

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

Approved Minutes of October 24, 2018

<https://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2018-2019.html>

The 5th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2018-2019 was held on
 October 24, at 12:13 p.m. in the
 Seminar Room of Connecticut Hall.

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

Wafeek Abdelsayed (Accounting)	Mohammad T. Islam (Computer Science)	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	Robert Forbus (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Greg Adams (Sociology)
William Farley (Anthropology)	Matthew Ouimet (Counseling)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Angela Lopez-Velasquez (Special Ed/Reading)
Jeff Slomba (Art)	Natalie Starling (Couns/Sch Psych)	Tom Radice (History)	Alain D'Amour (Mathematics)	L. Evan Finch (Physics)	
Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	Darcy Kern (History)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Douglas Macur (Theatre)
Steven Brady (Biology)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Yan Liu (Information & Library Science)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	Rubén Pelayo (World Languages & Literatures)
Jeff Webb (Chemistry)	Beena Achhpal (Curriculum & Learning)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Francine Penny (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Cindy Simoneau (UCF)
	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Parker Fruehan (Library Services)	Lisa Rebeschi (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Mike Shea (English)	Kari Swanson (Library Services)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	(Grad Council)
Wes O'Brien (Communication, Media & Screen Studies)	Paul Petrie (English)	Mina Park (Management/MIS)	Eric Hoffman (Part-Time Faculty)	Paul Levatino (Social Work)	Mia Forgione (Student)
Derek Taylor (Communication, Media & Screen Studies)	Scott Graves (Environment, Geography & Marine Studies)	Allison Wall (Management/MIS)	Mary Ellen Minichiello (Part-Time Faculty)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President

<p>Guests: Jose Galvan (Graduate and Professional Studies) Robert Prezant (Academic Affairs) Craig Hlavac (Arts & Sciences)</p>					
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I. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

- Minutes of previous meeting held on October 10, 2018 approved unanimously.

II. Guests:

- Jose Galvan, Interim Dean, School of Graduate and Professional Studies
 - Dr. Galvan started in his role as interim Dean just a few weeks ago. When he leaves in February he will return to his home in southern California. He has been retired for about four years. He spent 40 years working in the academy, mostly teaching graduate courses and working as a graduate administrator. He came to Southern from the Registry on August 27 and will be here until February 1. The search for the new dean is underway. It is expected that the new dean will start early in the new year.

Dr. Galvan reported on the state of the graduate school at Southern. We have experienced declining enrollments in graduate programs in the last decade. It seems we have accepted that we are no longer a first choice among prospective grad students at SCSU, but there was a time when we were a destination campus. We are competing with other CSU campuses.

Dr. Galvan has spoken with many constituents. He finds a strong set of degrees, certificates, and professional diplomas. We have 33 master’s degree programs, 14 certificate programs, 6 6th year programs, and 3 doctoral programs. In addition 2 new master’s programs will start next fall. We also have partnerships with Liverpool. Also, we have accelerated pathways to master’s degrees while finishing undergrad work.

Dr. Galvan reported on two items that he stated appeared to have been overlooked: comprehensive exams and the library’s role in the preparation of theses and dissertations. With regard to comprehensive exams, if our students do not register for classes while they are preparing for their comprehensive exams they must begin repayment of their student loans. If they do register for other coursework it distracts them for their exam preparation. Dr. Galvan recommends that Southern do as other institutions have done: create a 0-unit comprehensive “shell course” similar to IDS900 to allow students to register for a course for their comprehensive exams.

With regard to the library’s role in the preparation of theses and dissertations, Dr. Galvan reported that currently there is no role for the library in certifying the completion of the requirements. He has found in a number of instances the bound copies have not

contained the correct information, which requires resubmission to ProQuest. This impedes the cataloging of the theses and dissertations for inclusion in WorldCat (OCLC).

Dr. Galvan will prepare a report for the Provost and the President when he completes his work here. His recommendations include ways to market the programs with the expectation that SCSU will regain its status as a destination school for graduate education.

- Senator Pettigrew (PHI) inquired about whether the Dean has spoken with the legislature regarding our ability to provide funding for graduate students. Dr. Galvan stated that it is not part of his current role here, though he thinks it is a noble goal. Private institutions provide that kind of support.
- Senator Dunklee (JRN) stated that Journalism does not currently have a graduate program, though one was proposed 20 years ago. Senator Dunklee stated that Journalism did have a significant continuing education program years ago, but it disappeared. He asked Dr. Galvan to speak about continuing studies and whether it is a valuable thing? Dr. Galvan stated that he completely agrees: a continuing education program is not only a draw to the community, it can also be a mechanism by which students who opted out of programs years ago can finish a degree. His former institution had several degree completion programs. There is a private university in California that found a niche program in the degree completion area. They targeted dancers who work professionally, who had done CC college work, but never completed degrees. They crafted a program to allow them complete degrees.

A number of professions require continuing education units, legal fields for example. There are other areas where a degree is not required for professional practice... for example, medical translation or legal interpreters. There are a number of areas where a university can offer services outside of the four year and graduate degree areas.

