

Southern Connecticut State University
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of September 4, 2013

<http://www.southernct.edu/facultysenate/senateminutes/>

The first meeting of 2013-2014 was called to order at 12:10 pm by President William Faraclas.

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

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Ramon Vega de Jesus (Couns/Sch Psych)	Luisa Piemontese (WLL/Foreign Language)	Mel Prince (Marketing)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Jim Fullmer (Earth Science)	Lisa Vitale (World Literature Language)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sam Andoh (Econ/Finance)	Leon Yacher (Geography)	John Scheuermann (Mathematics)	Jim Dolan (Physics)	Jessica Kenty Drane (Sociology)
Meghan Brown (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Nikos Chrissidis (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Kevin Buterbaugh (Political Science)	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Jonathan Weinbaum (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Michelle Thompson (History)	Mark Kuss (Music)	Gayle Bessenoff (Psychology)	Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	?? (English)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Chris Denhup (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Larry Nye (Theatre)
Derek Taylor (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Elsie Okobi (Library Science)	Lisa Rebesch (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Susan Cusato (Past President)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Paul Petrie (English)	Rebecca Hedreen (Library Science)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Deb Flynn (Public Health)	Elizabeth Keenan (UCF)
Amal Abdel Raouf (Computer Science)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Jeff Dickens (Library Services)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Jan Jones (Recreation/Leisure)	Chris Petto (Grad Council)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Rick Bassett (Management)	(Part-Time Faculty)	Catherine Koehler (Science Ed/Env Stud)	Mary Papazian (SCSU President)

Student Government: Sarah Green					
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President Faraclas requested a motion to change the order of Agenda - motion made and approved with no objection.

SCSU President, Mary Papazian addressed the senate:

- She expressed the fundamental values of transparency and open communication between the Administration and the Faculty Senate.
- Thanked Susan Cusato, former Faculty Senate President, for her hard work and expressed appreciation for her work the past three years; she was truly an advocate of the faculty.
- She is happy to see that Bill Faraclas is taking over as President of the Senate as she has worked with him in other committees already.
- President Papazian expressed her belief that the Faculty Senate is the body and has a very formal and important role, thus, it has to be respected and recognized for that.
- The Administrative Senate is also another body and she thanked Greg Crerar for his work. But as everyone knows, that body is not recognized by the contract as the Faculty Senate is.
- Having stated that President Papazian suggested that the Faculty Senate holds its meetings in a more prominent room than the Facilities Building. Another reason is that the meetings are open to public, thus it has to be big enough to allow anyone to attend the meeting.
- She stated that she is looking for rooms in Engleman - a more central location for all who wish to attend Senate meetings.

At this time there were questions raised from the floor, such as:

Q: will we be set up as formal as other "sister" universities?

A: we are working on this.

Q: as in the past, we have always been open and welcoming any SCSU member. I don't hear that faculty and staff doesn't respect or recognize the senate. So, I am a bit confused on why we are not seen so at this time.

A: the truth of the matter is that the room is not big enough and a representative body is not seen as such. We are trying to be helpful to provide the room for you that is big enough to welcome everyone. I don't

think we can deny the physical space of the senate and that the number of seats is not sufficient for the senators.

Q: senators have their role. Your office has another role. Are you concerned that you decide issues, which might be the senators to debate?

A: first of all I am a senator, too. Therefore, I am speaking for the body. I am not elected, but hold a seat as the President of the University and I do have responsibilities to carry. I do recognize and respect your rules and we have to be transparent to the work we all do. This is the "pre-eminent" body of the university we have such an important role to the governance of the university business. We can only do that if we are open and transparent with all issues and discuss and deliberate whatever the Agenda covers. I will engage to conversations with you on any topic. The senate is more than all of us, it is the representative body of the university. Lets continue our discussion in a civil and respectful way with openness and transparency.

Approval of Minutes: The **Senate Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2013 -- were approved unanimously with one correction.**

At this time, Secretary Diamantis recognized all outgoing senators: Terrence Lavin (Art), Annette Madlock Gatison (Communication), Uchenna Nwachuku (Counseling/School Psychology), Tom Fleming (Earth Science), Judy Tarbox (English), Susan Calahan (Exercise Science), Patrick Heidkamp (Geography), Chris Petto (History), Ginny Metaxas (History), Sue Clerc (Library Services), Terese Gemme (Music), Pennie Sessier Branden (Nursing), Jim McGregor (Recreation/Leisure), Susan Cusato (Science Ed/Env Studies), Dana Schneider (Social Work), Jon Bloch (Sociology), Ruth Eren (Special Education/Reading).

