

*Southern Connecticut State University
Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes October 5, 2011*

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

The 3rd meeting of the 2011-2012 was called to order at 12:10 pm.

Attendance (Absent members are designated in **bold**)

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Matthew Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Sue Clerc (Library Services)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Susan Cusato (President)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Susan Calahan (Exercise Science)	Charlie Yang (Management)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)
Jeff Slomba (Art)	Tom Fleming (Earth Science)	Resha Cardone (WLL/Foreign Language)	Mel Prince (Marketing)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Dana Schneider (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)	Martin Hartog (UCF)
Deb Weiss (Com Disorders)	Mike Shea (English)	Elsie Okobi (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)	Dave McQuade (SGA)

Approval of Minutes:

Senate Minutes of September 21, 2011 -- approved as submitted

Announcements

The new revised summer schedule, sessions: May 21-June 22 (5 weeks) June 25-July 27 (5 weeks) July 30-August 17th (3 weeks). Senators express concern that such changes should be shared with faculty before the decision is made.

At this time, Interim President Stanley Battle arrived (12:20 pm)

He was welcomed by President Cusato. Interim President Battle started with the announcing that tomorrow, Thursday, he would address the Southern community on the State of the University at 1 pm at the ASC Ballroom. Faculty and staff are invited. He stated that he is here today to answer any questions Senators might have. But before the questions, he commented on the hard budgetary times that we faced last academic year. And this fiscal uncertainty is not only at SCSU but internationally. The cabinet, the deans, Jim Blake and the President didn't relax until August 25th when the concessions from the state unions were voted upon and the governor made the budget decisions. We were facing the "perfect storm" and try to strategically decide on our direction.

Even at this point we face a 16 million cut and over 4 years 22 million is the total cut. The funds will not ever return to that level. Yesterday was the 1st Board of Regents meeting, which will represent 17 institutions. SCSU has 13 new brothers and sisters (the new board is overseeing 17 institutions in system). At the meeting tomorrow we will only give facts and information for everyone to digest. Priorities have to be changed a bit, if we give up something, then we get something. This is the time to give and take. How we decide what direction we are going? We need to think outside the box and with such budget, we need to consider alternatives, such as study abroad, or other programs. We are looking for some unique programs that might generate funding. It seems that there is a projection of further cuts from us, therefore, priorities and development will be necessary. Next Tuesday, Dr. Robert Kennedy is coming to campus with Lou Robinson, chair of Board of Regents.

A question from the floor: What is most important message from yesterday's Board of Regents meeting? The Board of Regents is composed by appointed members from the Governor, majority of who are from the business world. Dr. Kennedy was appointed by governor as interim president directly; they will be looking for new programs with a proposed resolution, that they will need to know the impact of the new program to the school, the state, as well as how many jobs will this new program create at the state level.

Question: Was our system office present?

Most members have either retired or left. Attending yesterday was Erin Fitzgerald and Dr. Feroe. Dr. Kennedy is the only one to make changes there now.

Question: What direction if any was given about consolidation of programs, institutions?

No new direction to consolidate departments or between two institutions. We are enrollment driven institutions, thus, we are responsible for such changes/consolidations. We need to do something with programs that are under-enrolled and we need to address it ourselves. We need to run with efficiency, have clear outcomes, those are the priority areas for the state. Programs such the Autism Center, the establishment of collaborations with local Schools and SCSU, Southern Academy is an opportunity that we are being approached by other institutions nationally. We need to look at areas to expand and take advantage of opportunities. Maybe even offer a course for High School students from New Haven and to offer Chinese and Hebrew to bring such good, younger students here at SCSU.

We need to build good relations with the state budget appropriations committee members and continue building relations with the right persons across the state. The Women's conference program is getting great reviews across state. Dr. Cosby's assisted in creating two funds / scholarships. All of those activities are bringing resources in our institution.

Enrollment was low this semester and we lost some students after they had taken 90 credits with us. We need to find out what can we do there? How flexible are we? Do we offer classes at all times, late evenings, weekends, or at 6 am? Are we being flexible in our programs? Are we willing to go out to elementary/High Schools and offer courses there? Is there a way for us to provide assistance to students who work/finish their degree faster? Could we package program where they are given better financial package? Customer assistance is important where our students receive better service, we need to improve customer service and respond to them quickly.

The new Board of Regents members need to be educated on the new LEP program, which will justify the need to get funds for faculty positions. It is important to major in math, but it is just as importance to major and be exposed to arts and what we did to assist our 70 students to go to England in the spring. Reach out to members of B of R are many business oriented but we can reach out and explain.

Question on the possibilities for faculty hires for next year?

We do have a number of openings and we have to look at it carefully and examine it closely. The concern is enrollment. We need to continue improving our student retention...I have office hours and I see students every day, we talked about everything, I go to their games. I know we can do better with customer service, we need to improve in this area. I know we can do better with increasing scholarships.

Question: With the new environment what is our position with the new “brothers and sisters”? How do we go about getting new resources?

If we make some adjustments, we can package it better in reference to our current budget, what impact does it have to the state, how we improve, then it will get their attention especially if it will create jobs for our state. Priorities are clear and we need a clear direction that we are going. The science building is right on target from the state as they see its strategic impact. K-12 education is very important, we need to improve, the Federation of Teachers can assist.

Question on the Southern Academy and what role can departments play?

Jim Barber started small with only 25 diverse students involved; then some faculty came forward. Dell corporation was involved to provide notebooks, and now in three schools we have tutorial support for those students. They will come to campus once a month for 4 hours then expand to 2 times (8 hours). We can continue to do more.

Interim President Battle left at 1:15 pm.

President’s Report -- distributed and the following items discussed:

- Marianne Kennedy wishes for feedback –
- 1. “N” grade and financial aid implications. Be aware of the need of such grade usage.
- 2. Changing the catalogues, both undergraduate and graduate to be available online only. Many senators had great concerns that if it is changed, it would not be a good idea. Maybe a survey should go out to our students. Sense of the senate: majority agreed to have hard copies.
- 3. Moving the ceremony outside, to Bridgeport -- this discussion to be continued.

At this time President Cusato needed to select some faculty to serve on committees:

- a) Board of Regents representatives, three members would come from us, they will have a two year term but we don’t have further information. She asked for volunteers or nominations. But in the lack of further information on responsibilities and times of meeting, the senators couldn’t make such commitment.
- b) Representatives from each school for the meeting of October 20th, to meet with Dr. Robert Kennedy: Senator Emenyonu (school of Business); Senator Faraclas (school of health and human services); Senator Dolan (school of Arts and Sciences); Senator Major (school of Education)
- c) Kathy Yalof asked for a volunteer to serve on the undergraduate catalogue revisions committee – Senator O’Brien volunteered.
- d) Health and Human Services need a representative on the USPARC committee. There was lengthy discussion on how does this member get elected or appointed by Senate.

Motion to adjourn at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Maria Diamantis
Secretary, Faculty Senate