

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

---

*Approved Minutes of May 4, 2016*

[http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/min\\_15\\_16.html](http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/mins/min_15_16.html)

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of 2015-2016 was called to order at 12:15 pm by President William Faraclas.

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

Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	<b>Cassi Meyerhoffer (Sociology)</b>
Kenneth McGill (Anthropology)	James William Anthony Fullmer (Earth Science)	Tom Radice (History)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	<b>Todd Schwendemann (Physics)</b>	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	<b>Jon Wharton (Political Science)</b>	<b>Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)</b>
Lisa Barbaro (Athletics)	<b>Joy Fopiano (Education)</b>	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	<b>Jonathan Irving (Music)</b>	<b>Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)</b>	<b>Sheila H. Garvey (Theatre)</b>
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	<b>Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)</b>	<b>Elsie Okobi (Library Science)</b>	Maria Krol (Nursing)	<b>Katherine Masland (Psychology)</b>	Jian Wu (World Literature Language)
Adiel Coca (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	<b>Diane Tomasko (Library Services)</b>	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Luke Eilderts (World Literature Language)
Jane McGinn (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Jeff Dickens (Library Services)	<b>Gene Brady (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Deborah Flynn (Public Health)	Elizabeth Keenan (UCF)
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Scott Ellis (English)	<b>Mina Park (Management / MIS)</b>	<b>Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	Elizabeth Rhoades (Grad Council)
Taraneh Seyed (Computer Science)	Scott Graves (Environmental and Marine Studies)	Greg Robbins (Management/ MIS)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	<b>Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)</b>	<b>Julie Gagliardi (Student)</b>
<b>Michelle Lawler (Counseling)</b>	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	<b>Shyam Lodha (Marketing)</b>	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	<b>Dr. Mary Papazian, SCSU President</b>
<u>Guests:</u> Ilene Crawford, OAA	Dr. Tracy Tyree, Student Affairs	Jaye Bailey, Chief of Staff	Sandy Bullmer, Dean SHHS		

Approval of Minutes: April 27, 2016 - approved as submitted

Elections of Senate President and Treasurer for the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

Senator Rothbard, Chair of the Elections Committee, presided over the elections.

Senate President:

Senator Major nominated Secretary Diamantis for the position of President of the Senate, seconded by Senator Weiss. Secretary Diamantis accepted the nomination.

Senator McGinn nominated Senator Pettigrew for the position of President of the Senate, seconded by Senator Dunklee. Senator Pettigrew accepted the nomination.

Being no further nomination, there was a motion to close nominations, seconded and approved unanimously.

Senator Pettigrew asked for a motion that the two nominees are given 2 minutes to speak and address the Senate. Motion approved.

Secretary Diamantis state that she is a professor in the mathematics department and have been at SCSU for 21 years. She has served on the Senate for 15 years, 13 of which as a Secretary. Wishes to serve as Senate President to try to improve the culture for the faculty.

Senator Pettigrew explained his many years as Senator, serving as chair of the Academic Policy committee. Many years of service, such as member and chair of the P&T committee, Strategic Planning, and other committees, and he was recognized with the Robert Jirsa Award this year. Dedicated and very involved member and professor of the Philosophy department.

Senator Rothbard distributed ballots and asked that all Senators vote for one candidate. The Elections committee members will collect and count the ballots, results to be announced after the election of Treasurer.

Treasurer of the Senate: Senator Rothbard open nominations for Treasurer of the Senate for the Academic Year 2016-2017.

Secretary Diamantis nominated Mat Rothbard for Treasurer. Seconded by Senator Major. Senator Rothbard accepted the nomination.

Being no further nominations, there was a motion to close nominations and seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Senator Rothbard entertained a motion for the Secretary of the Senate to cast one vote for the nominee. Secretary Diamantis did cast a vote. Thus, the Treasurer of the Faculty Senate for the 2016-2017 Academic year is Matthew Rothbard. Congratulations!

The elections committee reported the results of the Senate President elections. Senator Rothbard congratulated both Senators Diamantis and Pettigrew for the willingness to

serve as Senate President. The elected President of the Senate for the 2016-2017 Academic Year is Maria Diamantis. Congratulations!

### Announcements

Secretary Diamantis announced that senators Patricia Major and Sheila Garvey are retiring at the end of this academic year. She expressed her appreciation for the Senators' dedication to the Senate and congratulated them on their retirement. They will be missed as Senators.