- Senator Graves (EGMS)--Virtually every education program (used to) require continuing education. Senator Graves reported that the faculty have been told we can't offer those programs in summer.

President Diamantis pointed out that districts have reduced or eliminated continuing education funding.

Dean Galvan responded that some states do not require master's degrees for teachers, but they do fund continuing education for teachers. This would include bootcamps, etc..

III. President's Report

President Diamantis reminded Senators that midterm grades are due Friday by midnight. Please enter the attendance information also.

President Diamantis asked Senators to mark their calendars and share with colleagues that there will be a Presidential Dialogue held on December 3 1-2:30pm.

President Diamantis reported that 2 volunteers to represent the Faculty Senate were needed for University Library Committee. Senator Grubacic (ECO) and Senator Rebeschì (NUR) volunteered to serve on the University Library Committee.

President Diamantis reported that the FLC discussed the new Academic Advising Model, which is running as a pilot program with Dr. Helen Marx as the Faculty Director. Additionally, Dr. Jeff Webb for the Math/STEM AAC and Dr. Thomas O'Malley for the Business ACC will serve as coordinators for the Academic Advising Centers in those areas for this year. The coordinators will receive 3 credits per semester, 1 credit winter, and 2 credits summer of release credit load.

Senator Shea (ENG) asked if there was discussion regarding the number of all-University committees. In particular Senator Shea pointed out that part of the reason there are separate committees for the faculty award committees is that it would be much more work if the committees were consolidated. Having three committees separates the work across individuals. Also, the awards have different requirements. President Diamantis will refer the matter to the Rules committee, and also seeks feedback from Senators.

Senator Graves (EGMS) asked typically how many nominees does each committee evaluate? President Diamantis stated that it varies, but usually 7-10, sometimes more or less. The J. Phillip Smith Teaching Award has two awards: PT and FT. There are fewer than 20 nominees for each.

Senator Webb (CHE) asked how does this work? Who nominates them? Who decides? President Diamantis responded that the calls come from Provost or Faculty Senate. Some nominations come from students. The committees choose the winners.

Senator Faraclas (PCH) recommended streamlining, but he agrees with Senator Shea (ENG) that this is a false economy.

Senator Gregory (EXS) stated that the Rules committee did look at consolidating committees in the past, but it was difficult.

President Diamantis would like to gather information about the appointed committees as well.

Senator Shea (ENG) stated that he does think it is a good idea to streamline committees in general, but in this case (the awards) is a separate issue. He believes the administration will be more willing to share information about the other committees and therefore it might be worth undertaking it again.

Provost Prezant stated that for the sake of clarity: the intent was to look at the 25 or so committees that follow this umbrella. It was not the intent to focus on the awards. It was to look at all of the committees. How are committees put together? But, self-nomination and election isn't the only way people become members of committees. How do we ensure that the expertise is on the committees.

Senator Dunklee (JRN) stated that there was a time when there were overlapping committees that were FS elected and appointed by the President to similar committees that did not include shared governance and were unilateral in nature. If we were to look at these wide-ranging committees, including ad hoc committees, we could perhaps eliminate some that are overlapping in authority.

Senator Webb (CHE) asked what is the ultimate goal? Less service? More manageability. Senator Shea (ENG) responded, making sure we have the right people with expertise on committees and reduction of redundancy.

President Diamantis noted that for teaching faculty the 4th category is service. We have 400+ faculty. We need a variety of committees to offer the opportunity to serve.

Regarding the academic advising matter, President Diamantis noted that the document was sent again. She asked Senators to please bring the document to their departments and discuss. Dr. Marx can visit and explain it, so we work towards a successful program of academic advisement.

Senator Weiss (CMD) asked, do we have numbers in terms of what the costs are for the new advising model? Provost Prezant responded that he doesn't have the hard number with him. When this was being planned years ago it was calculated the credits being released multiplied by adjunct costs and may not be perfectly accurate. He will get that information for us.

Senator Weiss (CMD) asked if there will be full time hiring. Dr. Marx responded that they will be adding four new people hired over three years in student affairs.

Senator Weiss (CMD) asked Provost Prezant: is there any anticipation that awarding of the release credits will affect the pool of non-teaching load credits? Two years ago there was a mandate by the then-interim provost to reduce by a certain percentage the number of credits awarded to faculty with a drastic reduction for program coordinators and other coordinators. We seem to get to this threshold. Where do we stand with that? Provost Prezant responded that not long after he got here he saw the numbers. We are not going over that number, but he wants us all to remember the other side of the equation: to address needs of students and increased retention. Senator Weiss stated that she is not opposed, but doesn't want a backlash with reduction of credits.

President Diamantis asked for a list of all of the credits/reassigned time for various positions. In the past it was 6 for Faculty Senate President and 3 for Faculty Senate Secretary. Now it's 5.5 for President and none for the Secretary. UCF was decreased. Senate Committee chairs get nothing. We understand it's an improvement for students, etc. But, if we are going to give release for advising, who is going to teach those classes? We need to make sure that other release credits not taken away.

