

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

Approved Minutes of October 26, 2016

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

The 4th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2016-2017 was held on October 26, 2016, at 12:13 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)	Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)
Kenneth McGill (Anthropology)	Mike Knel Anthony Fullmer (Earth Science)	Tom Radice (History)	Ray Mugno (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Judith Tepstra (Special Ed/Reading)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Larry Nye (Theatre)
Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Yan Liu (Information & Library Science)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	Rubén Pelayo (World Languages & Literatures)
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Maria Krol (Nursing)	Katherine Masland (Psychology)	Luke Eilderts (Secretary/World Languages & Literatures)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Diane Tomasko (Library Services)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Deborah Weiss (UCF)
Jane McGinn (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Kari Swanson (Library Services)	(Part-time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	William Faraclas (Faculty Senate Past President)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders & UCF Representative)	Scott Ellis (English)	Mina Park (Management/MIS)	Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)	(Social Work)	Elizabeth Rhodes (Grad Council)
Hossain Shafact (Computer Science)	Scott Graves (Environment, Geography & Marine Studies)	Greg Robbins (Management/MIS)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Julie Gagliardi (Student)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	Shyam Lodha (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Alan Brown (Sociology)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President
<u>Guests:</u> Samuel Andoh (Dean, School of Business) Ilene Crawford (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs)	Christine Broadbirdge (Dean, Graduate School) Tracy Tyree (VP Student Affairs)	Richard Riccardi (Academic Affairs) Ellen Durnin (Provost) Steven Bresse (Dean, School of Arts & Sciences)	Steve Hagadus (Dean, School of Education) Sandra Bulmer (Dean, Health & Human Services)		

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 12, 2016, were approved as distributed.

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

Announcements

- G. Cochenet: Reception for the Faculty Art Exhibition in Buley Library, October 28, 2016, from 5-7pm.

President's Report

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

- W. Faraclas: *Newtown* screening will take place November 10 at 7pm in the Lyman Center.

Guest

Dr. Ellen Durnin, Interim Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs

- Shared with the senate all of the positive things happening at the university and the collaborative work that is being done.
- Explained that 30 tenure-track lines had been approved and are currently underway. Urges committees to work efficiently so as to make offers before the end of the calendar year, with the understanding that this may not be possible for all departments.
- Explained that as long as we are under provisional status with the US Department of Education, we will not be able to submit any new programs; currently, there are three programs under review by the USDOE and we hope to hear back from them by April 2017; urges faculty to maintain the attendance policy; we have greatly improved, but we are still not at 100% reporting; this is a top priority of the President.
- Thanked the Faculty Senate for the excellent university-wide programming on Islam, Judaism, Newtown and gun violence.
- Shared that the BOR is very serious about the 120 credit normalization process for our BA/BS degrees.
- Thanked everyone who was able to participate in the Open House event on October 23, 2016; nearly 2300 people attended.

Questions

- K. McGill: Raised concerns about our academic rigor and the President's goal of raising our retention rate 1% per year.
 - Provost Durnin: Assured senators that we will not accomplish our goal through reducing academic rigor. There are other markets that we must consider (international, adult students, Community Colleges) and we have only begun to scratch the surface.
 - President Bertolino: Reaffirmed Provost's message. The entire university has a responsibility for enrollment management, and individual departments will not be "penalized" for retention. If we maintain quality and increase success and retention of our current students, we will help recruit new students organically.
 - Provost Durnin: Shared that we have already taken steps: increased the enrollment in the Honors College; Direct Admits to the Nursing program for stellar applicants.
- M. Shea: Seconds K. McGill's comments. Questions the 120 credit normalization process: the BOR is assuming that students come "college-ready," therefore things like Math and

World Language(s) are not hidden prerequisites since students are not ready for them when they arrive.

- Provost Durnin: Confirmed M. Shea's understanding of the BOR mandate.
- S. Graves: Questioned the university's lack of visibility and asked what is being done.
 - Provost Durnin: Shared that the President has charged Public Relations to come up with a comprehensive plan.
 - President Bertolino: Explained that he feels we must make an investment into our image, and although PR is expensive, it can no longer be ignored.
- J. Wharton: Asked about the current status in Hartford and the election and how this may affect our financial status.
 - Provost Durnin: Shared that she feels quite confident that budget cuts and rescissions will happen, the question is when, how often, and how much.
 - President Bertolino: Explained that a mid-year cut is very likely. For the next fiscal year, all state agencies *except* higher education have been asked to prepare for a 10% reduction. To give some perspective, 10% of our appropriation is \$6-7 million.
- D. Pettigrew: Raised concerns about Research and Creative Activity Reassign Time (RCART).
 - Provost Durnin: Explained that across the schools, the amount of RCART is determined by head-count. After that, it is up to the individual dean's discretion how it is distributed.

Standing Committee Reports

- Elections
 - Election for the Budget and Planning Committee
 - Candidates: Wafeek Abdelsayed, Mike Shea, Peter Madonia, and Kenneth McGill
 - Elected by secret ballot: Wafeek Abdelsayed and Kenneth McGill.

Special Order of Business: Discussion of the Promotion and Tenure Recusal Rule

After the current rule was presented by D. Pettigrew (chair of P&T), each invited speaker gave a five-minute maximum explanation for or against it. Speakers were: Brian Johnson, Kevin Buterbaugh, Steven Judd, and Sue Clark. Senators are now urged to return to their departments to discuss with their colleagues. At the November 9, 2016, meeting, Senators will vote to determine if the rule's removal should be considered by the Personnel Policy committee.

Standing Committee Reports (cont'd)

- Finance
 - Faculty Creative Activity Fund: \$2,976. AAUP full-time: \$193,356. AAUP part-time: \$20,389.
- Personnel
 - No report.
- Student policy
 - No report.
- Technology
 - IT may propose forming a Learning Technology Governance Committee and a Classroom Technology Committee; question remains on where that would leave the Faculty Senate Technology committee.

- Academic policy
 - Met and drafted a statement on non-attendance; resolutions to follow.

Special Committee Reports

- Undergraduate Curriculum Forum
 - D. Weiss explained that with the suspension of the Program Review process, the schedule will be delayed by two years; while the LEP revision to tier 2 has been approved, there are still concerns over its implementation; thank you to everyone who helped advocate for the reestablishment of the LEP director position, there will now be two co-directors with different responsibilities, with a total of 12 credits versus the previous 9.
- FASP
 - D. Pettigrew shared that they are planning to invite President Bertolino to their meeting and discuss ways to insert FASP into the strategic planning process. They have also discussed and/or revisited issues on class size, RCART, support for research and travel, and the possibility of moving to digital files for the P&T process.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Luke L. Eilderts
Faculty Senate Secretary