

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

**Approved Minutes of September 26, 2018**

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

The 1st meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2018-2019 was held on  
 September 26, 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)	<b>Greg Adams (Sociology)</b>
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)	<b>Laura Raynolds (Special Ed/Reading)</b>
<b>Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)</b>	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	<b>Darcy Kern (History)</b>	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	<b>Douglas Macur (Theatre)</b>
Steven Brady (Biology)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	<b>Yan Liu (Information &amp; Library Science)</b>	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	<b>Rubén Pelayo (World Languages &amp; Literatures)</b>
Jeff Webb (Chemistry)	Beena Achhpal (Curriculum & Learning)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Francine Penny (Nursing)	<b>Katherine Marsland (Psychology)</b>	Cindy Simoneau (UCF)
Derek Taylor (Communication)	<b>Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)</b>	Parker Fruehan (Library Services)	Lisa Rebesch (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	William Faraclas (Faculty Senate Past President)
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)	<b>Mina Park (Management/MIS)</b>	<b>Eric Hoffman (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Paul Levatino (Social Work)	Ian Bergemann (Student)
Derek Taylor (Communication, Media & Screen Studies)	<b>Scott Graves (Environment, Geography &amp; Marine Studies)</b>	Allison Wall (Management/MIS)	<b>Mary Ellen Minichiello (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President

<b>Guests:</b> Coleen Bielitz (Academic Affairs)  Kathryn Jervis (ACE Fellow)	Michael Kingan (Institutional Advancement)	Tracy Tyree (Student Affairs)	Ilene Crawford (Academic Affairs)	Terricita Sass (Enrollment Management)	Dennis Reiman (IT)
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**President Diamantis thanked President Bertolino for providing lunch.**

I. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

- August 29, 2018
  - Approved as revised.
- Septemeber 12, 2018
  - President Diamantis on a question from last meeting, reported that the time limitation for application of use of intellectual property is 2 years.
  - Approved as revised.

II. Guests:

- President Bertolino—
  - President Bertolino thanked the Senate for the invitation to speak with the Senate. The census is complete; enrollment is at 10,050. There will be more information to share in the next couple of weeks.

The budget committee met and our budgets for last and this year are balanced. While we may have a balanced budget that came with a great deal of pain due to vacancies and cuts.

The President thanked those who participated in the kickoff of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event went well.

The Business School hosted a business networking breakfast. It was very well attended by business leaders from all over the state. (They ran out of chairs.) This was the first event of this kind sponsored by the School of Business.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 3:30-7:30pm is the Graduate Open House—Registration for the Open House is low, about half of what it was at this time last year.

President Bertolino asked that if we have students who are considering or interested in graduate school we should invite them to our own Graduate Open House. He asks us to get the word out to alums of our programs and ask them to join us.

President Bertolino was a little disappointed that there were stacks of invitations to open houses and very few of those were taken for distribution. Invitations were delivered to the Faculty Senate for additional distribution.

Undergraduate Open House is Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Generally 80% of those who attend apply and about 33% who attend end up coming to Southern. He invites us to participate.

President Bertolino and President Diamantis have discussed having a conversation about Shared Governance outside of the Senate meeting. President Bertolino doesn't want the faculty to panic that we are taking a step backwards in terms of shared governance. He doesn't want to debate that on the floor of the Senate, and stated that the record of his administration is pretty good with regard to shared governance. But, when those issues come up it takes up a lot of our time and may have little impact. He would like to engage the conversation in another venue and have a candid conversation. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Senator Dunklee asked if President Bertolino and the other University Presidents were consulted on the Policy on the program review issue due to Low Completers? President Bertolino stated that he does not recall that being the case. He asked the Provost—Provost Prezant said that he heard about it in the Administrative Advisory Council.

Senator Shea stated that a more frequent President dialogue with the full university sponsored by the Senate might be helpful. It was first proposed to be once a week, then it was agreed to be 2 weeks, and then President Adanti agreed to once a month. But, perhaps 3-4 per semester would help keep the conversations open. President Bertolino responded that he is not opposed to the idea of increased Presidential dialogues.

President Diamantis also reminded everyone of the Academic Impact Statement, a resolution approved in the past agreeing that any new policy/change will provide an explanation of the Academic Impact.

- Dr. Coleen Bielitz, Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Outreach was introduced by President Diamantis and thanked her for coming to address the Senate.
  - Dr. Bielitz sent a questionnaire asking for volunteers for the visiting scholars program. Faculty are asked to provide the title of presentation they could offer and details about it which would then be made available to K-12 schools. This is one of the new initiatives of the Provost. The objective is to get our faculty out into the K-12 schools to expose the students to what our researchers do. There are about 44 presentations available in the program to date. The Provost's topic on killer sea snails is a hot topic among science teachers. If there are others who are interested please contact Dr. Bielitz.

The new faculty showcase allowed new faculty members to present a 60-90 second pitch of their research and interests. This helps to encourage interdisciplinarity. Next year it will be held at a different time, so that more members of the faculty can attend.

Health Haven Hub is a new tech startup in the digital health field. Dr. Bielitz met

with them. They are looking for entrepreneurial programs. How can we partner with them? For example, perhaps there could be internships or other programs. If we identify any programs that might be a good niche feel free to reach out to her. This is to get Southern out there.

