



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution Number s-2024-17

To: Dwayne Smith, Ph.D., Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University

From: Natalie Starling, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding Revisions to the Faculty Senate Sabbatical Leave Procedures

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: 04/24/2024

This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL

This Resolution is presented for INFORMATION



In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), "When the Senate makes a written recommendation to the President, the President shall acknowledge and respond to the recommendation in writing within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the Senate's recommendation."

After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form and return it to the President of the Faculty Senate.

Natalie Starling, Ph.D.

President, SCSU Faculty Senate

DocuSigned by:

Signature

4/26/2024

Date

cc: Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Resolution for Approval:

Resolution APPROVED

Resolution DISAPPROVED (Attach statement)

Resolution for Information:

Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.

President, SCSU

DocuSigned by:

Signature

5/28/2024

Date



Southern Connecticut State University

FACULTY SENATE

Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Faculty Senate Sabbatical Leave Procedures

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is responsible for making changes to the Sabbatical Leave Procedures document and calendar; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following revisions to the Sabbatical Leave Procedures document and calendar become effective at the start of the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

List changes here:

- Removal of inaccurate dates throughout document.
- IV.B.1.a and b: Removal of personal email addresses and establishment of permanent institutional email addresses for Sabbatical Committee and HR sabbatical administrator.
- IV.B.2.e: Removal of Dept Sabbatical Leave Committee from chair-dean negotiation of scheduling and academic impact of sabbatical leaves.
- VII.C.6: Mechanism for removal of committee members who are not performing their duties.
- VII.F.3: 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.
- Adjustment of sabbatical calendar to eliminate unnecessary 3-day pause in evaluation process.
- Limit of 3000-word description of the project.

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**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
SABBATICAL LEAVE PROCEDURES FOR FACULTY¹**

Sabbatical Leave encourages the professional growth of the faculty of Southern Connecticut State University by providing an opportunity for individual pursuit of a scholarly and creative experience. Sabbatical Leave is established in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement.²

I. Standards for Sabbatical Leave (from the CSU-AAUP CBA section 13.7)

The CSU-AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement, section 13.7, states that “Sabbatic leave is educational leave. Sabbatic leaves are granted for the benefit of Connecticut State University. Sabbatic leave is granted for purposes of scholarly and creative endeavors that strengthen the professional competence or enrich the teaching [or equivalent professional responsibilities] of members. All proposals for such leave must merit approval on the basis of these standards.”

II. Eligibility

Upon completion of six years of full-time service³, a tenured faculty member is eligible to take Sabbatical Leave. Untenured members may apply for Sabbatical Leave in their sixth year of full-time service. If the leave is granted and the Candidate is not awarded tenure, the leave cannot be accepted. After a Sabbatical Leave, a person cannot take another Sabbatical Leave until the completion of an additional six academic years of full-time service. All proposals that meet the standards specified in I. Standards for Sabbatical Leave shall be judged on the basis of their competitive merit. Among those proposals deemed equal in merit by the Sabbatical Leave committee, preference shall be given to members with the longest service since their last Sabbatical Leave.

III. Schedule of Sabbaticals

A. Length of Sabbaticals

Sabbatical Leave may be taken for one or two semesters, beginning in the Fall or Spring semesters. Sabbatical Leave outside the normal academic semester shall also be permissible. Library faculty may begin their Sabbatical Leave in the Fall, Spring, or Summer.

¹ The Faculty Senate in agreement with the President of the University establishes these procedures, which are intended to be consistent with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to govern the Sabbatical Leave process at Southern Connecticut State University.

² "Collective Bargaining Agreement" when used in this document, refers to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors and the Board of Regents for the Connecticut State Colleges & University System.

³ Interpretation: (1) The six years of full-time service must be at SCSU or within the CSU system; (2) The six years of full-time service must be as a member of the instructional faculty, as a counselor, as a member of the library faculty, or as any combination of the three.

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B. Rotation of Sabbaticals

Departments of ten or fewer full-time members shall send no more than one member on sabbatical at one time. A Department with 11 – 20 full-time members shall send no more than two members on sabbatical at one time. A Department with 21 – 30 full-time members shall send no more than three members on sabbatical at one time.

