



“The Faculty Senate shall be the representative body of the faculty, deriving its authority from the faculty as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Its primary function shall be to serve as the agency by which the faculty can actively participate in the governance and policy-making decisions of the University on the basis of the principle of shared authority.” (Faculty Senate Constitution, Section I).

President’s Report to the Faculty Senate – October 12, 2016

1. In cooperation with the AAUP and the Promotion and Tenure Committee, this semester the Faculty Senate sponsored three sessions:
 - a. P&T Information session for candidates (9/9/16 with ≈ 30)
 - b. P&T Information session with the President Bertolino, Provost Durnin, and all Deans (9/26 with ≈ 80)
 - c. P&T Information session with Department Chairs and DEC members (10/3/16 with ≈ 50)
2. On Tuesday, September 27, the FS sponsored the first University Dialogue and President Bertolino addressed faculty, staff, and students on current issues. A few important issues were presented and further discussions need to be held. One such issue is that there exists a perception by the 2-year professors and advisors that their students are faced with many difficulties if they wish to transfer to Southern and many of their credits are not accepted. The next University Dialogue is scheduled for Monday, November 21 at 1-2:30 pm, ASC Ballroom.
Also mark your calendar for the Spring 2017 University Dialogues, which are scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 12:25-1:40 pm and Monday, April 3, 1-2:30 pm. Both will be held at the ASC Ballroom.
3. The Forum on Judaism (9/28/2016) was extremely successful and very well attended. President Ojakian and President Bertolino welcomed everyone. A hearty THANK YOU goes to the steering committee: Michele Abrams, Corinne Blackmer, Martin Laskin, David Levine, David Pettigrew, Walter Stutzman, and Deborah Weiss – who served as the chair of the committee. The guests, Rabbi Stacy Offner, Martin Laskin, Marji Lipshez-Shapiro, and Jenna Malkin were outstanding sharing their wisdom and educating all attendees on Judaism.
4. It is the role of the Faculty Senate to appoint two members to the University Library Committee. Joan Kreiger is already such appointed FS member, thus, we need to appoint one more FS member. If anyone is interested, please let me know immediately.
5. Provost Durnin asked that I share the following information: Bob Stamp and Dan Camenga along with their staff, have designed a new process for the application and selection of student scholarships awarded through the Foundation. This provides a portal through which students may apply for multiple scholarships, including those awarded by the Alumni Association and those from academic departments. The current process requires students to discover multiple locations where appropriate scholarships may reside. The new process will improve the process and make it easier for our students to search such scholarships. The other change is that the review committees will be made up of Alumni Association members and representatives from academic departments. Each member can review applicants remotely and electronically and submit their rankings. The committee

will meet only once to discuss the results in person. Any further questions can be directed to Dan directly at: camengad1@southernct.edu

6. The Senate's Ad hoc Department Guidelines Committee, chaired by Dr. Peter Madonia, will continue to work on the document. Last year's committee members included: Dr. Joy Fopiano, Ms. Rebecca Hedreen, Mr. Brian Johnson, Mr. Terry Lavin, Dr. Amal Abdel Raouf, and Dr. Michael Shea. Are there any changes to this Ad hoc committee? Please let us know who is chairing the committee.
7. Dr. Sharon MIsasi, a member of the President's Commission on Campus Climate and Inclusion as well as a member on the subcommittee for Disability/Accommodations/Mental Health, is asking if the FS would wish to receive a training/hold discussions or workshop related to disability and accommodations and mental health services. The committee is willing to provide what is needed for this important issue.
8. At the Leadership Council meeting on Tuesday, 10/11, President Bertolino highlighted his priorities:
 - a. Enrollment Management: Financial Aid and Retention (charged the Deans to make their goal of increasing retention by 1% per year. FA will be reviewed by a consulting company and all processes will be examined carefully to also check for compliance with Title IX)
 - b. University Profile: Public Relations and Branding Consultant (report is due next week, providing results of their study and feedback)
 - c. Social Justice Initiative (refocus the President's Commission of Climate and Inclusion on Social Justice with more new, narrowly defined goals)
 - d. Financial Stability: Entrepreneurship, Partnerships, and Fundraising (charged the deans to explore partnerships with local HS and explore new avenues to create avenues for HS students to attend classes here during their senior year and thus, increase recruitment efforts)
 - e. Academic Excellence: Academic Advising and LEP (meetings with Presidents from Gateway and Housatonic revealed three areas for further explorations: a) good partnerships; b) greater SCSU presence at their campus; c) seamless transferability of credits from their institutions to SCSU)
 - f. Strategic Plan Implementation (the committee will be called for the first meeting soon)
9. The search for Provost is underway and a web site has been established for updates, time line, and feedback: <http://www.southernct.edu/provost-search/>
10. The FS sponsored event on the Newtown screening is on target for Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm at Lyman Hall. The committee is finalizing details while working closely with the Office of the President, the Division of Student Affairs, the University Police department, the Institutional Advancement office, Student Government Association, Graduate Student Affairs Committee, Administrative Faculty Senate, and the Integrated Communications and Marketing department. The committee has approved the Purpose of this event which reads: "the presentation of the film Newtown, is intended to engage our campus community and neighbors in a conversation about gun violence, with the hope of fostering initiatives to promote community mental health, constructive public policy and social justice."

Fall 2016 meetings: Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Nov. 30

Spring 2017 meetings: Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 8, March 29, April 12, April 26, May 3.