

## FACULTY SENATE

APPROVED MINUTES OF [10/01/25]

<https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

The 1st Meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2025-2026 was held on 08/27/25, at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom.

### Attendance

FIRST	LAST	DEPARTMENT	TERM ENDS (SPRING)	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL
Dave	Allen	Accounting	2028	x	
Valerie	Andrushko	Anthropology	2026	x	
Jeff	Slomba	Art & Design	2027	x	
Jessica	Case	Athletics	2026	x	
Nicholas	Edgington	Biology	2026	x	
Kate	Toskin	Business Information Systems	2028	x	
Jeff	Webb	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2026	x	
Shawneen	Buckley	Communication Disorders	2027	x	
Melanie	Savelli	Communication, Media & Screen Studies	2028	x	
Aashma	Upreti	Computer Science	2028	x	
Matthew	Ouimet	Counseling	2027	x	
Laurie	Bonjo	Counseling & School Psychology	2026	x	
Maria	Diamantis	Curriculum and Learning	2027	x	
Jennifer	Cooper Boemmels	Earth Science	2027	x	
Yu	Jia	Economics	2028	x	
Peter	Madonia	Ed Leadership	2027		
Paul	Petrie	English	2026	x	
Mike	Shea	English	2026	x	
Eric	West	Environment, Geography, & Marine Sciences	2027	x	
Sandip	Dutta	Finance & Real Estate	2028		
Amanda	Strong	Healthcare Systems and Innovation	2028	x	
Matthew	Rothbard	Health & Movement Sciences	2028	x	
Daniel	Swartz	Health & Movement Sciences	2028	x	
Christine	Petto	History	2028	x	
Troy	Rondinone	History	2026	x	
Yan	Liu	Information & Library Sciences	2026	x	

Cindy	Simoneau	Journalism	2028	x	
Amy	Jansen	Library Services	2028	x	
Zheni	Wang	Management & International Business	2028	x	
Melvin	Prince	Marketing	2026		
Seon	Kim	Marriage & Family Therapy	2026	x	
Leah	Sturman	Mathematics	2027	x	
Danial	Cicala	Mathematics	2027	x	
Natalie	Starling	Mental Health Services	2026	x	
Sameer	Ramchandra	Music	2028	x	
Deborah	Morrill	Nursing	2026	x	
Elizabeth	Hurlbert	Nursing	2027	x	
Gabrielle	Ferrell	Part-Time Faculty	2025		
		Part-Time Faculty	2025		
Shenira	Billups	Part-Time Faculty	2027	x	
Mike	Sanger	Part-Time Faculty	2027	x	
Rex	Gilliland	Philosophy	2026	x	
Evan	Finch	Physics	2027	x	
Jonathan	Wharton	Political Science	2028	x	
		Psychology	2025	x	
Patricia	Kahlbaugh	Psychology	2025	x	
John	Nwangwu	Public Health	2027	x	
Michael	Dodge	Recreation, Tourism, & Sport Management	2027	x	
Isabel	Logan	Social Work	2028	x	
Stephen Monroe	Tomeczak	Social Work	2028	x	
Gregory	Adams	Sociology	2026		
Kristy	Hynes	Inclusive Education & Behavior Science	2027	x	
Douglas	Macur	Theatre	2027		
Tricia	Lin	Women's & Gender Studies	2028	x	
		World Languages & Literatures	2026	x	
Joan	Weir	SCSU Faculty Senate President	2026	x	
Sandra	Bulmer	Interim SCSU President		x	
Venezia	Michalson	Chair, Graduate Council		x	
Tricia	LIn	Chair, Graduate Council		x	
Meredith	Sinclair	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Form		x	
William	Moroz	SGA		x	

**GUESTS**  
Jordan Jones

Robert Yanez  
Trevor Brolliar  
Erin Larkin  
Dyan Robinson  
Craig Hlavac  
Gary Winfield  
Martin Miller  
Kari Swanson  
Julia Irwin

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2025

Faculty Senate President Joan Weir called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. Quorum Confirmed by Shawneen Buckley, Secretary.

### Announcements

- Conference Women's and Gender Studies Conference April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Minutes review/approval

- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9/17//25 were accepted as distributed. <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>

### Faculty Senate President's Reports:

- Please access at: <https://inside.southernct.edu/faculty-senate/meetings>
  - Emphasis placed on including elected members to search committees rather than appointed search committee members.

### Presidents Report:

- Appreciation expressed for details provided in the report.
- Emphasis placed on including elected members to search committees rather than appointed search committee members.

