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[AFS Announce] AFS in Focus: April Newsletter

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From announce-afs <announce-afs-bounces@lists.southernct.edu>  
on behalf of  
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April 2026

## AFS in Focus

Welcome to the April edition of the Administrative Faculty Senate (AFS) newsletter. This issue highlights key updates and work the Senate focused on during April, along with a brief look ahead as the semester comes to a close.

Thank you for staying engaged and informed!



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### What Should We Be Talking About?

#### Have Something on Your Mind?

AFS agendas are shaped by the issues impacting administrative faculty across campus. If you are noticing trends, experiencing challenges, or have ideas for improvement, we want to hear from you.

Your input helps guide our conversations with campus and system leadership.

👉 [Share ideas or concerns here](#)

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### Internal Opportunity

#### Interim AVP for Academic Affairs – Curriculum

Six-month appointment supporting curricular processes during Dr. Milburn's leave. Serves as Accreditation Liaison Officer (NECHE), Provost's delegate for curricular matters, and leads review of BOR and non-BOR curriculum proposals, BOR agenda preparation, and coordination with faculty governance bodies and the Registrar.

- [Submit letter of interest and CV to provost@southernct.edu](mailto:provost@southernct.edu) by **May 8, 2026**.

***Interim AVP for Faculty Affairs***

Provides leadership over faculty affairs, including hiring, onboarding, development, promotion and tenure, and related policy implementation. Full position description is attached (previously posted in fall and now reopened).

- **Prior applicants:** confirm continued interest by emailing [provost@southernct.edu](mailto:provost@southernct.edu) by **May 8, 2026**.
- **New applicants:** submit letter of interest and CV to [provost@southernct.edu](mailto:provost@southernct.edu) by **May 8, 2026**.

## Senate in Action Key Updates



### Making Headway

**Senate Representation Expansion:** AFS approved a resolution establishing a framework for expanded Senate representation.

**AFS Leadership Update:** Britt Conroy was appointed as AFS Secretary following an electronic vote.

**Budget and Finance Transparency:** Updates from Finance & Administration highlighted current budget challenges, including the use of reserves and steps toward a more transparent, priority-driven budgeting model.

**HR Modernization Efforts:** Work continues on improving HR and administrative processes, including plans for automation and a new applicant tracking system.

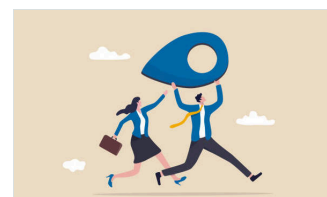


### What's Coming Up

**Senate Elections:** Fifteen two-year term seats will open, with nominations and bios being requested in April and voting concluding by June 1.

**Professional Development Engagement:** A campus-wide survey is wrapping up with focus groups scheduled for May

**Bylaws and Membership Updates:** Proposed updates to Senate membership language are in development, with draft language expected by the end of April.



### In Motion

**Purchasing Card (P-Card) Policy Concerns:** AFS raised concerns regarding clarity, consistency, and process. Policy review and updates are underway.

**Zero-Based Budgeting Transition:** The university is moving toward a zero-based budgeting model to better align spending with institutional priorities.

**Campus Engagement Efforts:** Ongoing work continues to strengthen engagement, including collaboration with Student Government and outreach to clerical staff.

**Leadership Searches:** Several key searches remain active or paused, including the Provost and Vice President for Institutional Advancement roles.

[For full context and discussion, please see the Senate meeting minutes on Confluence](#)

**We Want Your Input!**

The Administrative Faculty Senate's Training & Professional Development Assessment Committee is seeking input on how optional professional development opportunities at SCSU support your career growth, skill development, and long-term goals.

This survey focuses on optional professional development experiences (not required training or HR-mandated sessions), including webinars, conferences, leadership programs, skill-based trainings, professional associations, and campus service opportunities.

👉 Please take a few minutes to complete the survey: [Administrative Faculty Professional Growth & Development Survey SP26](#)

Your feedback will help inform recommendations to strengthen professional development opportunities for administrative faculty across the university.

#### Optional Focus Groups

We are also hosting small-group conversations for those who would like to expand on their survey responses. No preparation is needed—just your perspective.

- Tuesday, May 5 | 12:00–1:00 PM | Adanti Student Center – Room 312
- Wednesday, May 6 | 1:00–2:00 PM | Adanti Student Center – Room 312
- Thursday, May 7 | 10:00–11:00 AM | Virtual
- Tuesday, May 26 | 10:00–11:00 AM | Adanti Student Center – Room 312

Each session is limited to 15 participants. Additional sessions will be added if needed.

## AFS Spotlight



### Community Shout-Out

Shout out to Daisy Torres-Baez, who works in Human Resources in faculty and staff talent acquisition and engagement. Daisy came to Southern with passions for social justice and humanizing higher education for university employees, knowing how impactful they can be in supporting student success.

During her time here, Daisy has supported programming for affinity groups that connect students, faculty and staff around identity. She has also examined the model of faculty orientation with an eye to creating a meaningful orientation experience. While onboarding was previously focused on benefits, Daisy envisions a robust experience in which new employees can also explore their aspirations for their roles, learn about the culture and community at Southern, be introduced to signature events, and begin to experience a sense of belonging.

Daisy's commitment to community development is evident through her active involvement in the Administrative Faculty Senate, the Dreamer's Action Alliance, Advancing Latinos at Southern, and much more.

[Know someone making an impact or reaching a milestone? Nominate for the next issue](#)



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**May 2, 2026:** Undergraduate Research Conference

**May 4, 2026:** Graduate Research Conference

**May 11, 2026:** AFS General Meeting

**May 12, 2026:** 2026 SCSU Teaching Academy

**May 18-19, 2026:** Graduate Commencement

**May 22, 2026:** Undergraduate Commencement

[👉 Click here to view all upcoming meetings](#)

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## Stay Connected

Visit our website for full meeting summaries, archives of past newsletters, and updates on ongoing initiatives.

Have feedback or ideas for future issues of *AFS in Focus*? We'd love to hear from you. Interested in shaping future events, professional development opportunities, and engagement activities? Share your input through the AFS interest survey.

[🌐 AFS Website](#)

[📄 Feedback Form](#)

[📊 AFS Interest Survey](#)