

**FACULTY SENATE***Approved Minutes of March 25, 2015*

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

The 12<sup>th</sup> 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**)

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

Approval of Minutes: the Senate Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2015 were approved as distributed.

Speaker : Mary Papazian, Ph.D., SCSU President

President Faraclas welcomed President Papazian and thanked her for coming to address the Faculty Senate.

President Papazian took the floor and highlighted the following items prior to answering questions:

- ✓ Good things happening around SCSU that distinguish us. We are all excited to see Buley library completed and it will finally be open for business. The library has many benefits, such as cutting edge technology to serve our students/faculty way into the future. I am happy to have this great space and I

believe it is the most beautiful library in the state. We still need to understand the details of the clock in the front entrance!

- ✓ Saturday we will have the inaugural Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference. It promises to showcase innovative students work, research, and projects across all disciplines. It will be held at the Adanti Student Center. All are welcome to come. Invitations went out to all Board of Regents members and President Gray.
- ✓ I continue to reach out to alumni and others for external funding opportunities. We have established alumni networks across the United States and during the events, they describe many memories with their faculty work from their education here at Southern.
- ✓ A lot of work is dedicated to get industry and other companies involved to assist and equip our new science building. I am working closely with a consultant to get some partners from local industry. Maintaining the equipment is also important and we are also looking into that.
- ✓ Another exciting development is the Biotechnology partnership with New Haven, which will create industrial jobs and we will assist with the K-12 pipeline through our School of Education to create aspiration for New Haven students to pursue industrial careers. There are a few programs under way to create new or update existing majors and attract students to attend SCSU while they have internships in New Haven biotech-industrial companies.
- ✓ Our partnership with Gateway to ensure seamless transfer of students' with an associate's degree from Gateway has been completed. Students will be able to transfer with many credits accepted in our LEP program. This has been successful with the hard work of the faculty and mainly Dr. Deb Weiss.
- ✓ For the Health and Human Services school's location, I don't have a final answer. We are waiting for the final report on the master plan, which is headed by Provost Bergeron. The Long Wharf evaluation report is here but we haven't seriously looked at it yet. We will set the goal to make the best decision once all information is lined up.
- ✓ Fiscal crisis - thanks for attending the town hall meeting. The Board will be acting on the 4.85 tuition increase will only assist in filling the \$10 million deficit for next year. If our enrollment is flat, which we haven't experienced for the past 6 years, then we will face a \$3.1 million deficit. At this time, we are looking for a 2% enrollment reduction, which will bring the deficit at \$4.8 and if circumstances are better, then, it should be a better budgetary situation.

At this time President Papazian answered questions:

- Parking issue, is there any plan to increase the parking spaces? Will the end of construction give back some more faculty parking spaces?
  - Parking is always in the back of our minds. A big issue and it will take time to resolve. I think this needs to be a holistic decision and not a space here or there. We have to look at a long term solution.
- Please talk to us a little about the resolution responses in your tenure here. It seems that our input is not accepted, or that is the current perception, please tell us about your relationship with this governing body.
  - Very appropriate question. It has been a very interesting relationship between your body and past presidents in this university. The first time I came here, I was told that I am not a member of the Faculty Senate; had great talks and asked the Executive Committee of previous Senate president and current, that since the Senate has so many issues coming up for the Provost or my area, that there should be regular meetings to discuss issues. Each resolution is unique and I take each at its own right. Some resolutions are simply not appropriate at this time, such as the strategic planning, the venue does not have the correct direction; another is faculty travel funds - I had many discussions with many folks. The principle is this, to look at each resolution independently.
- Concerns that candidates for promotion and tenure are getting letters from administrators that mention the candidate has or has not sought or received outside grants. Are we becoming like a Research One institution, where grants are expected for advancement? Has there been a change in policy?

