

Faculty Senate Resolution Number S-2025-15

TO: Dwayne Smith, Ph.D., Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University  
FROM: Natalie Starling, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding CBA Travel Funds for 2025-2026

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This resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: April 16, 2025

XX 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) 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

Natalie Starling, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

04/30/2025

Date

cc: Julia Irwin, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

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### 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 (Apr 30, 2025 12:31 EDT)

Dwayne Smith, Ph.D., Interim President, SCSU

04/30/2025

Date

## Statement



# Southern Connecticut State University

## FACULTY SENATE

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### **Resolution Regarding CBA Travel Funds for 2025-2026**

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

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

Whereas, The CSU-AAUP CBA Travel Fund ["Travel Fund"] supports faculty attendance at professional seminars, workshops, conferences or educational exchanges (CSU-AAUP Contract Article 9.5.1);

Whereas, Participation in such conferences and academic gatherings enhances the ability of SCSU Faculty members to achieve excellence as scholars in their particular disciplines;

Whereas, The Collective Bargaining Agreement (9.5.1) specifies that the President or designee shall consult with the cabinet and the Senate President in assigning travel funds, and each full-time member normally shall not be allowed more than \$1,500 reimbursement per contract year toward the cost of fees, and each part-time member not more than \$750 from the Travel Fund;

Whereas, Reduced frequency of travel during the coronavirus pandemic resulted in a significant amount of residual monies in the Travel Fund at the end of 2019-2020;

Whereas, Residual monies will remain in the Travel Fund and be added to the 2025-2026 CBA-determined Travel Fund allocation, leading to an unusually large pool of funds for travel;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate and the Provost have identified a mutual desire to use available travel funds to support faculty attendance at professional seminars, workshops, conferences or educational exchanges and also to promote active participation;

Whereas, Cost increases for travel and conference fees have significantly affected faculty members' opportunities to participate in national and international professional seminars, workshops, conferences and educational exchanges;

Whereas, The SCSU Administration and the SCSU AAUP have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing an exemption from the \$1,500 (FT) & \$750 (PT) limits for 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 travel funds for full-time and part-time faculty, respectively; and

Whereas, Through this resolution the Faculty Senate is acting to fulfill its responsibility in conferring with the President on the establishment of a maximum annual SCSU funding limit on travel funds provided by the CBA for 2025-2026; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate recommends that the travel fund reimbursement caps for 2025-2026 be set as \$2,000 for tenured full-time faculty members and non-tenured faculty members on special appointment (non-tenure track), \$2,250 for non-tenured full-time faculty members on tenure track; and be it further

*Resolved*, That for full-time members of the faculty traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by \$250 for one of two circumstances:

- a) for travel that requires trans-ocean travel, OR
- b) if the member is faculty traveling to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker<sup>1</sup>, and whose expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate recommends that the travel fund reimbursement caps for 2025-2026 be set at \$850 for part-time faculty members; and be it further

*Resolved*, That part-time members of the faculty traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by \$125 for one of two circumstances:

- a) for travel that requires trans-ocean travel, OR
- b) if the member is traveling to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker and whose expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That according to the foregoing, the maximum total travel reimbursement cap shall be \$2,250 for tenured full-time faculty members and for non-tenured faculty members on special appointment (non-tenure track); \$2,500 for non-tenured full-time faculty members on tenure track; and \$975 for part-time Faculty members<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, an invited keynote speaker is the person "headlining" or serving as the main speaker during an opening meeting or other plenary session at an event covered by CBA-provided travel funds. A faculty member applying for an increased travel fund cap based on having been invited to give a keynote address, must provide a copy of a formal, written invitation, which states the amount of expenses paid by the sponsoring organization and the stipend awarded by the sponsoring organization to cover expenses. A faculty member who attends a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as a participant in any other capacity (e.g., to present a paper, poster session, experiential learning activity, professional development workshop, attend committee or governing group activities) is not an invited keynote speaker.

<sup>2</sup> This provision is not intended to change any other terms and conditions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF**  
**UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (AAUP)**  
**and**  
**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (SCSU)**

This agreement is entered into by and between the Southern Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU).

**WHEREAS**, Section 9.5.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the parties specifies that the President or designee shall consult with the cabinet and the Senate President in assigning travel funds, and each full-time member normally shall not be allowed more than \$1,500 reimbursement per contract year toward the cost of fees, and each part-time member not more than \$750 from the Travel Fund;

**WHEREAS**, Reduced frequency of travel during the unique and one-time event (the coronavirus pandemic) resulted in a significant amount of residual monies in the Travel Fund at the end of 2022-2023;

**WHEREAS**, Residual monies remained in the Travel Fund in 2024-2025, continue to remain and will be added to the 2025-2026 CBA determined Travel Fund allocation, leading to an unusually large pool of funds for travel;

**WHEREAS**, Faculty Senate Resolution S-2025-15 agreed to allow the full-time faculty to exceed the travel fund limits established in Section 9.5.1 of the CBA, and were prohibited by the same CBA article to authorize increased amounts for the part-time faculty;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the parties to this Agreement hereby agree to the following:


1. The travel fund reimbursement caps for full-time faculty in the 2025-2026 academic year will be:
  - \$2,000.00 for tenured full-time faculty members and non-tenured faculty members on special appointment (non-tenure track);
  - \$2,250.00 for non-tenured full-time faculty members on tenure track.
2. Full-time faculty members traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by \$250 for one of the following circumstances:
  - a) The trip requires trans-ocean travel, or
  - b) For travel to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker where the expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization.

3. The travel fund reimbursement cap for part-time faculty in the 2025-2026 academic year will be \$850.
4. Part-time faculty members traveling to a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange shall have the travel cap raised by \$125 for one of the following circumstances:
  - a) The trip requires trans-ocean travel, or
  - b) For travel to attend a professional seminar, workshop, conference or educational exchange as an invited keynote speaker where the expenses are not covered in full by the sponsoring organization.
5. The maximum total travel reimbursement caps in the 2025-2026 academic year will be:
  - \$2,250 for tenured full-time faculty members and for non-tenured faculty members on special appointment (non-tenure track);
  - \$2,500 for non-tenured full-time faculty members on tenure track; and
  - \$975 for part-time faculty members.
6. This agreement is due to unusual circumstances and is with prejudice but without precedent except in matters involving the 2025-2026 travel funds. It does not change any other term or condition of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

  
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For SCSU

4-29-25

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Date

  
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For SCSU-AAUP

4-29-25

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Date