Dr. Bielitz thanked President Diamantis for letting her visit the Senate. If we have questions feel free to contact her. She is available.

Senator Dunklee stated that in the past a journalism student got some of our students to visit high school campus newspapers. Perhaps this is something that could be useful or good? Dr. Bielitz responded that it was a good suggestion and that maybe as we grow the program or evolve it maybe we could extend it that way.

Senator D'Amour stated that we have a weekend math program for high school students and asked if we could get more marketing for that program. Dr. Bielitz responded that she would like to expose students to what we have to offer AND get them to come here as well. So, it's definitely two-fold as we look to expand these programs.

III. President's Report – posted on the Faculty Senate website: <http://southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2018-2019.html>

President Diamantis asked the Senators to remind our colleagues that President Ojakian is coming to campus 1:00pm-2:30pm on Friday, September 28 in EN A 120. One topic of discussion will be an update on the consolidation of the Community Colleges. Then he will open the discussion to questions and answers, and an exchange of ideas about how we, as a faculty, can explain to outsiders what it is we do. This falls into place with the White Paper that he is preparing to send to state politicians after the elections.

President Diamantis reported that President Bertolino has sent a survey seeking information and suggestions for the White Paper.

President Diamantis reported that on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Faculty Senate sponsored an informational session about the Digital Professional Assessment pilot. The session was attended by about 20 faculty members, a dean and Provost Prezant. Senators Pettigrew and Stutzman lead the presentation and discussion along with Karen Musmanno from IT.

President Diamantis highlighted item 3.e on her report regarding the Academic Year Scheduling Task Force. The Academic Scheduling Task Force. The meeting will take place Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 12:14-1:45pm in EN A 120.

President Diamantis reported that the Senate Presidents from Eastern and Central have contacted her about the CT/BOR Policy on “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process” policy. President Diamantis and several Senators as well as former Senate Presidents formulated a resolution pertaining this proposed Policy (distributed today on salmon paper to the members present). President Diamantis asked Senators to read it and provide feedback on this resolution.

President Diamantis stated that she was not for or against moving forward with the resolution.

Senator Dunklee moved to open the debate. It was seconded with no objections.

Debate ensued.

Senator Dunklee called the question. Senator Weiss seconded the motion. Senator Webb objected. Failing to obtain a 2/3 vote, the motion was defeated.

Debate continued.

Senator Tomczak called the question. Senator Weiss seconded the motion. Senator Webb objected. Failing to obtain a 2/3 vote, the motion was defeated.

Debate continued.

Senator Faraclas called the question. Senator Tomczak seconded the motion. Hearing no objections a vote was taken. The motion passed with only one objection.

Senator Pettigrew thanked President Diamantis for undertaking the matter of the Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process.

#### IV. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. Elections—Senator Swanson reminds faculty that the deadline for self-nominations for All University Committees was extended to 5pm on Monday, October 1.
- b. Fiance—Senator Abdelsayed reported that FT AAUP Travel fund balance is \$227,497.50, PT AAUP Travel fund balance is \$26,554.00, and Creative Activity fund is \$42,785.95. Senator Abdelsayed noted that the FY AAUP Travel fund balance shows a slight increase due to a cancelled trip, and that the Creative Activity fund continues to be depleted first.
- c. Personnel Policy—Senator Tomczak reported that the Survey for Administrative Effectiveness has been tweaked, and will be sent to members of the committee for final reading and will be distributed to faculty soon. Edits will be sent to Senator Fruehan, who is managing the online survey.
- d. Rules—Senator Gregory submitted a written report.
- e. Student Policy—Senator Nizhnikov reported that the committee discussed use of SAT scores in a meeting with Dr. Terricita Sass and others.
- f. Technology—Senator Fruehan reported that the committee saw a demonstration of the new SCSU web site. The goal is to roll out the new site by mid-October.

President Diamantis asked what will happen to the Faculty Senate documents when the new site rolls over? Senator Fruehan stated that there has been a commitment to not display/lose information and the old site will not be taken down immediately.

Senator Gregory reported that he heard that a lot of content will be lost in this transition. Senator Fruehan stated that President Bertolino wants the site to be a student-driven site, but that the Inside Southern part of the site will continue to have all of the detailed information we are accustomed to. Senator Stutzman stated that he is on top of the issue. Senator Stutzman stated that Blackboard will not be affected. Senator Stutzman stated that the online teachins survey was distributed and asks that faculty please respond.

- g. Academic Policy—Senator Pettigrew reported that there has been a spike in grade appeals. The committee is considering elaborating on palpable injustice. The meaning of palpable injustice needs to be clarified. They have reached out to the deans and Bonnie Medara. Only Dean Kalk and Dean Bulmer have responded thus far. The committee is also looking at the question of grade appeals in the summer. There has been pressure to have summer grade appeals.

V. Reports of Special Committees

- a. UCF—UCF representative Cindy Simoneau (JRN) presented the WACC bylaws for approval. Quorum was lost at 1:55pm thus ending the discussion.

VI. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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Kari Swanson  
Secretary

**Executive Committee Meeting: Ten minutes following adjournment**

**Fall 2018 meetings:** October 10, 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.