

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – April 26, 2023, meeting

- 1) **Reminder: President Cheng's visit to Faculty Senate for our 4/26 meeting** – We are prepared to welcome CSCU President Terrence Cheng to our meeting this week. At present and given the many ever-changing budget-related events of the past two weeks, specific details about President Cheng's arrival time, planned agenda, and duration of visit to our meeting is flexible. **Senators, please be prepared for the need to adjust our agenda and business as we will need to pivot according to what transpires during the meeting.** The agenda for our business remains full and if all business is not concluded, we will move unfinished business to our 5/3 meeting.
- 2) **SCSU-AAUP and Faculty Senate Co-Sponsored Retreat** – Please RSVP to [Linda Cunningham](#) for this retreat which will take place Tuesday, May 23rd 12-3pm at Whitney Commons. See email announcements to all full- and part-time faculty. The purpose of this faculty retreat is to strengthen the role of the faculty in influencing institutional priorities and policies by identifying faculty concerns, establishing recommendations for collective action through established governance bodies, enhancing the clarity of a unified “faculty voice.” This is an important gathering and serves to inform SCSU-AAUP and the Faculty Senate of the concerns, questions, and goals of the faculty body.
- 3) **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.”
- 4) **State Budget / University Budget Committee meetings** – Numerous events have transpired and continue to transpire at the time of this report. My observation is a rapidly changing landscape of efforts and opportunities to positively impact the state budget as it pertains to funding for our institution and our sibling institutions. As of the writing of this report, I am working with SCSU-AAUP faculty leaders to secure an opportunity to speak with Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney and awaiting confirmation of a meeting.

I strongly encourage all to reach out to your legislator and closely attend to the recent email announcements from Louise Williams (CSU-AAUP), Kari Swanson (SCSU-AAUP), President Joe, and CSCU President Cheng regarding how to get involved. There is an opportunity this Thursday 4/27 to join the CSCU day of action at the Capitol. The SCSU-AAUP Chapter Meeting on Friday 4/28 is also an important meeting—senators, please attend and encourage your constituents to attend this meeting.

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

- 5) ***The University Writing Director position*** – At this time, the Faculty Senate should make note of this matter and share with constituents. Conversations are underway regarding the proposed elimination of the reassigned time/position of the Writing Director.

It is my understanding that historically the director position began as a faculty line and is now an Academic Affairs-appointed position. The position had previously received 9 credits per semester and the most recent posting for the position listed 6 credits per semester. Fees are collected from both undergraduate and graduate students which contributes to the Writing Center/Director budget of ~\$300k of which 70% is allocated to writing tutors, with the remainder for the Writing Director and activities (e.g., workshops, assessment, other initiatives).

The Writing Director works with the chair of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (WACC) of the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF), the latter being an elected position. It is my understanding that the individuals currently fulfilling these roles, along with members of WACC, over the past three weeks have been tasked by the administration to divide the University Writing Director's responsibilities among the WACC chair, CASAS, and other entities on campus with the ultimate goal of eliminating the University's Writing Director position. For two meetings, the committee has discussed this with the same conclusion: any changes made to the roles and responsibilities of the Writing Director (or subsequently not filling the role of Writing Director) would have significant impact on many entities on campus, including our students. WACC reports feeling uncomfortable making these decisions without input from those who would be affected. A meeting is planned in hopes to seek solutions.

Additional details brought to my attention include a desire for establishing minimum responsibilities, as well as training and otherwise supporting the continuity of the director position. Additionally, student needs (for example, the number of transfer students) is a variable a needing consideration. Pedagogical background in writing is also an important skill set and consideration, as is NECHE accreditation standards.

- 6) ***Update regarding Faculty Evaluation*** – The understanding is that **Interfolio** will not be selected as a platform for the faculty evaluation process. Meetings and demonstrations earlier this semester revealed several challenges when considering the faculty evaluation process. As described in the President's Report dated 12/7/22: The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and FLC are aware of 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. While reassurances were provided by administration that issues are or will be resolved, faculty leadership requested that a faculty member with reassigned time join the Academic Affairs team alongside the Blackboard facilitator. The response to this request in Fall 2022 included reference to budgetary issues and the request was not granted. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and FLC will continue discussion at upcoming FLC meetings with administration.
- 7) ***Senate visits to departments*** – A reminder that this is an optional and open opportunity and will remain open for the academic year. These visits have been incredibly helpful to me at times when I'm engaged with university and CSU system leadership and needing to speak on behalf of the faculty. Please email me and Luke with any questions and to schedule a visit.