### Standing Committees

#### *Academic Policy:*

- Nothing to add

#### *Finance:*

- Pay attention from Accounts Payable, and attend seminars as needed. The training sessions will be recorded.
- Balance to the Travel funds \$650K AAUP carryover, \$63K part time account.

#### *Personnel Policy*

- No additional information to report

#### *Rules:*

- No additional information to report

#### *Student Policy*

- Will Moros, SGA representative on the committee has agreed to review the website regarding

#### *Technology:*

- Meeting with Trevor tomorrow.

- Question raised: Apporto is no longer supported, which allows students to analyze data when they are off campus with apps such as SPSS. This was raised during the leadership committee. Provost Irwin indicated that Apporto went away a while ago, and she will continue to reach out to learn more.

## **Special Committees:**

### *UCF*

- A new unified OnBase form for program proposals is now live, consolidating graduate, undergraduate, new, revised programs, certificates, and minors' submissions into one system.
- Meredith Sinclair explained that this system provides real-time tracking links for proposers and department chairs, enhancing transparency across the approval stages.
- A nice change with this new system is that people can track the status of the proposals as they move through On Base.
- The deadline for all proposals is October 28.

### *Grad Council:*

- Shared Program approval flow of the new Program Approval Process Submission Timeline. Noted that for fall of 2026, all approvals will be approved by November 15.
- Suggestion to move the graduate open house to the end of September. The new date is Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 3-7 pm

### *Elections:*

- All positions are filled. Thank you to all who self-nominated.

## **Guests:**

### University Chief Martin Miller: Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness Initiatives

- Two new police officers graduated from the state police academy on September 17th and are undergoing 12-week field training, enhancing campus security presence.
- The 2025 Annual Security Report covering crime statistics from 2022-2024 was published and is accessible via the university website, promoting transparency.
- Chief Miller described the LifeSafe app as a critical tool for anonymous reporting and real-time GPS location sharing, recommended for all campus community members.
- Emergency preparedness resources, including detailed plans for bomb threats, active shooter scenarios, and hazardous weather, are organized online for easy access and will be enhanced with upcoming training this semester.
- Chief Miller addressed concerns about potential ICE activity, confirming strong communication with local law enforcement and no current incidents on campus.
- Swatting incidents were explained as false emergency calls designed to trigger large police responses, with the department actively managing such threats through coordinated regional partnerships.

- The police department is committed to timely communication during emergencies, issuing alerts and updates to maintain campus safety and continuity.
- Faculty expressed appreciation for the department's responsiveness, particularly relating to Women's and Gender Studies vandalism incidents, reflecting strong campus-police collaboration.

Kari Swanson: AAUP Representative: Contract Negotiation Process and Faculty Involvement

- Kari Swanson provided an update on contract negotiations, noting the transition from experimental interest-based bargaining back to traditional bargaining beginning in September.
- The first open bargaining session allowed dues-paying members to observe negotiations, marking a historic transparency step.
- The next session is scheduled for October 9th at 10:00 AM, with on-campus watch parties planned to encourage member participation.
- Observers must sign up for each session and comply with ground rules prohibiting discussion of negotiations with the press.
- Scheduling challenges may lead to sessions outside Thursdays, requiring flexibility from participants.
- A chapter meeting addressing contract negotiations and academic freedom will be held tomorrow at 1:00 PM in the Adanti Student Center theater, providing a safe space for in-depth discussion.
- Faculty senators were urged to attend and engage actively in the process to influence outcomes.

Administrative Faculty Senate Update: SUOAF- Jordan Jones:

- Standing committees created to look at various key areas. This year, priorities identified including actions that reflect things to improve as a senate, and for the universities to model as well. One such was bring your child to work day in the spring. Faculty interested in serving, reach out.
- AdHoc committee to look at the Onboarding process. They will assess, then make recommendations in Spring 2027.
- Unique opportunity: Administrative Faculty have a SUOAF Sabbatical leave policy.
- Looking at collaborative work they did last year, particularly search committees, so AFS members would also have a role in the process. Concerns raised regarding the searches last year.
- Last year a resolution was passed regarding shared governance related to search committees, etc. process is being looked at.
- One upcoming event is a Bring Your Child to Campus Day planned for the spring, aimed at fostering community and family engagement, with faculty invited to participate. An ad hoc committee is currently assessing the onboarding process and plans to make recommendations by Spring 2027.

