

AFS in Focus

Welcome back, Southern colleagues!

As we begin a new academic year, the Administrative Faculty Senate (AFS) looks forward to continuing our work on behalf of administrative faculty and supporting a strong and connected university community.

Here's a look at some AFS updates and ways to stay engaged this semester.

As a reminder: The minutes from the June 15, 2026 Annual Meeting are available for those who would like to review the meeting's discussions and updates.



AFS Welcomes New President-Elect

The Administrative Faculty Senate is pleased to announce that Dr. Jenna Retort has been elected by the Senate to serve as President-Elect.

In this role, Dr. Retort will spend the coming year working closely with current Senate leadership to prepare for a smooth leadership transition, participate in Senate governance activities, represent administrative faculty interests, and help advance the Senate's work on behalf of the university community.

Dr. Retort will serve as President-Elect until assuming the role of Administrative Faculty Senate President at the June 2027 Annual Meeting, or sooner if circumstances require.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Retort and wishing her all the best as she begins this new role!

A Leadership Update: With Dr. Retort's election to the President-Elect position, a vacancy has been created in the Vice President role. The Senate will vote on the appointment of a new Vice President at its September general meeting.

Finding Stable Ground Before the Semester Begins

Earlier this month, the Administrative Faculty Senate hosted a [virtual workshop](#) with Dr. Ilene Crawford focused on finding stable ground before the start of a new semester. If you weren't able to join us, you can still access the workshop resources below.

Workshop Resources

Workshop Recording

Missed the workshop or want to revisit the conversation? Watch the recording to hear Dr. Crawford's insights and strategies for finding stability and staying grounded as you navigate the semester ahead. [\[Click Here\]](#)

Workshop Slides

Want to revisit the key points and resources from the presentation? View the workshop slides for a helpful reference throughout the semester. [\[Click Here\]](#)

 *These resources are available to the SCSU community for 60 days and require you to be logged in with your SCSU account to view.*



The Administrative Faculty Senate values your input and encourages administrative faculty to share questions, concerns, ideas, and opportunities for consideration. Feedback from colleagues helps shape the Senate's priorities and informs conversations with university leadership.

Submit feedback at any time using our [online form](#).

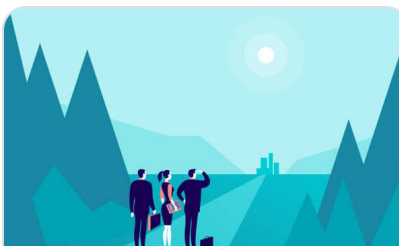
Your voice matters, and we welcome your participation!

Senate in Action *Key Updates*



Making Headway

AFS passed three resolutions during the 2025–26 academic year, helping lay the groundwork for expanded Senate membership and continued governance efforts.



What's Coming Up

Constitution and Bylaws updates will be reviewed with the Senate this fall.

Brown Bag Lunches and other engagement



In Motion

The Nominations and Elections Committee is developing a guide to clarify the process for future Senate elections.

The Training and Professional Development Committee completed its survey and focus groups and is reviewing the feedback to help shape future priorities.

AFS supported efforts to expand resources for students experiencing food and housing insecurity through a new partnership with United Way.

The Empowerment and Engagement Committee launched Brown Bag Lunches over the summer, with additional opportunities planned for the new academic year.

opportunities will continue throughout the new academic year.

The Sabbatical Leave Committee will introduce an updated application and intent-to-apply form, along with resources to help administrative faculty navigate the process.

The September general meeting will include a vote to fill the vacant Vice President position.

Training and Professional Development is reviewing survey and focus group feedback to identify opportunities for administrative faculty.

IT Governance and L-TECH are working on their structure and coordination as the new academic year begins.

AFS continues working with university leadership and stakeholders on budget priorities and funding requests.

For full context and discussion, please see the Senate meeting minutes on Confluence

- **September 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.** — AFS General Meeting; New AFS Vice President will be selected



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

Stay Connected with AFS

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



Interested in attending an upcoming AFS general meeting? View the meeting schedule and join us for the conversation.



AFS Website



Feedback Form



AFS Interest Survey