

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report –April 24, 2024, meeting

- 1) ***Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget*** – Please continue to closely attend to announcements related to this item. Please see email from CSU-AAUP President Louise Williams on 4/22/2024:

“We are in the final few weeks of the 2024 legislative session. CSU-AAUP members have been working hard to lobby legislators and push for the additional funding we need to provide the excellent education that our CSU students deserve. Thank you to everyone who has attended an event, showed up to lobby, or sent a letter to their legislators.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT A LETTER TO YOUR LEGISLATORS, PLEASE DO SO ASAP.
[Use our letter campaign action to contact your legislators \(and the governor\) quickly and easily.](#)

Our coalition allies and affiliate unions are also working hard to push their issues. AFL-CIO is pushing for the passage of a bill that would provide unemployment benefits to striking workers. **[Click here to send a message to legislators in support of this bill.](#)**

Finally, **CT for All is holding a rally on Saturday, May 4 at noon at the State Capitol in Hartford.** This rally is both a final push for what we're fighting for during this session, and an opportunity to establish our platform for the 2025 legislative session early on. All members are invited to attend - wear your red T-shirts! **[Click here to get more info and RSVP.](#)**

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) ***Announcements*** –

- a) **SCSU-AAUP and Faculty Senate Co-Sponsored Retreat (**TENTATIVE**)** – Please save-the-date for this retreat for **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**, with a tentative time slot of midday at TBA location. We are awaiting confirmation from the venue. More information, flyer, and RSVP link will be forthcoming via email to all full- and part-time faculty. Faculty leaders are engaging in conversation to streamline the purpose and activities of this faculty retreat with the goal to continue to strengthen the role of the faculty in influencing institutional priorities and policies. Last year's retreat was well-attended, and we aim to facilitate another robust event next month.
- b) The Faculty Senate is conducting the **SECOND ROUND** of Spring 2024 elections to fill vacant positions on the All-University Committees. Please see email announcements from Klay Kruczek, Chair of Elections Committee. **Self-nominations must be submitted by 1pm on Friday, April 26, 2024.**
- c) Encouragement for Faculty Attendance at the **2024 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony**. Announcements continue to come forward about this year's commencement ceremonies. The 2024 Commencement Ceremony will take place **Friday, May 17, 2024**. Please consider attending and/or discuss with your departments/constituents to have representatives attend.

3) ***Preparation for the 4/24/2024 meeting***– Please see the meeting packet for additional information about each agenda item.

a) *Elections* – The Elections chair/committee will lead the annual election process for Faculty Senate President and Treasurer with voting occurring at our 5/1 meeting.

Reports & Resolutions:

b) *Resolution on CBS Travel Funds for AY 2024-2025 (unfinished business)* – The Finance Committee will present this Resolution. If passed by senators, a subsequent MOA developed with SCSU-AAUP and administration. Please see meeting packet for full details.

Finance recommends that the travel fund reimbursement caps for 2024-2025 be set as:

- **\$2,000.00** for tenured full-time members and non-tenured members on special appointment (non-tenure track)
- **\$2,250.00** for non-tenured full-time members on tenure track
- full-time members traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by **\$250** for one of two circumstances: a) for travel that requires trans-ocean travel, OR b) if the member is traveling to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker, and whose expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization

Finance recommends that the travel fund reimbursement caps for 2024-2025 be set at:

- **\$850** for part-time members
- part-time members traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by **\$125** for one of two circumstances: a) for travel that requires trans-ocean travel, OR b) if the member is traveling to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker and whose expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization

Finance recommends the maximum total travel reimbursement cap shall be:

- **\$2,250** for tenured full-time members and for non-tenured members on special appointment (non-tenure track)
- **\$2,500** for non-tenured full-time members on tenure track
- **\$975** for part-time members

c) *Resolutions from Rules Committee* – Three Resolutions will be presented by Rules.

