

Southern Connecticut State University

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes of November 2, 2011

<http://www.scsu.ctstateu.edu/organiations/facultysenate>

The 5th meeting of 2011-2012 was called to order at 12:15 pm by President Susan Cusato.

Members Present/Absent (Members absent are designated in bold)

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Sue Clerc (Library Services)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Susan Cusato (Science Ed/Env Stud)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Susan Calahan (Exercise Science)	Rick Bassett (Management)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Dana Schneider (Social Work)
Jeff Slomba (Art)	Tom Fleming (Earth Science)	Resha Cardone (WLL/Foreign Language)	Mel Prince (Marketing)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)
Terrence Lavin (Art)	James Thorson (Econ/Finance)	Lisa Vitale (WLL/Foreign Language)	John Scheuermann (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Jon Bloch (Sociology)
Meghan Brown (Athletics)	Maria Diamantis (Education)	Patrick Heidkamp (Geography)	Cynthia Gubitose (Mathematics)	Jim Dolan (Physics)	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Jane Feng (Biology)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Troy Paddock (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Kevin Buterbaugh (Political Science)	Ruth Eren (Special Ed/Reading)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Ginny Metaxas (History)	Terese Gemme (Music)	Gayle Bessenoff (Psychology)	Kaia Monroe (Theatre)
Annette Madlock-Gatson (Communication)	Judy Tarbox (English)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Leslie Neal-Boylan (Nursing)	Cheryl Durwin (Psychology)	Marty Hartog (UCF)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Mike Shea (English)	Elsie Okaobi (Library Science)	Barbara Aronson (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	James Thorson (Grad Council)
Herv Podnar (Computer Science)	Paul Petrie (English)	Rebecca Hedreen (Library Science)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Jan Jones (Recreation/Leisure)	

Approval of Minutes: Senate Minutes of October 19, 2011 as submitted.

President Cusato thanked Senator O'Brien for leading the last senate meeting on her absence.

Guest: Interim Provost, Dr. Marianne Kennedy was welcomed by President Cusato. -
 - Dr. Kennedy shared information on a meeting that she attended along with Interim President Battle, Peter Troiano, Dean Fredeen, Kim Crone, Terri Bennett, and others. The meeting was held at Housatonic with members from the states' P-20 Council and discussed the need for a seamless K-16 education in our state. Mr. Meotti participated in that meeting and pointed out the gaps that exist between the P-20 and the Higher Education. Thus, there is a real need to bridge the gaps. We will continue to support our partnership with Gateway, the one that Provost Williams and Gateway's provost started a couple years ago. This year's conference will be held at Gateway's campus.

President Battle has had interesting conversations with the president of Gateway since we now are all one big system on how to find more way to make us work together: such as could we have join appointments with faculty? Would it make sense to have tenure home at SCSU but be able to teach at Gateway? Should we consider

special appointments -- Could we hire Gateway faculty to teach 2 courses here and 2 at Gateway? Should we recognize existing connections of that sort?

More than 40% of our students are transfer students. The more collaborations we have the easier for our students to complete their education. Faculty should be thinking and should be discussing such opportunities. President Battle asked that we start communicating such opportunities as senate's representatives. Provost Kennedy mentioned that the board of regents will be probably supporting such initiatives especially in connection to the budget issues. So, we should be aware and start such discussions.

- Lengthy discussion occurred and faculty voiced many concerns or suggestions. Based on shared governance philosophy the senate should be discussing such moves thinking of the mission/vision of our university; discussing the impact on our student's education; the Senate should begin thinking/discussing in that direction.
- Presidential search is coming up and the need is for someone who says what needs to be done.
- A question from the floor for the Provost to address if proposals exist to merge various departments. Where did it come from? What is the impact? There is no plan to merge anything, there is conversation about possibilities on changing structures to save us money and this is what the deans have started discussions. Are there efficiencies to be gained? Maybe in some areas but nothing is on the table for decisions. The question is what can we do with what we have and then who makes the final decision. There should be a uniform process for the deans and departments/faculty for discussion/approval (not in the hallway) and although deans might have different approaches, we need to address the right process. Bottom line is that we shouldn't compromise our education due to changes such as economics, enrollment, or other.
- SCSU received the draft report from NEASC and the only statement I can make is that overall it's a positive report. We don't know what the final outcome will be or what they might ask us to do. A draft of the academic program plans is on the academic affairs web site.

At this time, Interim Provost Kennedy departed the senate.

Announcements -

1. The special elections will be going out for nominations for a member on the Board of Regents. Further information and responsibilities of this position are limited at this time. We need someone who will take initiative and be strong.
2. The Board of Regents is voting today on the Ed.D. program degree from the nursing department.
3. There are \$4700 in the faculty creative activity funds.

President Cusato asked for a motion to go to Old Business and address the Student Absentee Policy. There were no objections.

The proposed policy on student course attendance was discussed extensively. The question was called and accepted unanimously. There was a motion to accept the policy as presented and it passed by majority (41 yes, 1 no, 2 abstentions).

President's Report- distributed and discussed. The main topic is the presidential search and the campus visits of the three finalists. We should be actively participating in their interviews and follow up with the Zoomerang evaluation of each candidate.

President Cusato asked for a motion to address the Updates from UCF, Grad Council and FASP/USPARC. The motion was accepted unanimously.

UCF - UCF chair, Dr. Hartog, asked that departments (programs) might wish to decide for a minimum acceptable grade for their major's courses, ie a C or C- . He also announced that we now have a UCF Tracker that is functioning and allows departments to track course proposals. At the current time, this action works only from campus, not remotely.

Graduate Council - Senator Thorson announced that the next week meeting will be next Monday, 1-3.

FASP/USPARC - Senator Pettigrew announced that there was a USPARC meeting at which time there were comments that SCSU should have a 3 year BS, 16 month MS degrees, and that they might give us a business plan on how to make such changes/improvements. FASP met and discussed a few items.

Motion to adjourn at 2:03.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Maria Diamantis
Secretary, Faculty Senate