

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report –May 1, 2024, meeting

- 1) ***Fiscal Impacts / State Budget / University Budget (REMINDER)*** – 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 – (REMINDERS)***

- 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. **Update: Ballots are due by Monday, May 6, 2024, at noon.**
- 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 5/1/2024 meeting**– Please see the meeting packet for additional information about each agenda item.

- a) *Elections* – (**REMINDER**) The Elections chair/committee will lead the annual election process for Faculty Senate President and Treasurer with voting occurring at our 5/1 meeting.
- b) *Elections* – (**NEW ITEM**) The Elections chair/committee will lead a call for faculty volunteers following an invitation from the Office of the President to provide faculty input for a study with Social Venture Partners (SVP). SVP “are conducting a study to help the system develop an investment strategy/case for the FY26-27 Biennium. The NCHEMS study, requested by OPM, will provide them with data for this study. However, they need focus groups as well.”

The request includes a desire to fill at least **4 – 5 seats** with not more than one faculty member per department to support a diversity of representation. If there is even greater interest beyond filling the up to 5 seats, an additional focus group can be formed. Inquiry for 4 – 5 seats has also been made to SCSU-AAUP. Student and staff focus groups are also being formed.

The dates being considered are the **afternoons of May 7th or 8th and may include an option following commencement**. The focus group would meet for an hour, and there is flexibility in choosing the time.

Reports & Resolutions (unfinished business):

- c) *Resolution Regarding Edits to the Termination Hearing Committee Document*– This Resolution will be re-presented by Rules. 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. **Updates since our previous meeting include** additional clarifications and changes to this document approved in Senate Resolution S-2021-15 and signed by the University President but never implemented in the document itself: Article B: distribution of committee members across schools/colleges; Article F.1: change of term from two years to three. Please see meeting packet for full details.
- d) *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. **Updates since our previous meeting include** suggested additions based upon what was shared at the Provost Council meeting and a single PowerPoint slide is also included to assist with clarifying the intent of the Resolution.
- e) *Three Resolutions Regarding Revisions to Promotion and Tenure Procedures for Faculty* will be presented by PPC addressing multiple items and areas within the documents. Please see meeting packet for full details.
 - The first Resolution addresses a necessary revision to ensure the language of the P & T procedures document matches exactly the language of the CBA regarding the descriptions of Associate Professor, Associate Librarian, Associate Counselor.
 - The second Resolution clarifies the decision-making/voting process for the P & T Committee: “The affirmative decision on each candidate shall be determined by a simple majority of those Promotion and Tenure members eligible to cast that vote.”
 - The third Resolution seeks the approval of senators to incorporate into the P & T Procedures document the “Service Eligibility in the Faculty Evaluation Process” table that was shared with the faculty 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.”*

Update: The FS Treasurer is inquiring with our CFO about the above regarding prior presidential searches at SCSU.

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.