Guest: Dr. Ellen Durnin, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs has expressed her disappointment that she will not be able to be at the Senate today. She has worked diligently to collaborate with the faculty this past semesters on many issues.

President's Report- the report was distributed. A copy of the report can be found on the Senate website: <http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/index.html>

The following items were highlighted: Item 3: End-Of-Year Faculty Retreat. The registrations are rolling in, Senators were asked to encourage faculty to attend the retreat.

Item 6: Clarification: The Silencing of our Colleagues - colleagues hear confusing messages, such as don't serve on committees, or don't speak out, until you are tenured. It is not proper and President Faraclas expressed his hopes that the FLC will send an open communication to condemn that practice and allow all faculty, even newer faculty to speak freely to express their opinions.

Five resolutions that were approved by the Senate are pending President Papazian's signature.

On the top of page 2: The AY 16 themes for the FS, approved by the Executive committee are listed. The Faculty Senate is the governing body for the university and hope that this continues.

### Standing Committees Updates:

Senator Shea made a motion to change the order of the Agenda and to move to Personnel Policy report, so that the committee can present a resolutions. Motion approved unanimously.

Senator Shea explained that the DEC formation is confusing for some departments, thus, the committee has created a document to assist in this area. Senator Shea read the document: [Explanation of Changes to DEC Language Removed from Existing Documents.](#)

He opened the floor for questions. There was a motion for an amendment: to change the title of document to read "Procedures of DEC formation". The motion passed unanimously.

Another amendment: to revise the sentence on recusal, page 2, "as determined by department bylaws or policy". There was no objection to this amendment, passed unanimously.

Motion to close debate. No objections.

Motion to accept document as revised. Approved unanimously.

Senator Michael Shea introduced a resolution regarding creating a unified department DEC committee. The document was introduced and there was no further discussion on the document. There was a motion to approve, approved unanimously.

Technology - Senator Walter Stutzman reported that a letter to Rob Renie was sent but there has been no reply yet. If Senator Stutzman receives no reply in a week, he will contact Rob Renie.

Academic Policy - Senator David Pettigrew - no report

Elections - Senator Matthew Rothbard reported that the ballots for the All-University Committees were due on Monday, May 2 by 5 pm. Once the ballots are accounted for, the results will be disseminated by the end of the semester.

Finance - Senator Peter Madonia (absent) - committee had no report

Rules - Senator Adiel Coca - no report

Student Policy - Senator Deborah Flynn - no report

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ UCF motion on Revised Constitution Article I.D

Discussion on the document's resolution to change Article 1.D.

There was a question in reference to page 10: Article VI. B.

UCF chair, Dr. Keenan was present and responded: the UCF recognizes the difference of the values, but UCF wishes to leave the higher threshold on overturning any UCF action. The Senate can decide on who votes on such referendum.

Motion to approve the UCF's Revised Constitution Article I.D: approved by majority. One Senator objected.

- ✓ Final Report of the ad hoc Committee on Online Education (document: #3)

Motion: the FS endorses this document as distributed. FYI, this document was already endorsed by Graduate Council and UCF.

The Senate endorsed the document unanimously.

The document will be presented to the Provost and CIO and will be posted on the website.

- ✓ P&T Recusal Policy - discussion started on the policy and Senator David Pettigrew reported that he visited the Personnel Policy committee and discussed this topic. Since there was no quorum at that meeting, no decision was made. On another occasion, former Senate Presidents, Cusato and Johnson, attended but again there was no quorum to take any action on the Personnel Policy committee. Thus, there is no recommendation at this time. Senator Shea asked that this topic is discussed next semester.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ FS Resolution on Academic Strategic Planning - Senator David Pettigrew presented the resolution. After a short discussion the motion to accept was seconded. The Resolution was accepted unanimously.
- ❖ Recusal rule from the P&T policy: Motion to eliminate recusal rule as it currently exists. There was lengthy discussion and some senators felt unprepared to vote on behalf of their department. Other Senators spoke against the elimination of this policy without the committee's full report, thus, recommended to be fully considered next semester. The P&T is a very important committee. Objectivity is significant on this issue and this issue needs to be considered with the input and advice of the committee who needs to investigate and address it thoroughly. There was a motion to close debate, seconded and approved. Motion to accept the main motion, "to eliminate recusal rule as it currently exists," was defeated by majority.

There was a motion to refer the recusal rule to the Personnel Policy committee for further investigation/discussion. Motion was approved unanimously, thus, the issue will return to the committee for further discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Diamantis  
Faculty Senate Secretary