SCSU President Sandra Bulmer:

- President Bulmer and her team are closely watching possible changes in federal funding and are working with the state to see if more financial support might be needed.
- Patty Kahlbaugh raised concerns about how these changes could affect First Amendment rights, especially after recent court cases in Texas. President Bulmer said the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) offers strong protection for faculty and that she hasn't been asked to review how SCSU handles faculty interactions in the classroom.
- The group discussed the difference between individual First Amendment rights and when faculty are speaking for the university. They noted that representing the university requires coordination and care. Provost Irwin suggested a community meeting to talk more about this. Sergio Perez was recognized for his valuable input.
- Information about ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) will be shared with faculty, and the best way to distribute it is still being decided.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.

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Dr. Shawneen Buckley  
Secretary





## STANDING COMMITTEES

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### Academic Policy Committee (APC)

#### Meeting Minutes:

#### **Updates and clarifications to Academic Misconduct – timeline; will connect with ASC**

- Efforts are made for APC Committee to invite Academic Misconduct Chair to meet with APC to discuss concerns and areas needing input.

#### **Develop Templates for Evaluation Letters from DEC's & Department Chairpersons**

- Committee has created a check list of bullet points for DEC and Department Chairpersons to use when formulating letters. The APC committee wishes to share this document with the Senate seeking feedback and discussion.

#### **Bookstore & Textbook Billing –**

Approval has been received for a committee to be formed. The committee will assist in developing the RFP, review proposals, and evaluate them for the next University Bookstore contract. The current contract with B&N expires June 30, 2026.

#### **Early College Credit**

- The APC committee was charged to look into the Early College grades and if students were accepted to SCU, they were placed in probation. Trudy Millburn was asked to assist on this topic and communicated that students with such low grades in Early College courses was addressed through Fresh Start program. APC has additional questions related to websites stating Early College is not eligible for Fresh Start and only one time a student may use the Fresh Start option. APC will seek further communication and discussion on this topic.

#### **Resolution- Graduate Withdrawal Policy**

- Alicia Carroll notified APC that the final version of the resolution had an error with a line being struck out unintentionally. Maria will follow up with Alicia and send, if needed, the correct version of the resolution for adjustment.

## Finance Committee (FC)

10/08/25

Latest Travel Budget update (provided by Ajay Chabra in the Accounts Payable Office)  
(see below:)

**Southern Connecticut State University**  
**FY2026 AAUP Full Time & Part-Time Travel Funds, Creative**  
**RG & Travel (as of 09-16-25)**

Southern Connecticut State University							
FY2026 AAUP Full Time & Part-Time Travel Funds, Creative RG & Travel (as of 09-16-25)							
Index	Description	FY 2026 Budget	FY2026 Expenses	FY2026 Encumbrance	FY 2026 Balance	Prioryear Carryover	Total Available-FY26 Allocation & Carryover
AUP770	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel FT - 2026	\$ 380,113.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 380,113.00	270,624.28	\$ 650,737.28
AUP773	AAUP Conf Wrkshp & Travel PT - 2026	42,235.00	-	-	\$ 42,235.00	21,053.35	\$ 63,288.35
VPA017	Faculty Creative Activity-RG	85,000.00	108.00	-	84,892.00	-	\$ 84,892.00
VPA018	Faculty Creative Activity-Travel	85,000.00	-	-	85,000.00	-	\$ 85,000.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$ 592,348.00</b>	<b>\$ 108.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 592,240.00</b>	<b>\$ 291,677.63</b>	<b>\$ 883,917.63</b>

Chair updated the committee about the lack of contact from administration about any future planned SCSU budget meetings (nothing appears to be scheduled yet).

Chair told the committee he was going to start requesting updated travel budget numbers next week, which should get updates for Late October / early November.

Nick updated the committee he was inquiring with SGA about representatives, before we ask the university foundation about possibly a small FS award to help with bookstore purchases.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm

----Dr. Jeffrey Webb --- FS Treasurer

## Personnel Policy Committee (PPC)

October 8, 2025

12:12 pm

Minutes from September 24, 2025: Unanimous approval

### OLD BUSINESS

- Faculty Senate documents Review/Interfolio Issues
  - Discuss issues with Klay Kruczek
  - “Optional” designation- added there, but some are not actually optional
    - Will this be confusing for faculty? Can we ask Interfolio to change some of the optional/required language? Technical fix?
  - How can we ensure that Interfolio is compliant with CBA and dialogue with current admin going forward with different committee compositions
  - Resolution to address these issues? Need for Faculty Senate overview of Interfolio as Faculty Coordinator duties transition to new AVP position; potentially suggest PPC review and/or create an officer position within Senate that could liaise with AVP
- Evaluator Responsibilities
  - DEC evaluator responsibilities’ review language was drafted by P. Kahlbaugh (as an addition to *Procedures for Forming for Forming a Department Evaluation Committee* doc)
    - Modifications to language, edits and suggestions – will need review by SCSU AAUP.

