

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – March 8, 2023, meeting**

- 1) ***President Joe's announcement regarding Stockton University*** – A note of gratitude for his leadership and well wishes to President Joe for his new position at Stockton. As our community prepares for a change in presidential leadership, faculty leaders wish to assure faculty that we will continue to advocate for faculty needs and input. Faculty leadership is engaging with administration as we learn more about next steps. At present, no further information has yet been shared with faculty leaders.
- 2) ***Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation / Shared Governance*** – On-going challenges with filling faculty service opportunities remain. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be a representative. The following seats remain:
  - two Senate representatives for the University Library Committee (ULC) – The committee has shared “If we could have senate representatives join ULC together with elected members in Spring 2023, it would be highly welcomed by our committee.”
  - two Senate representatives for the Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Education, Non-Credit, & Micro Credentialing (these seats are in addition to the APC chairs)

Thank you to all who shared interest in participating in the **President's Strategic Action Plan Working Groups**. The list of representatives is below:

1. Advancing Social Justice: **Miriah Kelly** (EGMS)
2. Maintaining Academic Excellence: **Kenneth McGill** (ANT)
3. Driving Enrollment: **Laurie Bonjo** (CSP)
4. Ensuring Student Success: **Mary Boudreaux** (EDL)
5. Engaging our Community and Expanding our Reach: **Michael Sormrude** (BIO)
6. Preparing for the Future (Finance): **Emma Wang** (MKT)

Additionally, **David Pettigrew** will be representing FASP to President's Strategic Action Plan Working Groups. The following faculty already serve on the working groups as part of their participation in the Presidents Strategic Advisory Council: **Benjamin Abugri, Barbara Cook, KC Councilor, Patrick Crowley, Elliott Horch, Helen Marx, Meredith Sinclair**.

- 3) ***Reminder: Encouragement for Faculty Attendance at the 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony*** – Announcements continue to come forward about this year's commencement ceremonies. The 2023 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony will take place May 19, 2023. Please consider attending and/or discuss with your departments/constituents to have representatives attend.
- 4) ***Reminder: Meeting/Retreat of Faculty Leadership Executive Teams (FS/UCF/Grad Council/FLC)*** – A reminder that a meeting of faculty leaders to review governance documents and procedures to identify possible areas that would benefit from clarification and strengthening. SCSU-AAUP will have representation at this meeting. The meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>.

5) *The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration* – This group met on 3/6 to continue discussions and monitoring of multiple topics. Recent reassigned time reductions were a primary focus of the 3/6 meeting. In sum:

*Reassigned Time Reductions & Cuts* – Because of multiple faculty questions and concerns in late February, our outreach to the faculty body and to the Provost sought to gather an accounting and rationale about these recent specific reductions and cuts in Reassigned Time to facilitate conversation at the 3/6 meeting. We continue to receive faculty responses to our outreach. Faculty can share their experience via the following link and form: <https://forms.office.com/r/2ATQmRQRUe> Please also feel free to send a separate email or speak directly with Faculty Senate President Natalie Starling ([starlingn1@southernct.edu](mailto:starlingn1@southernct.edu)) and/or AAUP President Kari Swanson ([swansonk8@southernct.edu](mailto:swansonk8@southernct.edu)).

Given prior meetings and communications with the administration, the FLC's expectation was that efforts toward a 25% reduction in Reassigned Time would be explored but not mandated and such actions would include conversations with affected faculty. See Faculty Senate President's Report dated 1-25-23: *"This group met on 1/23/23 to continue discussions and monitoring of the following: Budget/Fiscal Issues– In addition to the details provided above, the group confirmed that Deans/departments have been asked to explore if and how a 25% reduction of reassigned time might be possible given the need to address gaps in budgets for upcoming fiscal years (particularly 2025)."* The overarching need for budget-related cuts is acknowledged by the FLC; however, the process has raised questions and concerns within the faculty body.

Requests shared with the President and Provost at the 3/6 meeting:

1. increased transparency of the decision-making process for reductions and cuts
2. equity or efforts toward equity if there exist inequities in the outcomes of these reductions and cuts (a social justice perspective was shared)
3. emphasis of the Reassigned Time Committee's recommendation for clearer data and future improved recording and categorizing of data related to Reassigned Time
4. rationale for each reduction or cut communicated to the affected individual(s) and the FLC
5. communication of work expectations (i.e., alternative work-coverage plans for time that's being cut or clear communication of what work can be discontinued)

The FLC was provided with assurances that the Provost will connect with deans this week and will follow-up with FLC with additional information when it is available. Additionally, the Provost will call upon the Reassigned Time Committee to reconvene.

Given the length of time between the March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meetings, the Executive Committee sees benefit to its preparation to act, if the Executive Committee by majority vote deems such action necessary, in the interim period. Such action could include Resolution(s) on behalf of Faculty Senate formally requesting one or more of the items from the above list. The granting of such temporary authority would need a motion and vote of approval by Faculty Senate of, for example, the following: That the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) which includes SCSU-AAUP, act on behalf of the Faculty Senate for the matter of Reassigned Time for the time period beginning at the conclusion of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to midnight on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

- 6) **State Budget / University Budget Committee meetings** – The understanding is that meetings will continue this spring. The Finance Committee continues to gather senators’/faculty perspectives and suggestions to bring to future meetings. **Please reach out to Cindy Simoneau, FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair, [simoneauc1@southernct.edu](mailto:simoneauc1@southernct.edu).**
- 7) **Senate visits to departments** – A reminder that 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. Chemistry & Biochemistry
- 8) **Preparation for the 3/8/2023 meeting** –
- a. **Unfinished Business: From the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) updates to the Flow of Proposals** –The UCF has updated the Flow of Proposals (a component of the UCF’s by-laws) and these changes require Faculty Senate approval. Please bring your observations and questions to our meeting and prepare for voting. **Please review the packet for details.**
  - b. **Resolution for Information Regarding Making Course Syllabi Available to Students on the First day of the Semester** –This Resolution was developed by Student Policy following conversations with SGA and Faculty Development. While mandates are not possible, this Resolution will include the strong recommendation that faculty clearly communicate course expectations and requirements by the first day of the semester. **Please review the packet for details.**
  - c. **Resolution Regarding CBA Travel Funds for 2023-2024** –This Resolution is from the Finance Committee. Beginning in Fall 2023, these updates would allow more travel funding for full-time and part-time faculty members. **Please review the packet for details.**
  - d. **Guest Presentation: Continuing Conversation about Interactions, Communication, Climate/Morale** – A reminder that the ombudspersons will be joining us at our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. In addition to facilitating further discussion at Senate, we anticipate that there will be opportunities for Q & A about ombuds’ work at Southern.
- 9) **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. **Should Faculty Senate include statement(s) regarding Indigenous Peoples and land acknowledgement in Faculty Senate documents and meetings (see WCSU Senate as example)?**
    - i. Following outreach to our DEI Office, this item is on hold until such time as the Executive Committee can learn more about what may be meaningful and appropriate. The topic has become more controversial as to whether having a land acknowledgement in fact creates more harm than good for indigenous communities. “[Moving Beyond Performative Land Acknowledgements](#)” is a podcast featuring an Indigenous scholar who shares her research on this topic. It provides a critical analysis to deepen our understanding of how land acknowledgements can create more harm than good. The Executive Committee seeks to learn more and invites input and education related to this item.
- 10) 2022-2023 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.