that Western provides.”* At the following [link](#) you will also see *“On October 6, 2022, the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Western Connecticut State University recommended to the University President to eliminate or “park” from the Department of Social Sciences all of our majors and eight of our eleven minors.”* As well as other details.
 - 2) Please see email from CSU-AAUP President Patty O'Neill on 10/25/22 announcing WCSU Senate to hold a special meeting on 10/28/2022 in which business related to the WCSU President [invoking](#) Article 5.20 was discussed.

- 3) CCSU Senate passed a [Resolution](#) during their [meeting](#) on 10/31/2022 in support for WCSU, with the following listed in reference (many are included in the packet):
 - a. CCSU Faculty Senate [Resolution](#) on Low Completer Programs Policy
 - b. SCSU Faculty Senate [Resolution](#) on Low Completer Programs Policy
 - c. WCSU Dean's [report](#) on Social Sciences
 - d. WCSU Provost's [report](#) on Social Sciences
 - e. WCSU President [invoking](#) Article 5.20 “to begin the process of program discontinuance of the following programs: BA Economics, BA Anthropology/Sociology, BA Social Sciences, BS Meteorology”

- c) *Guests* –
 - 1) *Presentation from Art* – in packet. Department of Art to become Department of Art and Design. The intent of this presentation is to clarify the department’s intention for this name change. More information/rationale will be provided by a department representative at the meeting.

The role of the Faculty Senate is to provide advice to an entity seeking to become established under a new status. While this is not an official status change for Art, the department has been recognized in our SCSU community as the Department of Art and is therefore proceeding with this step to engage Senate’s advice. We will take a vote of support following our discussion and Q&A. Although this vote is non-binding, it will serve as the Senate’s ‘advice’ regarding this matter per the CBA.

- d) Travel Funds Report for AY 22-23 was shared in our previous meeting, please see meeting minutes for 10/26/22. Please reach out to Cindy Simoneau, FS Treasurer and Finance Committee chair, simoneauc1@southernct.edu.

- e) **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) **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?
 - a. Please see item #4 above
 - 2) **Renovation of the former HHS Dean’s office in Engleman** – What is the cost and rationale for the renovation?
 - 3) **Early College** – What is the status of the program (e.g., fall enrollments, faculty involvement)?

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