### Tabled for Future Discussion

- Renewal procedures document
  - P&T documents are more clear and detailed about the contents necessary for the file, may need more specific examples of types of documents for renewal
  - Ambiguous language around disciplinary action- should a statement be added if there is not a record?
  - Re: renewal docs, it would be helpful to have expectations about statements to write, word counts, what they should address.
  - Reviewing Interfolio, it is not clear what documentation is required for Renewals.
  - Committee members should review items in P&T, renewal, and prof. assessment documents – determine what items we might consider for adoption.
- Professional Assessment document
  - clarify what should be in the file, including the category of disciplinary action.
  - Should renewal and P&T docs mirror each other, and Prof Assessment be a separate conversation?
  - Even Professional Assessment can be a vulnerable thing for programs that are not favored by Admin.
  - Committee will review Professional Assessment docs in the future as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:56 pm

## Rules Committee (RC)

### **UFS RULES COMMITTEE MINUTES 10/8/2025 (12:10-1:20 pm via Teams)**

- Discussed and approved proposed minor changes to Sabbatical document, to be brought to Senate for vote 10/15.
- Discussed and approved proposed revisions to FCARG document and processes, to be presented to Senate for discussion and/or vote 10/15.

## Student Policy Committee (SPC)

## Technology Committee (TC)

### Technology Committee Minutes – October 8<sup>th</sup>

#### **New Issues**

Helpdesk assistance for faculty teaching online async

-Faculty may seek Helpdesk assistance for a student in an online async course, but Helpdesk cannot share student email information (i.e. whether 'in' inbox, spam, read, not read). Faculty may prompt students to reach out to Helpdesk with or without copying the faculty member.

Further steps to be taken by the faculty member may include issuing Navigate alerts.

-New & Ongoing: Faculty utilization of Blackboard reports (stay tuned)

#### **On-going Issues**

Blackboard Ultra – Committee will meet (Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>) with Trever Broliar and Bogdan Zamfir regarding a conversation on turning on AI tools for the upcoming Ultra Pilot. [Note: Scott Ellis, co-chair, from the Ad hoc Faculty usage of AI will also attend the meeting.]

Interfolio [not faculty evaluations] – With the changes to the Directory, Faculty

Information/Profiles are available [here](#). Corrections can be made in Interfolio.

LTECH -- Aashma & Chris (as co-chairs) sit on this committee representing the senate.

IT GOV – Faculty Senate President is allowed to name one representative from faculty. Co-chairs cannot sit on this committee and will rely on the senate representative (who happens to be the former chair of the Tech Committee, Doug Macur)

Grade Appeal Processes & OnBase – Moving forward with process and hope to have a trial run in the near future.

Zoom – as of this writing, Zoom is still going away Jan 2026.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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### Undergraduate Curriculum Forum (UCF)

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UCF is requesting a vote of the faculty senate to **change their Constitution to include the Honors College in the UCFs membership**. This requires a change to the UCF Constitution which requires approval of the Faculty Senate.

Summary of the request from the Honors College:

“The Honors College would like membership within UCF as our courses and curricular changes need to be approved by UCF and thus would like a representative to actively attend meetings and support/share/advocate for HC future plans and agendas that accord with HC best practices. Please note, the Honors College currently serves as the general education curriculum for just over 200 students, with a plan to double in five years’ time.”

UCF voted on the motion which passed 33-0.

None



## DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW FOR THE [10/15/2025] MEETING

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### **Faculty Academic Strategic Plan (FASP) Committee:**

The committee continues to work on achievement of Goal 6 of the FASP Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence: Achieve an equitable restructuring of Faculty credit load on the model of the School of Business 3+1 program to support Faculty Creative Activity across the institution, in consideration of the maintenance of the university's R2 status.

Patrick agreed to develop a list of peer institutions with a Carnegie classification of R2.

Krista agreed to create a FASP Teams site where documents can be reviewed and revised. Krista will also reach out the Faculty Senate President, Kari Swanson to see if she can attend the 9/22/25 meeting. Members would like to ask if the restructuring of Faculty credit load on the model of 3+1 would need to be part of the current union contract negotiation process or if this would be addressed through side letters.