- *Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Faculty Senate Bylaws*. Edits primarily address the removal of footnote 1 (“Interpretation: Membership in the Faculty Senate and representation therein shall include only full -time and part- time teaching faculty, counselors, counseling faculty, librarians, library faculty, coaches, and non-instructional athletic trainers.”) from Bylaws Section I (“Membership in Voting Units”). Please see meeting packet for full details.
- *Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Faculty Senate Sabbatical Leave Procedures*. Edits primarily address removal of inaccurate dates throughout document, removal of personal email addresses and establishment of permanent institutional email addresses for Sabbatical Committee and HR sabbatical administrator, removal of Dept Sabbatical Leave Committee from chair-dean negotiation of scheduling and academic impact of sabbatical leaves, mechanism for removal of committee members who are not performing their duties, establishment of a beginning-of-semester organizing meeting the University Sabbatical Committee, presided over by the Senate President and Elections Officer, to elect USC chair, review dates and procedures, and ensure that elected members of the committee are prepared to perform their duties on the established

schedule of activities and adjustment of sabbatical calendar to eliminate unnecessary 3-day pause in evaluation process. Please see meeting packet for full details.

- *Resolution Regarding Edits to the Termination Hearing Committee Document.* Edits primarily address reference to the CBA and to the currently effective CBA title and dates and reference to Senate Elections Committee change to Senate Elections Officer. Please see meeting packet for full details.

d) *Resolutions from Personnel Policy Committee* – Five Resolutions will be presented by PPC along with a sixth Resolution from unfinished business (from our prior senate discussions as a committee-of-the-whole). Please see meeting packet for full details.

- *Resolution for Information Regarding Promotion and Tenure Committee Members' Autonomy.* This Resolution reiterates that the P&T Committee has the authority to determine its own meeting schedule with conditions.
- *Resolution for Information Regarding the Value of Service at the University.* PPC will re-introduce this discussion following recent discussions at Provost Council on 4/18/2024 and continue our prior senate discussions as a committee-of-the-whole.
- *Four Resolutions Regarding Revisions to Promotion and Tenure Procedures for Faculty* will be presented by PPC addressing multiple items and areas within the documents.

e) *Resolution Regarding Revisions to Grade Appeal Procedures (new business)* – The Executive Committee will present this Resolution which addresses the current grade appeals process as incomplete. A method for grade adjustment, as referenced in the CBA, must be established, and agreed upon by the Faculty Senate. The Resolution contains a proposed method for grade adjustment along with a related update to faculty compensation. The Grade Appeal Document can only be amended **by a two-thirds vote** of the Faculty Senate. Please see meeting packet for full details.

f) **DRAFT:** *Final Information for Faculty Senate for AY 23-24 Regarding Proposed Revisions to Withdrawal and Pass/Fail Procedures.* APC will re-introduce this summary.

g) If time does not permit all business to conclude on 4/24, remaining business will be moved to the 5/1 meeting agenda. A reminder that the 5/1 agenda must be confirmed in advance and the 5/1 meeting can only address those agenda items. **Except for urgent matters requiring a Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate, any unfinished business following all remaining regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meetings will be considered in the Fall semester.**

4) 2023-2024 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.

a) Update regarding Resolution Regarding the Upcoming SCSU Presidential Search

On March 4, 2024, I sent the following **questions to the Chancellor as a follow-up to his visit to Faculty Senate on 2/21/2024:** Would SCSU be responsible for all costs, or any portion thereof, associated with the upcoming SCSU presidential search? In other words, is there an expectation, for example, that funds from the SCSU State Account will be used to reimburse a future payment by CSCU to the vendor? Will Southern be

responsible for this reimbursement?

The response received on March 11, 2024: *“Our budget director has clarified that historically, the costs associated with presidential searches, including those for executive search firms, are the responsibility of the institution initiating the search. She noted that if such expenses were to be allocated to the system office, it would inadvertently result in all institutions contributing to these costs, regardless of their direct involvement in the search. This approach ensures fairness by aligning financial responsibilities with the benefiting institution.”*

This Resolution was sent to Chancellor Terrence Cheng on March 18, 2024, with a reply received from the Chancellor on 3/20/2024 *“that we have received and we are reviewing. Will be in touch if we have any questions. Thanks again for your hard work and partnership.”*

A follow-up email was sent by me to the Chancellor on 4/10 to invite conversation regarding the Resolution. As of 4/23, no response has yet been received.