

*Southern Connecticut State University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes of September 5, 2012*

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

The first meeting of 2012-2013 was called to order at 12:15 pm by President Susan Cusato.

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

<b>Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)</b>	<b>Michelle Lawler (Counseling)</b>	Susan Calahan (Exercise Science)	Rick Bassett (Management)	<b>(Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Dana Schneider (Social Work)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	<b>Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)</b>	Luisa Piemontese (WLL/Foreign Language)	Mel Prince (Marketing)	<b>(Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)
<b>Jeff Slomba (Art)</b>	Tom Fleming (Earth Science)	<b>Lisa Vitale (WLL/Foreign Language)</b>	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	Rex Gilliland (Philosophy)	Jon Bloch (Sociology)
Terrence Lavin (Art)	Sam Andoh (Econ/Finance)	Patrick Heidkamp (Geography)	John Scheuermann (Mathematics)	<b>Jim Dolan (Physics)</b>	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Meghan Brown (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	<b>Marie McDaniel (History)</b>	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Kevin Buterbaugh (Political Science)	Ruth Eren (Special Ed/Reading)
Jane Feng (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	<b>Ginny Metaxas (History)</b>	<b>Terese Gemme (Music)</b>	Gayle Bessenoff (Psychology)	Kaia Monroe Rarick (Theatre)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	Judy Tarbox (English)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Chris Denhup (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Marty Hartog (UCF)
Annette Madlock-Gatison (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Elsie Okobi (Library Science)	Pennie Sessler Branden (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Chris Petto (Grad Council)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Paul Petrie (English)	Rebecca Hedreen (Library Science)	<b>(Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Jim MacGregor (Recreation/Leisure)	Mary Papazian (SCSU President)
Herv Podnar (Computer Science)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	<b>Sue Clerc (Library Services)</b>	<b>(Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Susan Cusato (Science Ed/Env Stud)	Guests: Kim Laing, Claudia Lee, Marcia Smith

**Announcements:** Wes O'Brien announced that there is a fundraiser to benefit the bone marrow transplant program at Smilow Cancer Hospital. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, at 5:30-9 pm, at the New Haven Country Club, 160 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. All invited.

P&T workshop this Friday, @ 1pm.

Approval of Minutes: The Senate Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2012. Were approved as submitted. 3 abstentions.

Welcome and Introduction of Senators

Senate President Cusato welcomed all Senators and asked that everyone introduces themselves and states which department they represent. After the brief introductions, she reminded all senators that we follow the Roberts Rules of Order.

President Cusato introduced Kim Laing (Registrar's office) and Claudia Lee (Financial Aid office) to speak on the new requirement of "N" grading report.

Ms. Lee explained that last February SCSU was chose for review by the Federal Government and the students that receive federal scholarship/loans. We were not keeping good records to verify the students' attendance and we now have to provide such evidence. The current penalties and fees is about 2.5 million dollars and SCSU has to come up with a plan to track attendance of all students. Basically this will be done by entering an N for students who don't attend our classes by the third week of classes. The reporting on Banner will be open on September 11 through September 17. Faculty are asked (thus, all senators should communicate this to their departments) to enter N for each student that has not attended their class for this semester. Students will be reviewed and if they receive financial aid, there will be an adjustment, either decrease or loss of such if the students are not attending classes at all.

There was a long discussion with many questions and concerns. One is: what if a student receives an N but returns later in the semester? The reply was that the student needs to seek help from both the Registrar's and Financial Aid offices immediately. Faculty should not allow students to remain in their class unless they have met with above offices. On September 11, Banner will display latest roster without the students who have withdrawn. Another concern was the Monday classes that haven't yet met due to calendar changes and the Labor Day holiday. Deadline for Monday pm classes will be honored.

Ms. Lee and Ms. Laing were thanked by President Papazian and senators for their work and assistance on this matter.

Another concern raised was the scheduling of Honors Convocation during final exams and connected to that the change of the academic calendar. Senators were asked to express their choice to propose the convocation for April 28<sup>th</sup>, majority of senators agreed.