C. Deferral of Sabbaticals

Once granted, Sabbatical Leave can only be deferred one time, under special circumstances, for not more than one year. A faculty member's request for deferral must be made in writing to the Chairperson of the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee (or equivalent; this Committee shall hereafter be referred to as the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee in this document). It must specify the circumstances that gave rise to the request as well as propose a new time frame for the Sabbatical Leave. Prior to approving the deferral, the Chairperson of the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee and the Department Chairperson shall consult with the Dean of the faculty member's college/school (or equivalent) and the President of the University. Once a deferral is approved, the University Sabbatical Leave Committee must be notified in writing by the faculty member.

IV. Applying for Sabbatical Leave

A. Application Format

To be considered, a Candidate's Sabbatical Leave digital file must include the following materials, to be submitted as a single PDF document:

1. The completed application form, which must be digitally signed by the Candidate, the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee Chairperson, the Department Chairperson, and the Dean of the Candidate's college/school or equivalent.
2. Evaluative statements concerning the Candidate's plan from the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee and from the Department Chairperson.
3. A description of the sabbatical plan (including specific outcomes) that indicates the expected contribution to the Candidate's professional growth as specified in I. Standards for Sabbatical Leave.
4. A two-page curriculum vitae outlining the following Candidate information:
 - a) scholarly competence and recognition, (2) teaching competence, and (3) participation in academic and professional activities of the university and community, highlighting those accomplishments directly related to the sabbatical plan

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5. A copy of the Sabbatical Leave Follow-up Report(s) for any previous award(s) of Sabbatical Leave.

B. Application Procedures:

1. Candidate Role in the Sabbatical Leave Process

- a) The Candidate is responsible for notifying, in writing, the Department Chairperson, Department Sabbatical Leave Committee Chairperson, and the Office of Human Resources (email sabbaticalhr@southernct.edu) of the intent to apply for Sabbatical Leave.
- b) The Candidate is responsible for initiating the Sabbatical Leave application process. The Candidate shall make the Sabbatical Leave digital file (as a single PDF document) available to the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee, the Department Chairperson, the University Sabbatical Leave Committee (sabbaticalcomm@southernct.edu), and the Office of Human Resources (email sabbaticalhr@southernct.edu) as specified in the calendar (Appendix A).
- c) The Candidate is responsible for scheduling an interview with the University Sabbatical Leave Committee through the Office of Human Resources. This interview is optional, but highly recommended.

2. Department Role in the Sabbatical Leave Process

- a) The evaluation of the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee shall be independent of any other evaluation (e.g., independent of the Department Chairperson's evaluation).
- b) Each Department must establish either an elected committee or a committee of the whole to evaluate a Candidate's sabbatical plan for Sabbatical Leave. The Department may choose to have another Department committee act as the Sabbatical Leave Committee.
- c) No person shall serve as a member of a Department Sabbatical Leave Committee during an academic year in which that person is applying for Sabbatical Leave. The Department Chairperson shall not serve as a member of a Department Sabbatical Leave Committee.
- d) Each Department shall develop its own procedures regarding additional conditions of eligibility, election, and recall of Department Sabbatical Leave Committee members, as well as conduct of its business. These procedures shall be recorded and be readily available to the faculty, and a copy shall be placed on file with the Faculty Senate.

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- e) The evaluation of the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee shall be based on the merits of the Candidate's sabbatical plan. Prior to completing the evaluation, the Department Chairperson shall conduct negotiations with the Dean of the Candidate's college/school (or equivalent) to ensure that no Sabbatical Leave will have a detrimental impact on the Department.⁴
- f) In accordance with the procedure and calendar (Appendix A), the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee is responsible for providing the Candidate with an evaluation of the Candidate's sabbatical plan for the Candidate to include in the Sabbatical Leave digital file and for signing the Candidate's Sabbatical Leave application form (Appendix B).