Three of the above have served the senate for many years, Susan Cusato (former President), Jon Bloch (chair of the APC for many years), and Ginny Metaxas. She recognized them and thanked them by baking dessert for the day.

There was a standing ovation to thank the outgoing Senators.

President Faraclas welcomed all new Senators and asked that everyone introduce himself or herself and state the department they represent.

Orientation to the Senate and Senate Protocols - Bill distributed a handout to summarize article I of the Faculty Senate Constitution; and reminded all senators that they are representatives of their individual departments, thus he asked that they take the information from the Senate meetings back to their colleagues and share all the information.

He also raised two issues: that the chair of each committee needs to make arrangements for their meetings and that their agenda is created by the Senate and not by the committee.

President's Report --- after President Faraclas distributed his report, the following items were discussed:

- A few thank you's: Susan Cusato who did a phenomenal job the past three years as Faculty Senate President
 - Secretary Maria Diamantis for all her hard work and the baking for today
 - Senator Matt Rothbard for working on the emergency elections this year already
 - Senator Lisa Vitale because she went to the P and T committee last week
 - Senator David Pettigrew for his hard work on the Creative Activity Funds documents for the web
 - Senator Gayle Bessenoff and Paul Petrie for meeting over the summer and their support
- Proposed themes for the Senate :
- Participating in shared governance
 - Enhancing support for academic excellence
 - Promoting effective communication and consultation
 - Honoring the commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty through a strengthened sense of community.
 - Focusing on academic impact in all planning and policy decisions
- Ideas to discuss
- Outreach to the faculty
 - Survey of the faculty (what do they want us to do?)
 - Informal chats with faculty (President and 1-2 members of the executive committee)
 - Ways to engage the faculty in the work of the senate

- Outreach to staff colleagues
- Outreach to students
 - Meetings with SGA and GSAC
 - Informal chats
- Expediting work of the senate - without losing input
- What more does the website need to promote communication?
- Brief overview of Robert's Rules of Order with Senate
- Parliamentarian - requested for a volunteer or two on this
- Outreach to new administrators
 - Mr. Steven Breese, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences
 - Ms. Alexis Haakonsen, Director of Admissions
 - Mr. Frank LaDore, Director of Academic and Career Advisement
 - Ms. Pamela Lassier, Director of Diversity and Equity
 - Dr. Pablo Molina Garcia, AVP of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
 - Mr. Robert Stamp, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
 - Dr. Tracy Tyree, Vice President for Student Affairs
- New Searches getting underway:
 - Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Dean of the School of Education
- Remaining Vacancy:
 - Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
- Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants - faculty can apply NOW for next academic/fiscal year.
 - Announcement and guidelines are posted on Faculty Senate website
 - Encourage participation among the faculty
- At this time some Senators expressed concerns that some University wide meetings were scheduled during Senate meetings, thus, there is a need to discuss how do we handle this so that it doesn't happen again. Shall the senate adjourn early on 9/18 in order to attend the meeting? In addition lengthy discussion about next Wednesday's committee meetings. Should they be rescheduled for another time so that everyone can attend the Strategic Planning meeting? And the 9/18 the Senate can hold a shorter

meeting in order to attend the Presidents' State of the University Address on Wed 9/18 at 1-3.

- MOTION: (a) that the Senate committees meet on an abbreviated meeting next week (9/11) so that all senators can attend the Strategic Planning Town Hall meeting at 1-3 pm (ASC Ballroom); and (b) that the full Senate meets for an abbreviated time on 9/18 so that all senators can attend the State of the University Address (at 1 pm) at 1-3 (ASC Ballroom).
- Motion was seconded and accepted by majority, 2 opposed.

- As it stands now, the Senate meetings will take place at the Facilities building.

