

FACULTY SENATE

Approved Minutes of September 9, 2015

<http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/index.html>

The 1st meeting of 2015-2016, was called to order at 12:10 pm by President William Faraclas.

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

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Leon Yacher (Geography)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Jessica Kenty- Drane (Sociology)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Jim Fullmer (Earth Science)	Tom Radice (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)
Michael Makubika (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Maria Krol (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Sheila H. Garvey (Theatre)
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Elsie Okobi (Library Science)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Jian Wu (WLL/Foreign Language)
Erica Barnes (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Diane Tomasko (Library Services)	Gene Brady (Part-Time Faculty)	Deborah Flynn (Public Health)	Luke Eilderts (World Literature Language)
Jane McGinn (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Jeff Dickens (Library Services)	Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/ Leisure)	
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Scott Ellis (English)	Mina Park (Management/MI S)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	Scott Graves (Environmental and Marine Studies)	
Amal Abdel Raouf (Computer Science)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Rajesh Elhance (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part- Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)	Elizabeth Rhoades (Grad Council)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Mary Papazian (SCSU President)
Guests:	Jaye Bailey Mark Rojewski Tracy Tyree				

Approval of Minutes: Senate Meeting of April 29, 2015 Minutes --- were approved as distributed.

Welcome and Introduction of Senators -- President Faraclas welcomed everybody and asked each senator to introduce themselves.

At this time there was a request to change the order of Agenda and have Dr. Papazian address the Senate prior to the President's Report - no objections.

The University President, Dr. Mary Papazian, welcomed all faculty. Dr. Papazian briefly recapped that these are interesting times of transition at the system but it looks like it will

be a smooth transition. Southern's goal will be to move our strategic plan forward as it moves to the implementation stage next. The Strategic Plan will be presented at the end of semester and while some committee members will remain, new faculty will be invited to hear their voice and input. SCSU's Strategic Plan is on the web and everyone can access it and get familiar, feedback will be appreciated.

Enrollment remains flat at the undergraduate level but losing ground at the graduate level. President Faraclas has distributed a document, which displays the enrollment. This year Southern will concentrate at the admissions at the graduate level. Data at the graduate level will be intentionally examined and some actions will be taken to improve admissions. The Facilities Master Plan was completed last year; SCSU campus is not a construction field anymore - Buley library is done (almost) and the Science building is done. Next steps are for the Peltz Gymnasium building which will be taken down and construct a new building for the school HHS. We can't complete that though without looking at the whole picture for the needs of the SOE and S of Business, and consider all areas that will serve our students and our community best.

President Papazian opened the floor for questions:

Q: SCSU is now Tobacco Free environment - is there any consideration of providing any smoking areas for students/faculty/staff?

A: The concerns from the Senate last spring were taken seriously by the committee and we will continue the discussion. The first year the focus will be education and supporting the cessation of smoking. So, we will have resources to educate all and we will keep encouraging them to take advantage of the wellness center.

Q: Appreciation was expressed to both President Papazian and Mark Rozewski for finding fund to refurbish some classrooms, what are the future plans?

A: This summer 16 classrooms were refurbished with new furniture and technology. The plan is to do 20-25 per year and finish all classrooms in 5 years time. Feedback and suggestions from faculty using the current classrooms will be appreciated. The technology is not complete but we are working on it.

President Faraclas thanked President Papazian.

President's Report - the report was distributed and a copy is posted at:

<http://southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2014-2015.html>

President Faraclas acknowledged the executive committee's work over the summer; Senator Rothbard's work on the special elections; and Brad Crerar's assistance for the renovations of this Conference room.

As an FYI to new Senators, the Faculty Senate didn't vote down the tobacco-free policy but rather provided suggestions/input to fine-tune that policy.

The Faculty Senate represents the faculty and it serves as the agency by which the faculty can actively participate in the governance and policy-making decisions of the University on the principle of shared authority as highlighted in the Faculty Senate Constitution and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

AY 16 themes for the Faculty Senate, approved by the Executive Committee

- Promote and support the strategic vision of the University through faculty involvement in implementation of the strategic plan.
- Enhance working relationship with administration, grounded in the principles of shared governance.
- Advocate for increased support of fiscal resources and opportunities for faculty scholarship and research.
- Work to ensure the academic integrity of the institution in supporting academic excellence and advancing the success of students.
- Honor the commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty through a strengthened sense of community.

President Faraclas also reminded all of the travel allowance for AY 16: Full time faculty \$1200 and Part time faculty \$700.

Further information can be found on the President's Report link:

<http://southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2014-2015.html>

Presentation: Luke Eilderts, the Faculty Senate parliamentarian presented a summary of Robert's Rules of Order - all distributed documents (three handouts) will be posted on Senate's website.

Standing Committees' Organization and Election of Chairs

Former chairs of each standing committee explained the issues the committees addressed during the past year.

At this time, all senators were asked to choose and join a standing committee where they would elect a chair for the academic year. The Senate will reconvene after 20 minutes and each committee will introduce their new chair. The chairs of the committees are part of the Executive Committee, thus, they meet right after the full Senate meetings.

Introduction of newly elected Chairs:

- Academic Policy -- Senator David Pettigrew
- Elections -- Senator Matt Rothbard
- Finance -- Senator Peter Madonia
- Personnel Policy -- none yet, the committee will meet again
- Rules -- Senators Wes O'Brien and Greg Cochenet
- Student Policy -- Senator Deb Flynn
- Technology -- Senator Joel Dodson

Due to time limitation, no further actions/discussions occurred.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Maria Diamantis
 Secretary Faculty Senate