3. Department Chairperson Role in the Sabbatical Leave Process⁵

- a) The Chairperson shall present information in the evaluation which takes into consideration the eligibility requirements established by this document for Sabbatical Leave. The nature of this information should reflect the Chairperson's professional judgments and opinions as well as factual information. The Chairperson's evaluation shall be based on the merits of the Candidate's sabbatical plan and independent of any other evaluation (e.g., independent of the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee's evaluation).
- b) The Chairperson shall include in the evaluation a detailed statement that indicates the extent to which the Candidate's sabbatical will affect the operation of the Department. Prior to completing the evaluation, the Chairperson shall conduct negotiations with the Dean of the Candidate's college/school (or equivalent) to ensure that no Sabbatical Leave will have a detrimental impact on the Department.⁴ Upon obtaining a statement from the Dean of the Candidate's college/school (or equivalent), this information shall be included in the Chairperson's evaluation.
- c) In accordance with the procedure and calendar (Appendix A), the Department Chairperson is responsible for providing the Candidate with an evaluation of the Candidate's sabbatical plan for the Candidate to include in the Sabbatical Leave digital file and for signing the Candidate's sabbatical application form (Appendix B).
- d) In no case shall a Department Chairperson applying for Sabbatical Leave participate in the sabbatical evaluation process.

⁴In the event that the Department Chairperson is applying for Sabbatical Leave, the Department Sabbatical Leave Committee shall conduct these negotiations with the Dean of the appropriate college/school (or equivalent).

⁵In the case of the Library, the spokesperson shall fulfill the role of the Department Chairperson.

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V. Transmission to the University President

After the University Sabbatical Leave Committee has completed its review, the digital files will be made available to the President of the University by the Chairperson of the University Sabbatical Leave Committee.

VI. Benefits and Responsibilities

A. Remuneration

Remuneration shall consist of full pay for one semester or half-pay for one year based upon preference of the faculty member with the approval of the President of the University.

B. Activity Engaged in While on Sabbatical

1. A grant may be accepted during the period of the sabbatical.
2. An individual may render a service, such as a limited number of lectures or involvement in seminars at another institution, as a part of a grant.
3. An individual may not accept a teaching position or any other remunerative position that would detract from the sabbatical plan during the Sabbatical Leave.

C. Protection of Faculty Member's Job and Benefits

All rights, benefits and positions guaranteed by the Collective Bargaining Agreement and University Bylaws shall be maintained by the faculty member during the Sabbatical Leave. A faculty member on Sabbatical Leave shall continue to accrue sick leave, longevity credit, and retirement credit at the full-time rate. To be eligible for longevity payments during the sabbatical year, a faculty member must be on the payroll on either April 1st or October 1st of the year in question.

D. Return

1. It is expected that recipients of Sabbatical Leave will return to work at Southern Connecticut State University for at least one year after the Sabbatical Leave is completed. The President of the University may release a person from this agreement for appropriate reasons.
2. Within one semester of returning from a Sabbatical Leave, a faculty member shall submit a written statement setting forth the experiences and accomplishments attained in pursuit of the objectives set forth in the proposal to the President of the University, University Sabbatical Leave Committee, Department Sabbatical Leave Committee, and Director of Library Services. Such statements shall be retained by the University Sabbatical Leave Committee, and a copy shall be placed in the University documents file in the Buley Library, attached to the copy of the application, where it shall be available to the University community.

VII. University Sabbatical Leave Committee

A. Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the University Sabbatical Leave Committee is to evaluate Candidates for sabbaticals, and to make recommendations to the President of the University regarding the granting of sabbaticals in accordance with this document.

B. Structure of the Committee

1. There shall be a single University Sabbatical Leave Committee for teaching faculty (including supervisors of student teaching), library faculty, and counselors, hereafter collectively referred to as "faculty." Administrators are not eligible.
2. The Committee shall consist of seven members (one member from each college/school and three at-large members) elected by the faculty.
3. The Committee shall consist of two alternate members elected by the faculty.
 - a) Alternates shall take the place of voting members:
 - i. when a voting member is applying for Sabbatical Leave that year;
 - ii. when a voting member resigns; or
 - iii. under other circumstances (e.g., prolonged illness) as evaluated by the Committee.