- Meeting with President Papazian (8/15/13, with Susan Cusato and Jaye Bailey)
 - Timely posting of FS information on SCSU website (agendas, minutes, proposals)
 - Meeting room for Faculty Senate meetings: EN B 121 A and B
 - State of the University Address: Weds, Sept 18, 1-3 pm
 - Strategic Planning Town Hall Meeting: Weds, Sept. 11, 1-3 pm
 - Parking at wintergreen building
- Meeting with Provost Kennedy (8/19/13, with S. Cusato)
 - The provost wishes to address the grade appeal document which has been revised repeatedly and last year's final document was not accepted by the administration - need to include dean's involvement
 - P and T, Renewal, sabbatical, chairpersons' document ... all of which need to have the provost's involvement as they will call for a committee to get things moving. Senators at this time suggested that there is a discussion with the Provost on issues that they think we need to revise and allow the Senate sub-committee to deal with those issues. Senators feel that we (senators) need to decide on issues that might need revisions. Digital measures is not accessible to non-instructional faculty (library services); many faculty feel uncomfortable about putting such important information to Digital Measures for now.

- 7. Issues on the Horizon:
 - a) Effect of budget crisis on course schedule (sections and caps) - lengthy discussion of increasing of enrollment by the administration without any discussion with faculty - troublesome as the administration also provided some research based information. The executive committee will discuss how to handle this.
 - b) Effect of budget crisis on overload reconciliation
 - c) Grade appeals document revision
 - d) Creative activity and service: discussion of relative importance in evaluation
 - e) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
 - f) "Higher Education is undergoing disruptive changes".
 - g) Proposal to move School of Health and Human Services to downtown location
 - h) ConnSCU emerging vision to focus campuses on academic specialty areas.
- 8. Dr. Pablo Garcia Molina - wishes to establish a Technology Advisory Board and wishes to include FS Technology committee members.
- 9. All Senators are invited to attend a meeting with search consultant Julie Tea, on Friday, September 13, to give input on framing the job description for the Provost/VPAA search. This will also be attended by the Grad Council. ASC Theater, 11-11:50 am.
- 10. Other meetings, where you are being represented:
 - Faculty Senate "Executive Committee", Thursday, August 15, 2013
 - CSU Leadership Group, Wednesday, August 29, 2013
 - President Gregory Gray, Friday, September 11, with CSU Leadership Group
 - CSU Leadership Group, Saturday, November 9, 2013.
- 11. Faculty Senate Resolutions --- the table distributed included all 13 resolutions that were approved by the Senate last year, with their status and comments from President Papazian.

Standing Committee Meetings and Election of Chairs -- at this time President Faraclas asked that past chairs of the committees give an update of their work. After this information, all senators were asked to break into the committees and elect a chair. We will gather again in 15 minutes to introduce the new committees and their chairs.

Reports and introduction of new chairs:

- Academic Policy - Senator Paul Petrie explained the committee's duties - he described it as the "monster" committee that deals with almost everything. The members are currently working with student opinions surveys, grade appeals policy, and other issues. The elected chair of the committee is David Pettigrew
- Elections - Senator Matthew Rothbard explained that the committee determines vacancies on the all-university committees, sends out nominations, ballots, and collects them and if needed, they run any faculty referendum. In addition, the Elections committee oversees the elections for Senate president and treasurer. Senator Rothbard was re-elected as chair of the committee.
- Finance - Senator Madonia explained that this committee oversees the funds for the senate's business. Another role is to monitor the TA's and report regularly to the Senate the status of that account. Senator Madonia is the elected chair for this committee.
- Personnel Policy - Senator Bessenoff reported that the committee oversees personnel issues for instructional faculty such as the P and T document, the renewal, and the sabbatical documents. Senator Bessenoff was re-elected as the chair of the committee.
- Rules - Senator Coca explained that this committee deals with how the Senate run, and reviews documents such as Senate constitution and this year the committee will work on By-laws. Senator Coca was re-elected as the chair of the committee.
- Student Policy - Senator Madonia (past chair of the committee) mentioned that the committee addresses all matters of issues that deal with students' life in the community. They dealt with the development and refinement of the Misconduct Policy and some graduate students issues. Senator Jerry Dunklee was elected the chair of this committee.

- Technology - Senator Hedreen reported that the committee deals with technology issues and they will continue to maintain their role as advisors to the SCSU community. Senator Dickens was elected chair of this committee.

OLD BUSINESS: --- none at this time

NEW BUSINESS: ---- none at this time

- ❖ UCF Update --- no update
- ❖ Graduate Council Update --- no update
- ❖ FASP / USPaRC Update --- no update

Motion to adjourn at 2:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Maria Diamantis
Faculty Senate Secretary