

Southern Connecticut State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes of November 16, 2011

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

The 6th 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/MIS)	(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-Gatison (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 November 2, 2011. Approved as submitted.

Announcements— Senators Diamantis and Major thanked the senate for the opportunity to attend the AAUP Shared Governance conference and briefed the senate on what they both learned from the workshops. They will prepare a handout with summary of the information for the next Senate meeting.

Senator Shea announced that AAUP sponsors such conferences and anyone interested can and should contact the AAUP office. For example there are summer institutes available every summer usually during the third week of July. Senators were invited to consider attending.

Tonight at 7 pm there is a reception followed by a documentary film: A North Woods Elegy: Incident at Big Moose Lake. This is sponsored by the School of Arts and Sciences, a CSU research grant-funded documentary film by Derek Taylor and Michael Bay (assistant Professors from Communication department).

President's Report

Handouts were distributed and the following items were discussed: at the Senate meeting of February 8, 2012 we will have two guests: Dr. Kennedy and Mr. Michael Meotti.

President Cusato asked for volunteers to attend the Part Time Enrollment committee - volunteer sought for this committee.

At the meeting with President Battle this past week we were informed that NEASC mentioned a concern that there isn't a university-wide senate but a faculty senate only. President Battle seems happy with existing process, as there exist regular meetings with the Senate President and there is plenty communication and reporting back and forth. President Battle proposed that he and the Provost come at every Senate meeting to discuss issues for the first ten minutes. He also proposed that the provost is willing to attend as Ex-Officio on our meetings. President Cusato asked for the sense of the senate. After long discussion there was a strong sense that the president does come as needed and he continues to hold the University Dialogues as they exist. Also as far as the provost participation as ex-officio, it was not a popular idea and many senators expressed many concerns. Again, the sense of the senate was not to have the Provost as ex-officio at the Senate meetings.

Enrollment Management: Graduate enrollment is down, last year's applications at this time were 140; today we have only 76 applications.

Senators expressed concerns that the graduate school communication needs improvement. The applications/admissions process has been changed and this holds down our enrollment. Graduate school stated that they are not holding back any student with lower than 3.0 gpa. Another concern was that if numbers are not right, then we can't further discuss this. The Academic Impact statement has not been enforced, thus, we need to keep insisting that it is included at all times. The Student Policy committee will take these issues up and discuss them with the Graduate Dean.

The Federal government has changed the regulations for financial aid. More than 1300 of our students will receive letters updating them on the changes and warn them that their gpa will affect their financial aid. The new regulations requires a 2.0 minimum gpa for continuation of financial aid. Also the years of financial aid will be shortened to total years attending different schools, thus, they must do well for their financial aid to continue. About 500 students now will receive letters telling them that they will not receive financial aid this coming spring as we allow students with 1.2 gpa to continue registering.

Lengthy discussion with many concerns from senators of finding ways to assist our students and expand the Summer Academy ideas to all of our students and not only the EDU.

ACTION ITEM- President Cusato was asked to get the sense of the senate on changing the deadline for final grade submissions, from December 27 to December 22. The rationale was based on allowing time for the letters to go out to students based on the final grades received earlier. Senators were concerned that this change has many negative implications, thus the sense of the senate was to leave for December 27 with a letter to go out to all students reminding them of the standards to prepare for their final exams.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Rules: "Senate's direction for language on faculty referenda" - Senator O'Brien Wes asked for a straw poll on how the senate wishes the committee to finalize the language for the faculty. Strong support that the language includes full time tenure track faculty only.

At this time President Cusato entertained a motion to move from Old Business to Standing Committee Reports to address an issue with the Student Policy Committee. There were no objections.

Senator Dunklee spoke on the proposal from the undergraduate commencement committee about changing the location of the commencement from the Yale Tennis Court (New Haven) to the Bridgeport Webster Bank Arena (Bridgeport). The new location is not outdoors, thus, more comfort, no parking issues, less volunteers needed, easy access from the highway, less expensive. Students will be limited to 4 tickets per graduate and \$5 parking fee per car. The Yale Tennis courts cost was at \$87000 and the proposed location will be at a fee of \$24767. Also, if the graduate commencement is held at same location the night before, the cost will be an additional fee of \$17000.

Senators were urged to send their comments to Patrick Dilger directly ASAP. Couple concerns was raised: are the students being surveyed? How will New Haven citizens travel to Bridgeport?

Motion to adjourn at 1:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Maria Diamantis
Faculty Senate Secretary