C. Eligibility for Membership on the Committee

1. Faculty members who are tenured, have achieved the rank of Assistant Professor or above (or the equivalent for library faculty and counselors), and have completed a minimum of six years of full-time service on the faculty or professional staff of a college or university, at least three of which must be at Southern Connecticut State University, are eligible to serve on this Committee.
2. At no time shall two members from any one Department be elected as regular or alternate members of the Committee.
3. No person who provides evaluative materials at any level of the sabbatical process may serve as a member or alternate on the Committee (e.g., Department Chairpersons and Department Sabbatical Leave Committee members).
4. Faculty members may not serve as members of the Committee during an academic year in which they apply for Sabbatical Leave.
5. Faculty members that serve on a Department Evaluation Committee (DEC) whose duties include evaluation of sabbatical proposals may serve on both the DEC and the University Sabbatical Leave Committee provided they recuse themselves from all Sabbatical Leave-related deliberations of the DEC.

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6. Committee members who anticipate they will have to be absent from the Committee deliberations shall step down for the entire process. Committee members repeatedly absent or neglecting their duties without an excuse deemed adequate by the Committee shall step down. If the Committee member chooses not to step down, the Committee shall call for a vote by secret ~~written~~ ballot for the Committee member's removal for the remainder of the Committee member's term. A vote of two-thirds of the Committee shall result in the expulsion of the Committee member from the Committee. A record of the vote shall be maintained. If the expulsion occurs in the same semester as the deliberations and at least 3 weeks before the deliberations are to occur, then an Alternate shall replace the expelled Committee member for that semester.

D. Election of Members of the Committee

1. The Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate has the responsibility for conducting the elections for the Committee.
2. Each spring, elections shall be held for the members whose terms have expired and to fill any existing vacancies in unexpired terms.
3. All terms shall begin September 1st and expire August 31st.

E. Recall of Committee Members and Alternates

1. Any member or alternate of the Committee may be recalled by a majority vote of the faculty on a referendum.
2. Such a referendum shall be conducted by the Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate upon receipt of a petition to the effect bearing the signatures of at least 10% of the faculty.

F. Procedures of the Committee

1. A Candidate may submit any new supporting documentation to the Committee (sabbaticalcomm@southernct.edu) in accordance with the calendar (Appendix A).
2. A Candidate shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Committee prior to making its decision.
3. The Committee shall hold its first meeting of the academic year in September to outline the dates and procedures for the upcoming year, to determine the eligibility, and availability of its members, and to elect a Chairperson from its members. The Faculty Senate President shall announce and convene this meeting. The Elections Officer ~~Chairperson of the Senate Elections Committee~~ shall be present to conduct this election, which shall be determined by a majority vote. Nominations and self-nominations shall be solicited by the Elections Officer ~~Chairperson of the Senate Elections Committee~~ prior to and at the first meeting. A quorum shall be required for the Committee Chairperson election to be valid. If a quorum is not present at the first meeting, a second meeting shall be scheduled within two weeks. In the

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absence of the Elections Officer a Chairperson of the Senate Elections Committee, the Senate President shall solicit the nominations and self-nominations and conduct the election as outlined above.

