

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – August 31, 2022, meeting

1) **Welcome** – I extend a welcome to a new academic year to the entire faculty, including full- and part-time colleagues, and offer wishes for success. Welcome to a new year of Faculty Senate business and important service to the University! I would like to express a very warm welcome to our new senators. **I will ask all senators to introduce yourselves at the beginning of the first Senate meeting.** On behalf of the Faculty Senate, I also send greetings to our colleagues throughout the University, along with a reminder that everyone is welcome to sit in on Faculty Senate meetings as observers, as the Senate conducts its business.

2) **Announcements** –

Immediate Past President – Dr. Maria Diamantis has been invited to serve on the Executive Committee in the role of *Immediate Past President* as the most recent past President who is available to serve. As many of you know, our most immediate Past President, Dr. Deb Weiss, retired on July 1, 2022. Note that clarifying language in the By-laws for these circumstances is listed as a preliminary charge for the Rules Committee. In the spirit of the intention of this role (to support continuity in circumstances of a new Faculty Senate President), I am requesting support from the Senate to invite Dr. Diamantis to fulfill this role for AY 22-23 and to support the Rules Committee to explore clarifying the language in the By-laws for the future.

Faculty Referendum: Changes to the LEP Program/General Education– scheduling, discussion forum(s), and voting eligibility

- a) Proposed changes to the LEP Program/General Education have been presented to the Faculty Senate by the Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF) and a summary is included in the 8/31 meeting packet.
 1. **What this is:** This proposal requires a Faculty Referendum under the auspices of the Faculty Senate and “(a)ll referenda require a minimum of 200 faculty votes to be valid and the results are decided by a simple majority of those voting” (Constitution, Section V.).
 2. **What this is not:** The proposal is in its final form and no further changes can be made at this time (i.e., expression of alternative suggestions cannot be voted on). Discussion and debate regarding the current proposal and its merits are welcomed at upcoming forum(s).

- b) The **scheduling of the Faculty Referendum** for the proposed changes to the LEP will be on the agenda for our second Faculty Senate meeting on September 14, 2022, at which time the Senate can vote on a motion for this item. Inclusion of this item of business at our second meeting (rather than our first meeting) will:
 1. allow the Senate the opportunity to address functional needs at the outset of the year, i.e., establish its membership (not all departments have elected representatives to serve or replace open seats), elect standing committee chairpersons and establish a full Executive Committee, hear announcements, assess the broad range of items of business for the year, among other items;

2. allow new senators the opportunity to begin their term, join a committee, to become familiar with Senate processes, procedures, and business;
 3. allow all senators the opportunity to connect with their departments to discuss how the department would like to be represented in the voting for the scheduling of the Referendum; and
 4. allow the Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate the opportunity to establish its membership and plan coordination of discussion forum(s) and running the Referendum in preparation for its scheduling.
- c) **Discussion Forum(s) hosted by the Faculty Senate.** Following the scheduling of the Faculty Referendum, the Elections Committee, with support from the Executive Committee, will be charged with running the Referendum and scheduling moderated forum(s), which can serve as opportunities for:
1. exchange of information, with the goal of supporting the informed voting of faculty members (through faculty education about the changes and potential impacts). The Elections Committee, together with the Executive Committee, will endeavor to select a moderator with expressed neutrality and with consideration of their role within the campus community.
 2. expressions of perspective during which speakers can suggest changes if the Referendum is later defeated. However, note that such suggestions cannot modify the proposal, which must be voted on in its current format.
- d) **Referendum – voting eligibility**
1. **Voting eligibility of part-time faculty and special appointments.** Our Constitution allows for opening voting beyond full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty: “Faculty Senate may also include part-time faculty and/or faculty on special appointments by a majority vote before a faculty referendum” (Constitution, V.A.).
 2. Senators, please connect with your departments and discuss how the department would like to be represented in the event there is a future motion for inclusion of part-time faculty and/or faculty on special appointments. Some considerations include but may not be limited to: the value of supporting all faculty voting eligibility in the Referendum, disparity in number of part-time faculty and/or faculty on special appointments across departments, non-full time faculty role in curriculum and long-term initiatives, etc.

Intellectual property as it pertains to syllabi and course materials uploaded on BB9 or other course platforms

A reminder that the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) outlines expectations in this area, see: Article 10.15.6:

“A member who develops distance learning material, both content (e.g., traditional faculty products) and delivery (e.g., digital applications) shall, retain intellectual property rights to such material. Any other use of the material shall be prohibited unless agreed to in writing by the member.”

and Appendix E of the CBA, particularly, item 1:

“Traditional faculty products of scholarly or creative activity that have customarily been considered to be the restricted property of the author shall be owned by the author regardless of the medium of the work. Such traditional products include, but are not limited to, journal articles, textbooks, monographs, works of art including paintings and sculptures, musical compositions, computer programs and other digital code, syllabuses, and all other materials generated for the purposes of instruction or scholarship”.

