

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

**Approved Minutes of January 23, 2019**

<http://www2.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2018-2019.html>

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2018-2019 was held on  
 January 23, 2019 at 12:10 p.m. in the  
 Seminar Room of Connecticut Hall.

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

<b>Wafeek Abdelsayed (Accounting)</b>	Natalie Starling (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	L. Evan Finch (Physics)	<b>Douglas Macur (Theatre)</b>
William Farley (Anthropology)	Beena Achhpal (Curriculum & Learning)	<b>Tom Radice (History)</b>	Klay Kruczek (Mathematics)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Luke Eilderts (Secretary/World Languages & Literatures)
<b>Jeff Slomba (Art)</b>	Adam Goldberg (Curriculum & Learning)	Darcy Kern (History)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	
<b>Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)</b>	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	<b>Yan Liu (Info &amp; Library Sci)</b>	Francess Penny (Nursing)	Kate Marsland (Psychology)	
<b>Sarah Crawford (Biology)</b>	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Lisa Rebesch (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Cindy Simoneau (UCF)
Jeff Webb (Chemistry)	<b>Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)</b>	Parker Fruehan (Library Services)	<b>Obiageli Okwuka (Part-time Faculty)</b>	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	Elizabeth Lewis Roberts (Grad Council)
Jim Dempsey (Com Disorders)	Mike Shea (English)	Kari Swanson (Library Services)	<b>Eric Hoffman (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	<b>Paul Levatino (Social Work)</b>	Mia Forgione (Student)
(Comm, Media & Screen Studies) Derek Taylor	Paul Petrie (English)	<b>Mina Park (Management/MIS)</b>	<b>Mary Ellen Minichiello (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President
Mohammad T. Islam (Computer Science)	Scott Graves (Environment, Geography & Marine Studies)	Alison Wall (Management/MIS)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Greg Adams (Sociology)	
Matthew Ouimet (Counseling)	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	Robert Forbus (Marketing)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Angela Lopez-Velasquez (Special Ed/Reading)	
<u>Guests:</u> Ilene Crawford (AA) Bob Prezant (Provost)	Craig Hlavac (A&S) Patrick Dilger (ICM) Betsy Beacom (ICM)	Mary Pat Caputo (ICM) Jian Chan (ICM) Stephen Hegedus (Dean EDU)	Ellen Durnin (Dean BUS) Colleen Bielitz (AA)	Dennis Reiman (IT) Michael Schriefer	Maureen Gilbride-Redman (Assessment & Planning)

Call to order at 12:10 p.m.

## I. Minutes of Previous Meeting

<http://www2.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/2018-2019.html>

- December 5, 2018
  - **Accepted as distributed.**

## II. Guests

- Charles Broliar, Director of Academic Technologies, and Chris Perugini, Web Application Development Specialist, presented the new University website design and philosophy.
  - Changes include updating the architecture of the website, the software that runs it, as well as the information presented.
  - Design is aimed more at a prospective-student audience; information for students, faculty, and staff who are already at Southern will be accessible via an “inside Southern” link.
  - Concerns over the information currently on department websites were raised. Some departments have a lot of information for students that is vital to their operation.
    - Senators were assured that the website will evolve as needs evolve. Please send concerns to [feedback@southernct.edu](mailto:feedback@southernct.edu).
  - Faculty profiles will also be a part of the new design. Information will be populated automatically from the Digital Measures service.
    - Concerns were raised since not all faculty use Digital Measures, and not all faculty have access to it.
    - Senators were assured that faculty would be able to “opt-out” of the automatic Digital Measures updates.
  - Concerns were raised over who would be able to initiate changes at the department level.
    - Each department will be able to designate one person to serve as the website administrator.
  - The website will go live January 30, 2019. The former website will run parallel to the new one under the address [www2.southernct.edu](http://www2.southernct.edu) until the end of the semester.
- President Bertolino addressed the Faculty Senate.
  - Welcomed senators to the new semester.
  - Announced that on February 11 at 1 p.m. there will be a University Dialogue/Town Hall in the Adanti Student Center Theater. There is a lot of data he would like to share with the Southern community, including retention, degree completion, and class sizes.
  - Announced that he and his senior leadership have had very productive meetings both with faculty leadership and the chairs of the academic departments.
  - Senior leadership will meet soon to discuss course cancelations, course availability, IT and its challenges, and student retention.
  - He would like to begin a conversation with faculty on shared governance and the “rules of engagement” in an effort to navigate better the relationship between faculty and administration.
  - He and Provost Prezant have asked the Deans and the Academic Affairs team to attend Faculty Senate meetings to serve as a resource during discussions.

