

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

Approved Minutes of January 25, 2017

<http://southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2016-2017.html>

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2016-2017 was held on January 25, 2017, at 12:18 pm in the Seminar Room of Connecticut Hall.

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

Wafeek Abdelsayed (Accounting)	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Klay Kruczek (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	<b>Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)</b>
Kenneth McGill (Anthropology)	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	<b>Tom Radice (History)</b>	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Judith Tepstra (Special Ed/Reading)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	(Econ/Finance)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Larry Nye (Theatre)
Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)	<b>Beena Achhpal (Curriculum &amp; Learning)</b>	Yan Liu (Information & Library Science)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	<b>Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)</b>	Cindy Simoneau (Journalism)	Maria Krol (Nursing)	<b>Katherine Marsland (Psychology)</b>	Luke Eilderts (Secretary/World Languages & Literatures)
James Kearns (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Diane Tomasko (Library Services)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Deborah Weiss (UCF)
Anette Madlock Gatson (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	<b>Kari Swanson (Library Services)</b>	(Part-time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	William Faraclas (Faculty Senate Past President)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Scott Ellis (English)	<b>Mina Park (Management/MIS)</b>	<b>Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	(Social Work)	Elizabeth Rhoades (Grad Council)
<b>Md Shafaat Hossain (Computer Science)</b>	<b>Scott Graves (Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies)</b>	Greg Robbins (Management/MIS)	<b>Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	(Student)
<b>Michelle Lawler (Counseling)</b>	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	<b>Shyam Lodha (Marketing)</b>	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	<b>Alan Brown (Sociology)</b>	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President
Guests: Jules Tetreault, Dean Student Affairs	Christine Broadbridge, Dean GSRI				

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 7, 2016, were approved as distributed.  
<http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2016-2017.html>

## Announcements

- S. Monroe Tomczak: Encourage Senators to attend the Day of Action in Hartford.

## President's Report

<http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2016-2017.html>

- President Diamantis asked D. Weiss to speak to #7. D. Weiss explained the challenge that UCF and departments with certifications programs currently face.

## Guests

- Cindy Schofield (Library Services): Provided an overview of the new Library search system that came online over break. Any issues/errors should be directed to the library so that they may research a solution and/or alert the vendor.
- President Joe Bertolino: Presented an overview of some of the most pressing issues. A brief summary follows:
  - The state budget remains a question, and therefore so does the university budget. More will be known when the Governor presents his budget in February.
  - While we have met overall enrollment targets for the spring semester, we are still struggling with part-time graduate and undergraduate enrollment.
  - Terricita Sass has been charged to create an enrollment taskforce. Their work will need to be ready so it can be in place for the Fall 2018 semester.
  - He has the impression that the System Office/BOR will begin to exert pressure on the individual campuses concerning their general education programs. Most recently and more specifically, the World Language requirement on the four campuses has been discussed and there are questions concerning why it is not the same across campuses.
  - Inauguration will be an occasion to welcome the community to campus. There will be a series of events that will engage the community. Additionally, the events will be sponsored by donors.
  - Questions
    - M. Shea: Concern about what issues will come down from the BOR. Does the President have a feeling for what will be most important?
      - A lot is in question until the Governor puts out his budget on February 8. The issue with World Languages has the potential to set in motion a broader conversation about transferability and general education requirements across campuses.
    - J. Irving: With whom do we need to be competitive?
      - We need to be willing to have a candid conversation whether we are within our LEP are we creating more barriers for student success. We need to look at how competitive we are compared to our sister institutions and private institutions.
    - D. Weiss: We shouldn't confuse the issue between our two student populations: native and transfer. Many native freshmen are not aware what they are going to have to do for their requirements, whereas transfer

students tend to be much more aware. Believes that this is where a lot of the issues surrounding World Languages are, for example. Central requires two math courses, and this may not be a popular choice for students, but this is the package students get at Central and students adjust. For transfer students, this is a who other issue.

- Frist, we need to collect data in order to understand the issues better. There appears to be a perception problem with our requirements, and we need to understand the reasons behind this better. Second, System office is raising issues about World Languages and the need for consistency, and we need to be ready to respond to that. Third, we need to look at native students and see what barriers exist in the LEP and in major requirements.
- M. Nizhnikov: We have met target our enrollment targets. What were they?
  - While we have met our overall enrollment targets, this is the second spring in a row that we are below 10,000 students.
- J. Wharton: Has President Ojakian shared anything with you?
  - All conversation at this point.
- L. Eilderts: Mentioned the need to be ready to engage in the conversation. Does that mean that we make changes now or that we are ready to make those changes?
  - Gut reaction is that we need to be ready to move to 40-42 credits. The former provost of Western, who moved that campus to 40, is now the provost for the system.
- J. Dodson: What are the other areas of agency to get ahead of the curve on these issues. What is the agency of faculty over the next year.
  - Website and technology: faculty should be ready for the deployment of new technology across campus and new websites.
  - Department should look at their curriculum and its delivery. Are we providing for the maximum amount of flexibility for our students? Are we asking our students what their needs are and how we can best serve them?
  - Advising: Looking to changing the advising structure of the university. Faculty should be the primary advisors, but we need to have things in place when a faculty member is not available.
- J. Fields: When the LEP was created, it was something many were very proud of, that it was a true measure of a student's success. Now it feels like we are faced with a different metric. Maybe the other campuses should be like us?
  - Doesn't disagree. Liberal Arts institutions haven't done the best job of defending the Liberal Arts. We have an opportunity to be articulate the best of both words.
- D. Pettigrew: We need a strategy as a senate to help you articulate strengths. Brings up graduate enrollment and certification issues.
  - If we can shift certification courses and make them into graduate-level courses, and we can defend that to the Department of Education, then we probably won't have an issue.

- C. Simoneau: Concerned about course caps, course cancelations, and the continuing pressure on the system.
  - We need to rethink transfer and cancelation timing. We cannot cancel just based on numbers and finances. It erodes the quality of education.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

- Finance: FT AAUP travel funds: \$114,300; Faculty Creative Activity Fund: \$3,448; Part-time AAUP travel funds: \$4,175.
- Rules: no report.
- Academic Policy: no report.
- Student Policy: no report.
- Technology: no report.
- Elections: no report.

### **Special Committee Reports**

- Undergraduate Curriculum Forum: no report.
- FASP/USPaRC: no report.

### **New Business**

- M. Shea: Asks that senators take a look at the circulated document from the Recruitment and Retention focus group. Please share it with your departments and send ideas to him (sheam1@southernct.edu).

Meeting adjourned at 1:52.

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Luke Eilderts  
Secretary