Faculty permission must be obtained for persons other than students registered for the course to have access to the course on Blackboard (or course platform equivalent).

Additionally, given the benefit of information that is often included in common but naturally everchanging syllabi statements, the Academic Policy Committee will explore options that align with the CBA and may be helpful to faculty and students, whether this is a Syllabi Statement Repository or similar. Joining in communication with Academic Affairs may be helpful throughout this process.

3) *Preparation for 8/31/22 meeting*

a) Selection of standing committees and election of Chairs of standing committees

Many of you have already indicated your committee choices. We will have breakout rooms in Zoom at the meeting and you will be able to meet with your selected committee, or switch to a different committee at this point if you so desire. During this meeting, the committee members will elect the Chairs of their committees. A ballot has been created for this purpose. The procedure will be explained at the meeting.

Below is the information regarding the initial charges of the committees. **Topics may change and/or may be otherwise assigned – the Executive Committee will finalize the list of charges and assignment following the Senate meeting on 8/31.**

Preliminary Charges for standing committees

Academic policy

- Syllabi Statement Repository (or similar)
- P&T reform (may also be appropriate for Personnel)

Elections

- Running fall all-University committee election
- Running election for part-time faculty senators
- Running the Referendum & scheduling of discussion forum(s) (with support of the Executive Committee)

Finance

- Travel Funds

Personnel

- Academic advising re P&T
- Updates to the Professional Assessment Senate Procedures document
- DEI and Faculty evaluations
- P & T Senate Procedures document
 - Clarifying language regarding eligibility of service on P & T Committee while on leave
- P&T Guidebooks (as needed)

Rules

- By-laws
 - Standing committee chairpersonship terms clarifications
 - Immediate Past President vacancy
 - Option for senator alternates from department
- “Group” Political Statements from Departments

Student policy

- Review permanent pass/fail policy – timeframe
- Student complaints

Technology

- Student opinion surveys – incentives for completion (may also be appropriate for Student policy)
- Technology issues affecting faculty
- Data privacy

Because we have often more issues to address than we can initially accommodate, there is a ‘waiting list’ of topics that will be assigned to committees that complete the work that is on their agendas. The overflow list of topics is as follows:

1. COVID-related initiatives as they arise

Although some topics may fall out of the traditional charges of a given committee, it has been our practice in recent years to do this to accommodate our workload and to create a more equitable structure in which all standing committees have a similar workload. The committees that may be more likely to deal with the waiting list topics are Finance and Elections. Senators who are potentially interested in dealing with a broad range of topics may find this option desirable.

b) Guests – As is our tradition, the President and Provost have been invited to address the Faculty Senate. This is an excellent opportunity for Q&A.

c) Travel Funds Report for AY 22-23 - TBA

Full Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
FT Rollover				
FT New				
Combined Total				

Part Time	Beginning	Spent	Encumbered	Remaining
PT Rollover				
PT New				
Combined Total				

d) **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. **Southern Fellows in Residence** program –What is the intent of this program? How was faculty input included? What is the implementation plan? Where are these lines coming from? Are these positions intended to replace tenure-track faculty lines? What are the potential implications and consequences?
 2. **Continuing Education / Micro credentialing** – How are these initiatives impacting the identity of the institution, faculty roles, the curriculum, among other areas? What are the goals of these initiatives? How can contractual faculty participate in continuing education (e.g., compensation, credit load, selection/invitation to teach, etc.)? SCSU-AAUP is reviewing contractual details.
 3. **Increase in administrative positions** –There appears to be an increase in the number of administrative positions- is this happening? If so, how is this impacting the type of governing structure of the university? What problem is this a solution for?
 4. **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?
 5. **Reassigned Time Committee** – What is the current status of this committee? Is there a progress update?
 6. **Renovation of the former HHS Dean’s office in Engleman** – What is the cost and rationale for the renovation?
 7. **Zoom** – Will Zoom be continued? Currently, it is understood that Zoom was purchased with non-recurring funds. Discussion is underway with IT and Academic Affairs regarding next steps. More information will be forthcoming.
 8. **Early College** – What is the current status of the program (e.g., fall enrollments, faculty involvement)?
- e) 2022-2023 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.