- He has expressed concerns with faculty leadership about barriers facing students in the areas of policy and procedure, and feels that our students' largest barrier is time. This has a large impact on student retention.
- We will soon welcome the new Dean of Graduate Studies, and we will soon break ground for the HHS building.
- He will continue to work on raising Southern's profile and meeting with potential partners and donors.
- Questions
  - J. Wharton asked the President about the system office and if there is any news about tuition.
    - President Bertolino answered that most of the staffing changes at the system office are focused on the consolidation of the Community Colleges. However, very little is happening currently that will affect the universities. As for tuition and budgets, we will have more information after the next board meeting.
  - M. Forgione asked if the university dialogue will be open to everyone.
    - It will.
  - D. Pettigrew highlighted the conversations that have taken place concerning class sizes, specifically in the area of "W" courses, and how smaller class sizes may help retention.
    - President Bertolino said that more information would be given out at the university dialogue on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - G. Adams thanked the President for the meeting with the chairs. He wanted to make sure that the issue concerning Digital Measures was not forgotten.
    - A meeting to that effect will happen on January 24.
- Ilene Crawford, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, spoke about the next accreditation cycle.
  - Explained that we are about two and half years from our next visit from NECHE (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), our accrediting body. We will be reviewed on nine standards, which were introduced in our mid-cycle 2016.
  - Committee and sub-committee formation will need to be completed in anticipation of the work that will need to be done. The goal is to have the committees in place by the end of the Spring 2019 semester, as well as have a detailed timeline for everyone.
  - Questions
    - J. Dunklee asked how the co-chair of the main committee will be chosen and if compensation/reassign time will be given.
      - AVP Crawford answered that compensation will be given. The selection process will be through a campus-wide call. The decision will be made by the Provost's office.
    - J. Fields commented that the previous report from NECHE was one of the things that prompted us to change the LEP. Was that also a part of the interim report?
      - AVP Crawford answered that we did provide a significant amount of data for the general education program. However, we are still working on its assessment.

## II. President's Report: M. Diamantis

<http://www2.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2018-2019.html>

- Faculty Senate President Diamantis welcomed all senators, returning and new.
- President Diamantis pointed out several important items on the report.
  - This Friday, January 25th, 2019, the FS is sponsoring the first workshop for the Renewal process and the FS Renewal Document will take place at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at the ASC Room 201.
  - President Joe has rescheduled the University Dialogue for Monday, February 11, at 1 pm at the ASC Theater.
  - Reading Day has been announced for Thursday, May 9, 2019 and the last day of classes Friday, May 10, 2019.
    - Point of clarification: Students cannot be compelled to attend a class on Reading day; professors cannot be compelled to hold a class on reading day. Classes *will* be held on Friday May 10, 2019, as scheduled.
    - The unusual schedule is due to the system-wide calendar implementation.
  - For Spring 2019 the Faculty Senate will sponsor a Forum on Shared Governance. She seeks Senators to volunteer and assist her in organizing the event as we will also collaborate with the President and Provost.
  - Attendance reporting is due Tuesday February 5, 2019, end of the day.
  - Update of the FS Roster with retirements, sabbaticals, etc. Please notify the secretary and the President of the senate on such updates. Furthermore, if you know of any current or former Senators who are retiring or who have already retired, please let her know. She would like to recognize them and thank them for the service to the Faculty Senate.
  - Asks senators to take note of the status of the two resolutions that were approved by the Senate 12/28/2018, but which were not ultimately approved by the University President.
    - D. Pettigrew reminds senators that since the grade appeal policy was not approved, the former one is still in place.

## III. Announcements

- J. Dunklee announced the passing of Assistant Professor of Journalism, Vern Williams.