- Not sure where this information is coming from. SCSU is not anywhere close to being a Research One institution. President Papazian stated that she is not aware of any change and wondered where that information/concern is coming from.
- Policy of harassment and protecting students with privacy for adult students being reported without their consent. The faculty are feeling very uncomfortable about this whole process. Will there be any training soon?
  - This is a complicated issue, with many parts changing as we speak about it. It is a law and mandatory reporting on sexual harassment is being monitored closely. Tracy Tyree is in charge of it. The board has vetted this policy on a legal level. Training didn't take place yet, due to changes of the policy. Feel free to call Diane Mazza, Chris Piscitelli, or Cathy Christie at any time with any questions.
- What will you do with the Administrative survey once results come back. This is a faculty survey that everyone should be going through to see what areas are weak or strong, so that it will give some food for thought. Nothing different than the student survey evaluations, this is an opinion evaluation to give feedback to administrators of where everything stands, good or bad.
  - So, since I didn't know about it, I will ask you, what do you want me to do with the results? What are your expectations?
  - I see that it will provide some valuable input and it should be looked carefully and discussed appropriately.
- Budget: what cuts will happen at the administration level if we need to address a greater deficit?
  - Budget committee has shared the following information:
    - Hiring freeze - any search at interview stages can continue but not guaranteed they will be completed.
    - Group of 29 staff positions that will remain frozen from a total of 40 frozen. There might be health and safety positions that need to be filled or accreditation required, they will need to be filled. We are looking at \$2.7 million to be saved with the 29 staff positions. Unfortunately the staff will take biggest hit without filling those 29 positions and we are shifting responsibilities. President's office is not filling any administrative positions. We will also need to reduce by \$1.1 million from adjunct faculty due to student enrollment reduction. Where appropriations and enrollment fall, we will make appropriate decisions then. We are opening two new buildings and this will add to our expenses for maintenance, security, and IT staff, and that is another issue to examine. If enrolment declines, we might look even more into adjunct positions.
    - Looking into higher administration positions, such as Associate VP of Enrollment, deans' assistants: we have lost money due to declining enrollment; that means it is important to have an enrollment professional to assist us in our enrollment. The position is frozen at the time, but I will be asking for an exception and get approval to fill the position at this time.
- Grade appeal policy resolution: where is it?
  - We asked for clarification and it hasn't come. We will work on it.

Certainly there are many other items to address but due to time, they will be discussed on a later date. President Faraclas thanked President Papazian for addressing the Senate.

#### Announcements

- There was a Rally today from Student Government: on the Proposed Tuition increase of 4.8%
- Dr. Scott Graves will be the speaker on Friday at 1 pm in EN 120 A for the PACe Seminar. The title of his talk: Conservation Drones: utilizing a bird's-eye view for monitoring coastal habitats. All invited to come.
- Provost's Dialogue is scheduled for tomorrow at 12:30-2 in EN B 121.
- Luncheon for faculty on their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> year, will be held next Thursday.

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 discussed:

- ✓ There are two representatives elected to serve on the Budget and Planning committee. But there has been no definition on the term and/or guidelines on our by-laws. The Rules committee will be looking at this issue and will be making a recommendation. For now, Peter Madonia and Mike Shea are currently serving as such members. The Senate needs to affirm their continuation until the end of this year. At this time, there were no objections, thus, they will continue till the end of this semester.
- ✓ There are 23 newer faculty attending the luncheon so far. If anyone else wishes to come, they will need to RSVP to Veronica Gill and cc President Faraclas.

#### Standing Committee Updates:

- Rules -- Dr. Adiel Coca presented the resolution regarding the Combining of the Academic Standing, University Grade Appeal, and Academic Misconduct Committees. Senator Coca has reached out to all mentioned committee chairs and they all seemed agreeable to combine. There was a motion to close debate and seconded. Motion was defeated with 32 for closing debate and 2 opposed. Motion to accept the resolution as presented, passed unanimously.
- Student Policy -- Dr. Kevin Colwell reported that the committee continues discussion on reporting sexual harassment issues, a moving target of a policy.
- Technology -- Dr. Joel Dodson reported that the committee continues to make progress on Senate's web site
- Academic Policy -- Dr. David Pettigrew - No report.
- Elections -- Dr. Matthew Rothbard - the committee is preparing elections for the All-University committees.
- Finance -- Dr. Peter Madonia - no report
- Personnel Policy -- Dr. Gayle Bessenoff - faculty survey has gone out. Renewal and sabbatical documents are being examined.

President Faraclas expressed his appreciation for the committee's hard work on the Faculty Survey on Administration.

OLD BUSINESS: None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Academic Impact Statement needs to be re-introduced to President Papazian and Provost Bergeron as new policies are being introduced. A discussion on this topic will be initiated.

#### Updates:

- ❖ UCF
- ❖ Graduate Council
- ❖ FASP / USPaRC

Motion to adjourn at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Diamantis  
Faculty Senate Secretary