

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

Approved Minutes of March 27, 2019

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

The 12th meeting of the Faculty Senate AY 2018-2019 was held on
 March 27, 2019 at 12:10 p.m. in the
 Seminar Room of Connecticut Hall.

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

Wafeek Abdelsayed (Accounting)	Matthew Ouimet (Counseling)	Peter Latchman (Exercise Science)	Robert Forbus (Marketing)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Angela Lopez-Velasquez (Special Ed/Reading)
William Farley (Anthropology)	Natalie Starling (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Binlin Wu (Physics)	Douglas Macur (Theatre)
Jeff Slomba (Art)	Beena Achhpal (Curriculum & Learning)	Tom Radice (History)	Klay Kruczek (Mathematics)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Luke Eilderts (Secretary/World Languages & Literatures)
Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)	Adam Goldberg (Curriculum & Learning)	Darcy Kern (History)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	William Flores (World Languages & Literatures)
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	Mike Knell (Earth Science)	Yan Liu (Info & Library Sci)	Frances Penny (Nursing)	Kate Marsland (Psychology)	Cindy Simoneau (UCF)
Jeff Webb (Chemistry)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Lisa Rebesch (Nursing)	William Faraclas (Public Health)	Elizabeth Lewis Roberts/Jess Gregory (Grad Council)
Jim Dempsey (Com Disorders)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Parker Fruehan (Library Services)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	Mia Forgiore (Student)
Wilfredo Alvarez (Comm, Media & Screen Studies)	Mike Shea (English)	Kari Swanson (Library Services)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Paul Levatino (Social Work)	Dr. Joe Bertolino, SCSU President
Derek Taylor (Comm, Media & Screen Studies)	Paul Petrie (English)	Mina Park (Management/MIS)	Mary Ellen Minichiello (Part-Time Faculty)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	
Mohammad T. Islam (Computer Science)	Scott Graves (Environment, Geography & Marine Studies)	Alison Wall (Management/MIS)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Greg Adams (Sociology)	
<u>Guests:</u> Ilene Crawford (AA) Robert Prezant (Provost)	Trever Broliar (IT) Chris Perugini (IT) Kathryn Jarvis (ACE)	Sandy Bulmer (Dean HHS) Ellen Durnin (Dean BUS)	Craig Hlavac (A&S)		

Call to order at 12:12 p.m.

I. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

- March 6, 2019
 - **Accepted as distributed.**

II. President's Report: M. Diamantis

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

III. Standing Committee Reports

1. Finance (S. Grubacic)
 - a. AAUP Full-time: \$ 72,095
 - b. AAUP Part-time: \$ 0
 - c. Creative Activity: No report
2. Technology (W. Stutzman)
 - a. Presented drafts of Waitlist policy and FAQ.
 - b. Presented LMS/Ed Tech report ([see Senate documents website](#)).
 - i. Senators expressed their agreement with the following recommendations.
 1. Contract Renewal (2/3 for):
 - a. The committee recommends the Blackboard contract be renewed for a 1-year term with conditions. Note, this does not imply there is an expectation for a resolution within a year, but the term is a signal of the intention to execute recommendation 2 below.
 2. RFP (over 2/3 for)
 - a. The committee recommends an RFP be established to explore the LMS market and determine if there is an option that can better meet faculty and students' needs.
 3. Increased Training and Support (over 2/3 for)
 - a. The committee recommends enhanced training and support for faculty and students. This is based on survey results.
 4. Promotion of Basic LMS Best Practices (less than 1/3 for)
 - a. The committee recommends the implementation of LMS best practices on campuses to promote consistent, student-friendly user experiences that will enhance ease of use for our students.
3. Academic Policy (D. Pettigrew)
 - a. Summer Grade Appeal Policy: After discussion and advice from Senators, committee will begin drafting a resolution.
4. Elections (K. Kruczek)
 - a. Faculty will soon receive an email with information on nominations for the All University elections.

5. Personnel Policy (M. Shea)
 - a. Faculty opinion survey of administrative effectiveness will soon be distributed.
6. Rules (R. Gregory)
 - a. No report.
7. Student Policy (M. Nizhnikov)
 - a. **The postponed motion** “Resolution Regarding the A+ Grade at Southern Connecticut State University” came before the Senate. (See below).
 - i. After discussion, the motion **was defeated**.
 - b. **Moved** to accept the following resolution: Resolution Regarding the Awarding of Latin Honors (see below).
 - i. Motion **passes**.

V. Special Committees

1. UCF (C. Simoneau)
 - a. Karen Cummings (LEP Assessment director) is leaving the university.
 - b. Meeting with SGA to discuss results of their forum. Two concerns highlighted: large number of major requirements in the LEP, Multilingual communication requirement. An additional issue is the level of math course required to satisfy graduation requirements when a student switches majors.
2. Graduate Council: No report.
3. FASP (D. Pettigrew)
 - a. No report.

VI. New Business

- Curricular Taskforce on Social Justice and Human Diversity (D. Pettigrew).
 - Proposal presented to Senators for discussion.
 - Final proposal will go through UCF.

VIII. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Luke Eilderts
Secretary

POSTPONED MOTION -- DEFEATED

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE A+ GRADE AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY.

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the academic faculty; and

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate and the University is committed to transparency and clarity regarding academic policies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the grade of A+ will no longer be used as a final grade given on transcripts and that the top grade given will be an A.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE AWARDING OF LATIN HONORS.

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the academic faculty; and

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate and the University are committed to transparency and clarity regarding academic policies and to be inclusive in recognizing the achievement of students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the requirements for receiving Latin Honors be changed in the following way.

ORIGINAL:

Undergraduate students who have performed with distinction in scholarship, leadership, and service to the University are accorded special recognition at the Honors Convocation at the end of the spring semester. Seniors who have achieved collegiate honors are announced: those maintaining a 3.5-3.69 GPA are graduated cum laude; 3.7-3.89, magna cum laude; 3.9-4.0, summa cum laude. The GPA is computed from the student's entire collegiate record. Transfer students who have taken at least 60 credit hours at SCSU and have attained a 3.5 GPA or higher in these courses will be eligible for academic honors. Only earned grades at Southern will be tabulated when determining academic honors. Students who successfully defended their honors theses are also recognized at the Honors Convocation, and graduate "with departmental honors."

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Undergraduate students who have performed with distinction in scholarship, leadership, and service to the University are accorded special recognition at the Honors Convocation at the end of the spring semester. Seniors who have achieved collegiate honors are announced: those maintaining a 3.5-3.69 GPA are graduated cum laude; 3.7-3.89, magna cum laude; 3.9-4.0, summa cum laude. The GPA is computed from the student's entire collegiate record. **Transfer students who have taken at least 60 credit hours at SCSU, or at least 50 credit hours at SCSU for students in a post-baccalaureate degree program, and have attained a 3.5 GPA or higher in these courses will be eligible for academic honors.** Only earned grades at Southern will be tabulated when determining academic honors. Students who successfully defended their honors theses are also recognized at the Honors Convocation, and graduate "with departmental honors."