4. The Committee shall examine and discuss each Candidate's sabbatical file. It may decide to solicit additional written information from any source. Candidates will automatically receive a copy of the additional material. Any such material introduced at this time must be countersigned by the Candidate, and the Candidate must have the opportunity of adding a written rebuttal. The Committee shall not accept written information other than that in the file or submitted pursuant to VII.F.1, VII.F.2, or that which the Committee solicits as described above.
5. A Sabbatical Leave may be granted for either a full-year at half pay or a half-year at full pay without prejudice.
6. In evaluating Sabbatical Leave applications, the Committee as a whole will discuss the evaluation criteria. Committee members will use their own professional judgments and opinions in voting to recommend or not to recommend each application.
7. After all information has been received, along with full discussion and deliberation, each Committee member shall cast a ballot. A secret ballot shall be used for any major decision.
8. Each Committee member shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity (as determined by the Committee) to cast a ballot.
9. At any stage in the evaluation process, the Committee may reconsider and/or revoke on an individual Candidate.
10. The final listing of Candidates recommended shall be presented by the Committee Chairperson to the Office of Human Resources in priority order as determined by the Committee in the form of a letter to be signed by all Committee members. The Office of Human Resources shall forward the Committee's recommendations to the President of the University. A copy of the Committee's recommendation shall be sent to the Candidate at the time of issuance.
11. Committee members, when not meeting as a Committee, shall treat as confidential the information in any Candidate's file, as well as the Committee's deliberations and votes. Such confidentiality does not apply to any disclosures concerning grievance procedures.
12. The Committee may establish and follow any additional procedures it deems reasonable, provided such procedures do not contravene procedures specified in this Document or contravene the spirit of this Document. A written record of all procedures shall be sent annually during the Spring semester of the academic year to the Faculty Senate and the President of the University.

VIII. Grievance Procedure

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Any faculty member who feels that the Sabbatical Leave procedures have in any way been violated with respect to this document may initiate grievance procedures as specified in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

IX. Amendment Procedure

This Document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Senate with the concurrence of the President of the University.

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X. Interpretation, Implementation, and Review

This section may not be invoked with respect to the interpretation and/or implementation of any item of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. If an issue develops concerning interpretation and/or implementation of this Document whether initiated by the Senate, a faculty member, or any member of the administration, a binding decision on such an issue shall be made:

1. By agreement between the President of the University and a majority of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate or, failing to obtain agreement on an issue by this method,
2. By a committee consisting of one member selected by the Senate Executive Committee, one selected by the President of the University, and one selected by the first two committee members, who, by a two-thirds vote shall decide on the issue.

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Appendix A. Calendar

The most up-to-date calendar for Sabbatical Leave is located on the Faculty Senate's website under "Grants, Sabbatical, and Faculty Resources."

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

RESET FORM

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION FOR SABBATICAL LEAVE**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Academic Rank: _____ Date Tenure Granted: _____

Department: _____

Dates of leave requested: From _____ To _____

Number of years of full-time service since last Sabbatical Leave or number of years of full-time service as a faculty member at SCSU, whichever is less: _____

Date of previous sabbatical(s), if applicable: _____
Please attach the Sabbatical Leave Follow-Up Report(s).

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: _____

ABSTRACT (100 words or less) of proposal:

Signature of Department Sabbatical Committee Chairperson

Date

Signature of Department Chairperson

Date

Signature of Dean

Date

Signature of Applicant

(Indicates applicant's receipt of evaluation letters from Department Sabbatical Leave Committee and Department Chairperson)

Date

Appendix C. Application for Sabbatical Leave Checklist

The proposal shall be organized as follows:

- I. Application form
- II. Description of Project (limited to 3000 words, not including bibliography)
 - A. Title of Proposal
 - B. Conception and Definition of Project
 - C. Plan of Work in Detail: Include timeline, budget, travel arrangements, research arrangements, etc.
 - D. Bibliography
- III. Curriculum Vitae (limited to two pages)

Include information regarding: (1) scholarly competence and recognition, (2) teaching competence, and (3) participation in academic and professional activities of the university and community, highlighting those accomplishments directly related to the sabbatical plan.
- IV. Supporting documents (e.g., letter of invitation) and/or other relevant material directly related to the sabbatical plan.

Appendix D. Format for Sabbatical Leave Follow-Up Report

Within one semester of returning from the Sabbatical Leave, recipients shall submit copies of the report to the President of the University, the University Sabbatical Leave Committee (sabbaticalcomm@southernct.edu), the appropriate Department, and the Director of Library Services.

The objective(s) of the sabbatical proposal should be stated briefly. The experiences and accomplishments of the Sabbatical Leave, particularly as they relate to the objective(s), should be detailed.

If, for any reason, the objective(s) of the plan changed, the course and result(s) of such change should be indicated.