

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – September 15, 2021 meeting

1) *Announcements*

- Faculty Creativity Activity Research Grants (FCARG) Special Award – due September 29th.
- Election ballots to come out before the end of the week

2) *Preparation for 9/15/21 meeting* – There are three resolutions to consider for this meeting:

- a) Resolution regarding University Event Guidelines – from the Executive Committee, in packet. The intent of this resolution is to expand the requirements of the guidelines and strengthen their implementation. This resolution will be discussed under Unfinished Business. Since the last meeting, there has been much progress in meeting many of the requests in the Resolution. Per Tracy Tyree, the proposed resolution and conversations with the faculty leadership have resulted in regular updates and editing of policies and approaches. Some of the areas that have been addressed include contact tracing, review of the COVID dashboard, venue specific, and general event guidelines.
- b) Resolution regarding revisions to the P&T and Renewal Procedures – from Personnel Policy Committee, in packet. Following approval of our major updates to the P&T and renewal procedures documents in the spring, it was noted that there were several issues that need additional revisions. These revisions are not material in nature, e.g., policy is not being changed, but rather deal with errant dates and some inconsistent language. These changes would be implemented for this year.
- c) Resolution regarding the selection of an alternate to replace a committee member – from Elections Committee, in packet. Although many all-University committees utilize alternates who fill in when members are unable to serve for any of a number of reasons, there is no clear means to prioritize the alternates. This resolution addresses this issue.

3) *Report on Executive Committee/Faculty Leadership Council Meeting with President and Provost* - Members of the FS EC and the FLC (comprised of leaders of the UCF, Grad Council, AAUP, and Council of Academic Chairpersons) held a 90 minute meeting on 9/14/21 with the President and Provost. Main topics of discussion included the following:

- Course modalities for the spring 2022 semester – Concerns were expressed regarding the fact that, despite previous assurances, faculty were, in many instances, unable to switch from an on ground to an online modality, which some desired to do because of worsening COVID conditions, and/or other reasons. This issue was raised in the last CAC, with the Chairs/Directors citing instances of the administration refusing to honor modality switch requests. The President explained that the campuses were expected by the System Office (SO) to meet certain percentages regarding online and on ground proportions. Further, the President explained that because the issue of modality is a disputed contract issue, the SO is taking an inflexible stand on this issue.

It was noted that there appeared to be a greater demand for online courses over the fall than could be met with the current offerings, while many on ground courses were cancelled due to low enrollment. Given that courses will be finalized over the coming weeks, and the prediction regarding the status of the pandemic for the beginning of the spring semester is unknown, this is something that faculty should consider carefully as course selections are finalized.

- It was noted that attendance at events that are important to faculty, e.g., new faculty showcase, Excellence awards, have not offered an option to attend virtually. Faculty leaders strongly expressed their opinion that these events should be offered on ground and online in order to maximize participation and in order to be as inclusive as possible. The online option would likely increase overall participation and increase campus safety at the same time by reducing the number of people in larger gatherings, thus providing a win-win situation for all parties. Although this request was not honored for the new faculty showcase, it is hoped that it will be honored for the Excellence awards and other future important events.
- A discussion of campus COVID response and precautions was the final topic discussed at the meeting. It was stressed that faculty feel that the predominant concern should be the protection of the members of our community. The Pandemic is not yet behind us, and despite the vaccination rate of the community members, there are still serious health risks. Given that faculty are at the forefront of being in close contact with students on a daily basis, there have been concerns regarding overcrowded classrooms, ventilation systems, and events for large groups of people.

4) Travel Funds Report for AY 21-22 - TBA

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

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

- 5) **2021-2022** – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.