Provost Prezant stated that he has heard from faculty about desire to reduce teaching load to prepare special courses, scholarship, etc.. There was a proposal to reduce 12 required teaching load to 9, but we need to continue those conversations. Plus we have the mandate to maintain the cap. This is a conversation he wants to have.

Senator Petrie (ENG) asked if there will there be a mechanism for members of DEC's to give feedback on the Digital Professional Assessment pilot? Senator Pettigrew (PHI) and Stutzman (Part-time Faculty) responded that yes, there will be. They are already receiving feedback.

IV. Standing Committees

- a. Personnel Policy—Senator Shea (ENG) reported that the committee is working on the emeritus policy and the administrative survey.
- b. Rules—No Report
- c. Student Policy—Senator Nizhnikov (PSY) reported that the committee is still working on the SAT issue, and also on Latin Honors..
- d. Technology— Senator Stutzman reported that there is a new process for computer distribution. There will be a Faculty Development proposal to bring back the one-week technical training school.

Senator Weiss (CMD) stated that some departments have SUOAF employees who serve in instructional positions. For their computers they are only allowed to have desktop computers, but for clinical instructors who are out in the field with students or doing observations of students this makes no sense. Senator Stutzman will look into it.

Senator Petrie (ENG) asked if there is an answer about how computers are distributed now? Senator Stutzman reported that there is a list, which he will share in the near future. The list was by age of the computer. Senator Petrie noted that doesn't seem to be happening in all departments.

The Technology Committee may bring forward a resolution regarding the matter of computer distribution.

Senator Dunklee (JRN) reported Mac lab issues with software not having been loaded properly, constant keychain problems, machines refusing to see hardware that is installed, and noted that mistakes made with how the lab Macs were set up is a waste a tremendous amount of class time. Senator Stutzman made note of this.

e. Academic Policy—Senator Pettigrew—working on the grade appeal policy. There was a spike in grade appeals. We think we may be able to solve it if the language of palpable injustice is clarified. They met with the Deans to discuss this issue. AVP Tetreault would like to have the grade appeal form filed or archived somewhere. Currently that is not the case. We are trying to negotiate a solution between the instructor and the student... but the appeal is not a full-blown appeal... committee is looking into the possibility for the form to be part of the beginning of the process. Third: summer grade appeals. Faculty are not required to be here in summer, so... Online student opinion surveys—they are stuck in a loop. The evidence is that there is a very low return when you go online. Example: 15 students only 2-3 respond. They reflected on the documented deficiencies of the form we use and possible ways to improve it.

Senator Weiss (CMD)—Grade appeal issue in terms of the form: the archive would be solved if we could go to an online grade appeal. Where do we stand with that? Senator Stutzman (Part-time Faculty) will take the issue to IT.

f. Elections—The Fall all-University Committee elections ballots were counted last week. Newly elected members have been notified. The updated All-University Committee membership document will be shared shortly. We will be conducting a special election to fill needed positions on various committees in the near future. A call for nominations will be distributed soon.

g. Finance—FT travel fund balance is \$223,498, PT travel fund balance is \$16,544, Creative Activity fund balance is \$0—University Budget committee meeting was cancelled.

V. Reports of Special Committees

- a. UCF—Senator Weiss (CMD) reported that in addition to motions passed for course proposals there was a motion brought forward regarding the grade point average for students to do a double baccalaureate degree (BA-BS). Formerly a 3.33 grade point average was required. The committee approved a grade point average of 3.0 upon entry and maintained throughout. This does not affect the education majors who double major. They are in a different category.
- b. Graduate Council—No Report
- c. FASP/USPaRC—FASP is preparing a survey regarding the Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence. The survey will provide an opportunity for the whole campus to see the document. The committee will seek feedback to identify among the 5 priorities of FASP and ability to provide comments. Presumably we would clarify going forward with conversations about supporting some of these initiatives in the strategic vision, including the 12 credits per semester to 9 credits per semester teaching load like School of Business. Another item was reduction of class size for writing intensive to restore the cap to 20. Democratic support from public opinion.

VI. Old Business

- a. Approval of Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC) By-Laws

Postponed due to lack of representation from FDAC at the meeting. This will be done at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

VII. New Business

- a. Discussion on the New Academic Advising Model for Undergraduate Students

Senator Dunklee (JRN)—Dr. Tyree is going to be the person in charge of this program. That is a non-academic part of the campus. Dr. Marx: it is a shared model with Dr. Tyree and Dr. Prezant. The model is academic affairs and student affairs. The budget for the professional advisors are coming from Dr. Tyree's budget. Provost Prezant: the professional advisors being hired are under Dr. Tyree's budget. It is now a partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. A similar model would be the FYE—academic affairs and student affairs are in partnership with first year students.

- b. Senator Pettigrew—Curricular Task Force Survey—please remember to answer the survey. Senator Stutzman (Part-time Faculty)—The survey was not sent to PT faculty and President Diamantis will also send it to the PT faculty.

Executive Committee Meeting: Ten minutes following adjournment

Fall 2018 meetings: October 24, November 7, November 28, December 5.
Spring 2019 meetings: January 23, February 6, February 20, March 6, March 27,
April 10, April 24, May 8.

Kari Swanson
Secretary