8) *Preparation for the 4/26/2023 meeting, and final meetings of the semester –*

Reports from Standing Committees:

- a. *Elections* – The Elections chair/committee will be leading the annual election process for Faculty Senate President and Treasurer. A reminder from Elections that the call for nominations for both positions will occur at our 4/26 meeting, with voting occurring at our 5/3 meeting.
- b. *Technology Announcement* – The Faculty Senate Technology Committee in partnership with the Technology Department have important information to share regarding upcoming changes to the way you authenticate your computer and Southern services. The authentication services will be moving from on campus to the Azure AD Cloud. To migrate everyone over, IT will reach out to all full-time faculty to schedule a time/date to migrate their Southern computer to Azure AD. It is anticipated that post migration user experience challenges will be minor, and IT will work with individual faculty if problems or questions arise. More information will be shared at our meeting.

Reports & Resolutions:

- c. *Resolution Regarding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, And Accessibility (DEIA) In Renewal, Promotion, And Tenure Processes* – This Resolution (previously approved at our 4/12 meeting) was nullified because the term “non-credit” appeared in the section related to credit load. Though this new language was intended for inclusion in the Guidebooks as recommendations and not requirements, the term “non-credit” may cause confusion and is thus removed from the Resolution to ensure alignment with the CBA. This is an opportunity to also highlight the limits of the Faculty Senate in its business (i.e., governing documents, Resolutions). The Faculty Senate can approve Resolutions about any desired topic, however, for those Resolutions to become policy, they cannot contradict the CBA. I will present this Resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee. A vote would need to occur as this Resolution is now considered new. Please review the packet for details.
- d. *Resolution Regarding Catalog Definitions and Curricular Review Process for Continuing Education Offerings, Non-Credit and Micro-Credentials* – This Resolution is from Academic Policy based upon the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for Continuing Education/Micro credentialing, and includes the establishment of definitions presented by the Ad-hoc Committee, that micro-credentials, badges, and non-credit continuing education are part of SCSU curriculum and therefore, subject to faculty governance via UCF and GC proposal processes, and that the UCF, GC, and university administration shall be charged with developing curriculum proposal processes along the lines described by the Ad-hoc Committee for Non-credit, Continuing Education & Micro-credentialing “Recommendations” document. Please review the packet for details.
- e. *Resolution Regarding Revisions to The Promotion and Tenure Procedures.* – This Resolution is from Personnel Policy and addresses updates to the faculty evaluation procedures documents, including updating acronyms/terms, clarifying comparable qualifications, and eligibility to serve on the P & T Committee during any form of university leave. Please review the packet for details.

- f. *Proposal regarding the formation of a Working Group* – This proposal is a continuation of the matters discussed throughout the year within the Rules Committee, in the meeting of SCSU-AAUP, FS President, and Human Resources Chair (see President’s Report dated 2-22-23), and as a next step following the Meeting/Retreat of Faculty Leadership Executive Teams (FS/UCF/Grad Council/FLC) held on March 24th (which included a university ombudsperson). The proposal is coming forth from the FS Executive Committee in anticipation of a vote on establishing this working group, to begin in Fall 2023. **Please review the packet for details.** The charges would include:
- i. recommend to the appropriate groups (e.g., Rules Committee for the Faculty Senate) of each of the three bodies (Faculty Senate, UCF, GC) language which reconciles the governing documents of each of those three bodies with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
 - ii. recommend to each of the three bodies (Faculty Senate, UCF, GC) pathways to advance sharing and communicating these anticipated changes with all constituents to support understanding and clarification.
- g. *From the Graduate Council, updates to the Bylaws, Flow of Proposals, and Interdisciplinary Programs*– **Please review the packet.** These documents were recently approved by the Graduate Council on 4/24.
- h. A reminder that if time does not permit all business to conclude on 4/26, remaining business will be moved to the 5/3 meeting agenda.
- i. **5/3 meeting.** All remaining unfinished and new business will be scheduled for this meeting. This includes the election of the Faculty Senate President and Treasurer. All business not concluded by 1:30pm will be moved to a special meeting to be held on 5/8 (see Luke’s message for the 4/12 packet and Zoom link to hold this date and time in the event it is needed). At 1:30pm, the Faculty Senate will host Dr. Dwayne Smith, incoming Interim University President, and share messages of welcome. Following our welcome to Dr. Smith, the Faculty Senate will host President Joe Bertolino and share messages of gratitude and farewell.
 - ii. **5/8 special meeting.** This meeting will be held only if needed pending outcomes of the 5/3 meeting.

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.