

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

Approved Minutes of December 6, 2017

<https://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2017-2018.html>

The 7th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2017-2018 was held on
 December 6, 2017, at 12:13 p.m. in the
 Seminar Room of Connecticut Hall.

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

Wafeek Abdelsayed (Accounting)	Natalie Starling (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Len Brin (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Angela Lopez-Velasquez (Special Ed/Reading)
Kenneth McGill (Anthropology)	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	Tom Radice (History)	Klay Kruczek (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Laura Raynolds (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)	Jessica Powell (Curriculum & Learning)	Yan Liu (Information & Library Science)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	Luke Eilderts (Secretary/World Languages & Literatures)
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Maria Krol (Nursing)	Christopher Budnick (Psychology)	
James Kearns (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Parker Fruehan (Library Services)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Deborah Weiss (UCF)
Derek Taylor (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Kari Swanson (Library Services)	Mark Dobbins (Part-time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	William Faraclas (Faculty Senate Past President)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Elizabeth Kalbfleisch (English)	Mina Park (Management/MIS)	Eric Hoffman (Part-Time Faculty)	Jemel Aguilar (Social Work)	Elizabeth Rhoades (Grad Council)
Mohammad T. Islam (Computer Science)	James Tait (Environment, Geography & Marine Studies)	Greg Robbins (Management/MIS)	Mary Ellen Minichiello (Part-Time Faculty)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Mia Forgione (Student)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	Shyam Lodha (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Greg Adams (Sociology)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President
<u>Guests:</u> Bob Prezant (Provost) Craig Hlavac (A&S)	Tracy Tyree (VP Student Affairs) Mark Rozewski (EVP Finance)				

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

- November 15, 2017
 - **Accepted as distributed.**
- November 29, 2017 (special meeting)
 - **Accepted as distributed.**

II. Announcements

- W. Faraclas: Encouraged members to register for the 4th Annual Conference on Shared Governance and Student Success
 - <https://form.jotform.com/CCSUEDU/registration-form-for-fourth-annual>
- D. Pettigrew: Reminded Senators that the sealing of the P&T files will take place on December 14th and 15th from 10-2 in Buley Library room 346.

III. President's Report: M. Diamantis

<https://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2017-2018.html>

- Item 2: Final grades are due December 20 by 8 a.m.
- Item 5: Deadline for nominations for the Robert Jirsa award have been extended.
- Item 6: Remind students of the online application for the Foundation Scholarships.
- Explained the recently created Shared Governance Award.
 - **Motion to Commit (D. Weiss):** The Executive Committee will apply for the Shared Governance Award.
 - **Approved unanimously.**

IV. Standing Committee Reports

- **Motion to Suspend the Rules that interfere with the Agenda (M. Diamantis)** to bring the Academic Policy Committee Reports and Resolutions to the floor.
 - **No objections.**

1. Academic Policy

- **Motion to Approve (D. Weiss) Grade Appeal Document**
 - **Approved unanimously.**
- **Motion to Commit (D. Weiss) Grade Appeal Form** to the Executive Committee, who will finalize and submit the form on behalf of the Faculty Senate.
 - **Approved unanimously.**
- **Motion to Approve (D. Weiss) Course Withdrawal Policy**
 - Substantial Changes were made to align with the BOR Policy.
 - Senators discussed the definition of “extenuating circumstances” and to what extent students must justify withdrawing from a course.
 - **Motion to Call the Previous Question (M. Shea).**

- **Motion defeated.**
 - After continued discussion
 - **Motion approved.**
- D. Pettigrew took up the previously postponed resolution “Faculty Senate Resolution to Restore 20 student class caps for Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Writing Intensive Courses.”
 - Explained that Provost Prezant is willing to experiment with lowering caps in “W” courses.
 - Explained that if the current resolution is postponed indefinitely, a new resolution will be proposed.
 - **Motion to Postpone Indefinitely (J. Dunklee).**
 - **Approved.**
- **Motion to Approve (D. Pettigrew)** “Faculty Senate Resolution to set the ‘W’ (Writing Intensive) Course Enrollment Cap at 22 effective Fall 2018.”
 - **Approved** with minor revisions.

See <https://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/resolutionsbydate.html> for resolutions

2. Finance (W. Abdelsayed)

- Full-time AAUP: \$210,288
- Part-time AAUP: \$14,351
- Creative Activity: \$2,760

V. Guests

- SCSU President Joe Bertolino
 - The current financial outlook of the University is quite serious. In the last three weeks, an additional \$4.1 million was cut from the budget.
 - The 2018/2019 budget cycle appears worse than the current one.
 - We cannot balance the budget on personnel changes.
 - Long term outlook
 - We cannot continually ask people to “do more.”
 - We must be more intentional with our strategies.
 - We cannot be all things to all people.
 - There will be no more additional resources from the State; therefore, we will have to consider existing personnel and how they can be better distributed.
 - We must continue investing in areas like enrollment management, partnerships with industry, and grants.
- Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Mark Rozewski
 - Thanks to our vacancies, we have had substantial salary and fringe savings, which were almost enough money to offset previous cuts.
 - More cuts are likely this year.
 - Using our reserves is not a good solution long term.
 - Serious concerns if the reduced budget is our starting base for next year.
- Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Prezant
 - Stressed that this is an “all-hands-on-deck” situation.

- Would appreciate any thoughts/ideas/suggestions for efficiencies and revenue generation.
- Retention is more important than ever.

Questions:

- M. Shea: Will the Students First campus consolidation help mitigate the financial difficulties facing four-year campuses?
 - M. Rozewski: No.
- W. Faraclas: Will the system office sweep our campus reserves to help other campuses.
 - M. Rozewski: That is always a possibility.
- J. Dunklee: Has a strategy been developed for how adjustments/cuts will be made? Will departments/programs be closed?
 - J. Bertolino: Only things over which we have direct control are currently being considered. In terms of closing departments, that has not been discussed. However, if trends continue, anything is possible.
- D. Weiss: How can funds collected through fundraising be used?
 - J. Bertolino: It depends on the donor/campaign. Scholarships are a great way to use donor money as it frees up funds for other students, which in turn can help enrollment.
 - R. Prezant: Encourage faculty to consider other sources besides donors and state government. For example, industry and their foundations.
- W. Faraclas: Not only do we need to look at ways to save money, but also other approaches, like bringing more students to campus.
 - J. Bertolino: It could be as simple as every faculty and staff member encourage one person to enroll. We also need to consider how we deliver courses (online, hybrid, summer and winter sessions, etc.).
- J. Tait: Is the decline in enrollment just us or across institutions?
 - J. Bertolino: There has been an uptick at private institutions. CCSU has seen a slight increase, especially in graduate students.

To close, President Bertolino shared that there would be a series of town hall meetings in the spring.

VI. Standing Committee Reports (cont'd)

1. Elections (K. Kruczek)

- No report

2. Personnel policy

- No report

3. Rules (W. O'Brien)

- Discussion on bylaws will resume Spring 2018.

4. Technology (W. Stutzman)

- No report.

VII. Special Committee Reports

1. UCF (D. Weiss)

- No report

2. Graduate School

- No report

3. FASP/USPaRC (D. Pettigrew)

- Finalizing academic strategic plan, which should be ready in the Spring.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Luke Eilderts
Secretary