Senator Shea expressed concern that the calendar changes need to open discussions with the Board of Regents and include other leaders of the state universities and AAUP.

At this time, President Cusato asked for a motion to delay the President's Report and move to Standing Committee Meetings/Election of Chairs. There was no objection to the change.

Standing Committee Meetings and Election of Chairs

President Cusato asked that former, veteran chairs of the committees describe the committees' goals for all senators to consider.

Introductions from Chairs/Reports:

- Academic Policy - Senator Bloch - the committee keeps track of student/faculty academic issues and resolves such. Committee collaborates with administration to set up goals and policies.
- Elections - Senator Rothbard - the committee runs elections once in the spring and special elections as needed.
- Finance - Senator Calahan - the committee monitors the travel fund and the senate budget (\$1000). The committee also presents the resolution on Travel Funds, every May.
- Personnel Policy - Senator Bessenoff - the committee deals with personnel issues, P&T, sabbatical documents, chairs' document, as well as the academic calendar.
- Rules - Senator O'Brien - the committee works on documents such as constitution, chair's document, and other.
- Student Policy - Senator Madonia - the committee addresses all policies on student life, such as the academic misconduct document.
- Technology - Senator Tarbox - the committee acts as a sounding board with all technological problems with faculty, chairs' council and other bodies. The committee also oversees the survey and follows up with its results which is the plan for this year.

At this time all senators met at subcommittees to elect a chair and set goals for the future.

**Reports:**

Academic Policy - Senator Bloch - re-elected chair and the committee wishes to be involved in the discussion for the Travel Fund money.

Elections - Senator Rothbard - re-elected chair and the committee will be running special elections this fall.

Finance - Senator Calaha (was elected last spring will commence her first year as chair) the committee will discuss travel funds.

Personnel - Senator Bessenoff - re-elected chair. The committee will be meeting next week to set their priorities.

Rules - Senator O'Brien stepped down and senator Coca is the new elected chair. Senator O'Brien was publically acknowledged for his work in the past years as chair of Rules. Thank you Wes!

Student policy - Senator Madonia - re-elected chair. The committee has three new members and they will be reviewing the student academic misconduct document.

Technology - Senator Turbox- re-elected chair. The committee will be moving forward with the IT survey taken last year.

Susan thanked all and wished them the best of luck for the new academic year, 2012-2013.

**President's Report:** President Cusato distributed the report and discussed the following: Senate's budget is \$1,000. She asked for suggestion on how we should use this academic year.

Colloquia: President Cusato collected top three choices of topics from all senators. The topics will be tallied and and we will revisit and discuss this at the next meeting.

President Cusato requested approval to move to New Business. No objections.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Finance committee - to discuss and examine issues of 50/50 allocation for fall/spring --- this item will be removed from the agenda because a working group will be created to examine the details of this carefully.
- The \$1000 is a one-time TA application, no guarantee of approval as money might not exist.
- There was lengthy discussion on the travel funds issues. President Papazian stated that she is very sympathetic to new faculty and we had multiple meetings with university leaders to define the best possible allocation. Last year only 40% of junior faculty traveled with funds, 60% either didn't travel or traveled without support. The Provost and others, will look at more data to see what is more equitable and fair so that more faculty participate.
- President Papazian also stated that with the limit of \$1000, about 80% of current faculty can travel at this time. Maybe we should find ways to increase the revenues for travel. She will be happy to support this.
- Senator Faraclas expressed disappointment that the decrease of funds from \$1500 to \$1000 has created issues such as a faculty commitment to a speaking engagement and now that is in jeopardy.
- Concern was also raised to President Papazian of why the recommendation/resolution from the Senate was not honored for this one year only, and discussions to commence immediately (shared governance) and therefore, make changes for next year.
- President Papazian expressed her thoughts that she didn't feel comfortable to honor that while still feeling an obligation to junior faculty, since there wasn't good data at the time.

Due to time constraints, there was a motion to adjourn at 2:03pm. Motion accepted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Diamantis  
Faculty Senate Secretary