

FACULTY SENATE*Approved Minutes of March 4, 2015*

<http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/index.html>

The 11th meeting of 2014-2015, was called to order at 12:14 pm by President William Faraclas.

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

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Ramon Vega de Jesus (Couns/Sch Psych)	Luisa Piemontese (WLL/Foreign Language)	Rajesh Elhance (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Jim Fullmer (Earth Science)	Luke Eilderts (World Literature Language)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sam Andoh (Econ/Finance)	Leon Yacher (Geography)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Jessica Kenty- Drane (Sociology)
Michael Makubika (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Troy Rondinone (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Kevin Buterbaugh (Political Science)	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Jonathan Weinbaum (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Mark Kuss (Music)	Gayle Bessenoff (Psychology)	Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Chris Denhup (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Sheila H. Garvey (Theatre)
Rich Glinka (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Elsie Okobi (Library Science)	Lisa Rebeschi (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Susan Cusato (Past President)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Scott Ellis (English)	Diane Tomasko (Library Science)	Gene Brady (Part-Time Faculty)	Christine Unson (Public Health)	Deborah Weiss (UCF)
Amal Abdel Raouf (Computer Science)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Jeff Dickens (Library Services)	Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	Nicole Fluhr (Grad Council)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Veronica Gill (Management)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	Catherine Koehler (Environmental and Marine Studies)	Mary Papazian (SCSU President)
Guests: Provost Bette Bergeron	Jaye Bailey Brad Crerar Tracy Tyree				

Approval of Minutes: the Senate Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2015 were approved as distributed.

Announcements -

- the Faculty Survey of Administrative Effectiveness was distributed electronically last night, with a closing date of March 13.
- University Dialogue with President Papazian scheduled on Tuesday, March 3.

Guest: Bette S. Bergeron, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.
President Faraclas welcomed and thanked the Provost for addressing the Senate.

Provost Bergeron reminded all the dialogue on the fiscal crisis as addressed by President Papazian yesterday. The details and the impact of the budget issues are still unknown. She highlighted that faculty are important on student retention and recruitment, the students come here for the faculty and we need to provide the faculty needs to be successful. The Chairpersons have received lists of potential students and were asked to write personal letters to the students. We need to stabilize our enrollment, after the last 6 years of decline.

After the brief introduction, Provost Bergeron invited questions from the Senators and addressed the following:

- The admissions process and more specifically the acceptance letters were delayed due to unforeseen issues with the Common Application. The unanticipated volume of applications slowed down the process, but it is now corrected and letters will be going out soon, as well as the financial aid paperwork.
- As far as the new Science building, a group is meeting soon to define the space. Buley library is not finalized and the space is still being defined. There will be a transition from Wintergreen to Buley as the Wintergreen space needs to be remodeled.
- Faculty positions will not be filled as President Papazian announced yesterday. Question was raised if Dr. Kennedy's position will be filled after her retirement. There was a two-year plan for a faculty to fill that position on a rotation plan of two years, but it is not finalized at this time, as the plans might need to change.
- Concerns were raised on the lack of the BOR's request on funding and the needs of our students. Provost Bergeron stated that she believes President Papazian is bringing the right message forth to the politicians in the state explaining our student's needs and what will happen under the circumstances.
- As far as the faculty involvement as student advisors as early as possible, Provost Bergeron agreed that that is the ultimate goal. Since INQ process commenced, our retention has increased and study showed that the students that started with INQ finished their studies in 4 years. She will ask that presentations are given on the best practices for advising and find such best practices from other institutions of our size later in the semester by sponsoring a workshop with dialogue on such issues.
- The success of INQ is not the only area that needs appropriate academic advisement but the correct financial aid advisement, is just as crucial. That area needs to be examined with the registration process for the well being of our students.
- The committee to redefine workload is meeting soon, no update at this time.
- The resolution on the adjustment of TA's will be finalized and announced by President Papazian very soon. They will be watching the figures very carefully so that the \$1200 guaranteed amount is not overspent. This will guarantee that at least 80% of the faculty will have a chance to travel.
- An observation that at times of delayed school openings, there is enough time for faculty to arrive prior to the commencement of classes.
- There is a need to assist students who receive late financial aid, and each case will be dealt individually.
- The methods of how alumni can assist in recruitment will be examined carefully.
- Faculty who complete a TA without money requests, will be processed as is. The President decides with the goal that every faculty will have the same opportunity of the set amount to travel. The President wants every faculty to have the same chance no changes will be made this year.
- Parking issues, this is a first such experience, no further report.
- For Faculty hiring freeze, no specifics have been decided yet.
- Creative Activity funds will be examined and discussed further after a full year's data has been collected, to know where we are with the number of faculty and % of funds used. Definitely interested to discuss this issue but after the first year is completed.

President Faraclas thanked the Provost for coming. She expressed appreciation for allowing her to address the Senate.

President's Report - the full report can be found at: <http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2014-2015.html>

The following items were highlighted:

- Notification: The Department of Science Education and Environmental Studies has notified the Faculty Senate of its application to change its name to the Department of Environmental and Marine Studies. The Arts and Sciences Dean has endorsed the proposal. There was a motion to "endorse such change" was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- President Faraclas thanked Deb Weiss on her efforts on the articulation agreement between Gateway and SCSU. This articulation will assist students to have a smoother transition with Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses.
- Transform 2020 update:
 - SCSU Faculty Senate needs to nominate an SCSU faculty to the new Transform Steering Committee, under the request of President Gray. There was a motion to "Nominate Dr. Faraclas to the SCSU faculty representative at the Steering Committee"; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- President Faraclas distributed the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, Resolution on Opacity. There was a motion to endorse the resolution and discussion occurred. After discussion the Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed the FAC Resolution on Opacity.
- The Senate will be discussing the Student Opinion Survey soon, as there is a need to order 100,000 new copies. Dr. Michael Ben Avie will be visiting the Senate's committee to discuss further.

At this time, there was a motion to remove the 1:45 minute rule, so that the item of New Business can be discussed; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ Resolution Regarding Selecting All-University Committee Contact Person - Senator Coca presented the resolution, which was distributed last Friday. After discussion, the resolution was accepted unanimously.

Standing Committee Updates:

- Personnel Policy -- Dr. Gayle Bessenoff - the Faculty Survey of Administrative Effectiveness has been distributed. The committee continues their work on reviewing other senate documents.
- Rules -- Dr. Adiel Coca - the committee worked on another resolution to combine the mediation and termination hearing committees, but upon advise of the union, it was suggest that the two committees should be kept separate.
- Student Policy -- Dr. Kevin Colwell - distributed a report from the committee.
- Technology -- Dr. Joel Dodson - no report
- Academic Policy -- Dr. David Pettigrew - the committee worked on the grade replacement resolution. Talked about investigating the university's application process on Release Reassigned time, which seems to have no equity across the schools and departments on this issue of released time. It is a contractual benefit but there is no defined and unified process. In addition, the committee discussed the creative activity funds, which was 1/10 of 1% of the budget when it was originally created. The committee is also working on a resolution to articulate reasons on the number of enrollment in each class as our students need faculty support to succeed. If anyone has an idea, please share with the committee.
- Elections -- Dr. Matthew Rothbard- the committee has started planning for the all university elections soon.
- Finance -- Dr. Peter Madonia - we currently have \$94,253 unencumbered funds for FT. He requested some further information from Renee Knight two weeks ago, but haven't received the information. The PT unencumbered funds are: \$12,295 and the remaining Creative Activity funds are \$1400.

Motion to adjourn at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Diamantis
Faculty Senate Secretary