## IV. Standing Committee Reports

1. Academic Policy (D. Pettigrew)
  - a. No report
2. Elections (K. Kruzcek)
  - a. No report
3. Finance (S. Grubacic)
  - a. AAUP Full-time:       \$ 102,838
  - b. AAUP Part-time:       \$       712
  - c. Creative Activity:       \$       5,342
4. Personnel Policy (M. Shea & S. Tomczak)
  - a. No Report
5. Rules (R. Gregory)

- a. No Report
6. Technology (W. Stutzman & P. Fruehan)
  - a. No Report

#### V. Special Committees

1. UCF (C. Simoneau)
  - a. Meets January 24, 2019.
  - b. Primary item held over from previous semester will be guidelines for interdisciplinary degrees and advising those students.
2. Graduate Council (E. Lewis Roberts)
  - a. Meets January 28, 2019.
  - b. Discussion concerning graduate faculty status will continue.
3. FASP/USPaRC (D. Pettigrew)
  - a. No report.

#### VI. Old Business

- Approval of Faculty Development Advisory Committee (FDAC) By-Laws – Postponed for Spring 2019.

#### VII. New Business

- D. Pettigrew
  - Faculty Senate and the Administration launched a task force on Social Justice and Diversity and how to integrate that into the curriculum. D. Pettigrew will present preliminary proposals by late March 2019.
- M. Diamantis
  - Asks Senators for their input on the following issue: In the past, the Faculty Senate has distributed an Administrative Effectiveness Survey. During discussions both in- and outside of the Faculty Senate, it was suggested that there be a survey of the Faculty Leadership team as well.
    - R. Gregory agrees that it is a conversation that needs to be had and that it is an evaluation that needs to be done.
    - W. Faraclas supports the idea of looking at the Faculty Senate and what we do and how we do it; he does not support an evaluation that would violate the contract.
    - J. Webb: Disagrees and does not see them as separate. Suggests calling it a faculty satisfaction survey of the Senate because they are tied together.
    - J. Dunklee: Agree with the thrust of W. Faraclas's idea. States that the leadership of the Faculty Senate is transitory and can be recalled through a vote. An evaluation of the entire Faculty Senate is a good idea. We may need to educate colleagues on the work of the Senate.
    - G. Adams: States that evaluations are much more complicated than asking the question [should we or should we not do the survey?]. Evaluation instruments can always be improved.
    - K. Kruzcek: Evaluating the Faculty Senate as a whole would be informative, but evaluation of just the leadership would not be.

- D. Pettigrew: Reflects on the two alternatives of evaluating the leadership or a survey of the entire senate. States that a) members of the Faculty Senate executive committee are elected, so in a way the election is an evaluation; b) term limits for chair of a committee have been enacted. Supports the idea of how the Faculty Senate can do a better job.
- M. Nizhnikov: States that no one is suggesting that this evaluation of the senate would be used as an evaluation tool for the Promotion & Tenure process, only an evaluation of the senate in terms of its effectiveness. He would be in favor of an evaluation mechanism that would evaluate the effectiveness of the subcommittees or the senate as a whole.
- R. Forbus: Agrees with M. Nizhnikov; since a lot of junior faculty voices are not heard in the Senate, we may get information.
- K. Swanson: Suggests that we take this question back to the departments.
- M. Nizhnikov: Supports the idea; we need to hear from everyone, not just the Senators.
- W. Faraclas: States that many people do not know what we do in the senate, so asking them might not work. Instead, we may want to ask if they feel the work of the senate is valued. Suggests instead that we give this to committee.
  - W. Faraclas **moves to commit this question to committee.** Seconded.
  - A. Lopez-Velasquez: Point of clarification: where did this issue come from?
    - M. Diamantis: Came from the discussion on the floor when discussing the Administration Effectiveness Survey.
  - M. Shea: Recommends that if we move this to committee, we should still ask the question of if a survey is a good idea.
  - D. Pettigrew: Speaks against the motion.
  - M. Nizhnikov: Speaks against the motion. Believes that it is important that we get the feedback of the university. Believes we should ask the departments first.
  - M. Shea: Agrees with M. Nizhnikov and speaks against the motion.
  - With no further discussion, the motion **fails**.
- M. Shea **moves that Senators ask their departments the following question: “Do you think it’s a good idea to have a university-wide faculty satisfaction survey of the Faculty Senate?” and report back at a subsequent Faculty Senate meeting.** Seconded.
  - D. Pettigrew: Speaks against the motion. Feels that we need more time to understand what we are asking about.
  - J. Fields **moved to call the previous question.** Motion was not seconded, and discussion continues.
    - **Motion passes.** Senators will ask their departments the question above and report back to the Senate.

#### VIII. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

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Luke Eilderts  
Secretary