

Southern Connecticut State University  
**FACULTY SENATE**

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*Approved Minutes of April 27, 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 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of 2015-2016 was called to order at 12:16 pm by President William Faraclas.

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

<b>Emmanuel Emenyonu (Accounting)</b>	Uchenna Nwachuku (Couns/Sch Psych)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Cassi Meyerhoffer (Sociology)
<b>Kenneth McGill (Anthropology)</b>	James William Anthony Fullmer (Earth Science)	Tom Radice (History)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	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)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	<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)	Diane Tomasko (Library Services)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Luke Eilderts (World Literature Language)
<b>Jane McGinn (Communication)</b>	Mike Shea (English)	<b>Jeff Dickens (Library Services)</b>	<b>Gene Brady (Part-Time Faculty)</b>	Deborah Flynn (Public Health)	Liz 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)	<b>Scott Graves (Environmental and Marine Studies)</b>	Greg Robbins (Management/MIS)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	<b>Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)</b>	Julie Gagliardi (Student)
<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> Sal Rizza, Student Affairs	Dr. Tracy Tyree, Student Affairs	Chris Catching, Student Affairs			

Approval of Minutes: The Senate Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2016 were approved as submitted.

Announcements: Senator Cochenet announced the Ceramics Collection is displayed for viewing from April 11-May 20, 2016 in the Lyman Center Lobby Art Gallery. The artwork is selected pieces from the ceramics teaching collection at SCSU.

Guest: Jack Mordente, Director of Veterans Affairs

A Southern Survey just collected from our military students and there were comments, challenges, concerns of e representing the Veterans comments, challenges, concerns, deployment activities, and other. Southern serves about 330 military students, either active duty students, veterans, garden reserves (which is a 6 year duty over the weekends), or family members, 60 which are women. Mr. Mordente keeps a listserve and communicates with all military students assisting them as needed. There was good feedback from faculty on military person/student. Mr. Mordente distributed handouts which provided information about our students. He answered questions from the floor:

1. What can we do for our military students?
  - a. Allow them to register early. Faculty have good communication with Jack. Our university is supportive to our military students and provides services. We now even have an open lounge for our veterans with computers and tutorial services, Engleman Hall A 012 and 014.
2. Could there be an easier "transferability" of credits from their military services?
  - a. This is a big issue even at the national level. The military has a list of what military students should receive credit for, but this is not acceptable by all universities. There was a state law: if you get out of military and get a state job that requires something you did in military, the state will waive certification in that field. But nothing has happened as no one ever followed up with it - no one oversaw this. There was a task force to look and come up with recommendations, way back and once completed, nothing was done. Dialogues have started as one of our students was proactive and received a few such credits, we will continue working on this.
3. A comment was shared that the library faculty/staff meet with military students with a more flexible schedule as needed.
  - a. Mr. Mordente asked that this information is sent to him in an email.

Mr. Mordente has been at Southern for 41 years, as he started under a grant to oversee the military students and our university is one of the few universities that continued to support his services after the grant ended and has hired him. He has provides such services since 1975. Southern has been always forward in this area. He truly enjoy what he does, as he is a Veteran himself.

Mr. Mordent also thank Senator Flynn as she is providing military students with yoga and mindfulness exercises and the students enjoy these experiences.

President Faraclas thanked Mr. Mordent on his work and his dedication to our military students.

President's Report - the full report can be found at:

<http://www.southernct.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/senatepresidentreports/2015-2016.html> The report was distributed and the following items were highlighted.

Item 3: End-of-year faculty retreat. Checking on availability for Monday, 5/16 or Tuesday, 5/17 and the EC will finalize the date later today.

Item 4: This item will be discussed further under Committee reports from the Technology committee.

Item 5: CSCU Provost is retiring and President Ojakian's initial announcement was to hire an interim provost but now he has agreed to hire a permanent provost from internal search, not a national search. This will be quicker, less expensive, and will have a smoother transition. But concerns were raised on issues such as Affirmative Action.

At this time, there was a motion to endorse the following resolution:

"Student Success through academic excellence is highlighted in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Vision Statement. With the retirement of Dr. Estela Lopez as the Interim Academic Provost the Community College Governance Assembly believes the priority of the Board of Regents should be to initiate a search for a permanent, qualified Academic Provost as soon as possible."

Motion was seconded and lengthy discussion commenced. More senators spoke in favor of the resolution, than not.

Motion to close debate was approved with no objection.

Motion to approve the resolution was approved.

Another motion was proposed that revises the above resolution to read:

"Student Success through academic excellence is highlighted in the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Vision Statement. With the retirement of Dr. Estela Lopez as the Interim Academic Provost **the Faculty Senate of Southern Connecticut State University** believes the priority of the Board of Regents should be to initiate a **national** search for a permanent, qualified Academic Provost **with significant higher education experience** as soon as possible."

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Standing Committees Updates:**

Student Policy: Senator Flynn reported that the committee discussed their activities in the second half of the academic year. Some were completed but some were not. Their priority is to complete the revision of the Policy on Student Misconduct.

Technology: Senator Stutzman reported the committee's work. He distributed a handout, which highlights the "Faculty concerns about technology". Furthermore he proposed a motion from the FS to bring this list, with any additions from today, to the CIO Rob Rennie and requesting from him a written response.

Motion to accept the list of concerns was approved unanimously.

Workflow Group: SSC Campus Platform for Academic Advisement: this Workflow Group is working on an enhanced advising platform that will be launched in the fall. There was a request that the FS elects a representative to serve on the committee.

Concern raised that this request was done this late in the semester and all faculty should be familiar with such work if this advising platform will be mandatory in the fall. In addition, the concern includes transfer students and students who change their majors.

Motion was made that the FS adds a faculty member to the Workflow Group Platform for Academic Advisement.

Motion seconded. Discussion commenced.

An amendment was proposed: "to direct the APC to invite the Workflow Academic Advisory committee and engage in discussion in the fall."

After some discussion on the amendment, the vote for it was 9 in support and 16 against the amendment. The amendment was defeated.

Vote on the main motion: passed by majority.

Discussion on the Final Report of the ad hoc committee on Online education: Senator Stutzman requested that this item is placed under Old Business and discussed at the next FS meeting, May 5, for endorsement by the FS. It was agreed.

Academic Policy: Senator Pettigrew reported that the committee has concern on the Policy on the Academic Misconduct and it will be discussed and addressed with the Student Policy Committee.

Student Grade Appeals have come forward to the University committee without going to the department/school level. Clarification is needed on the Grade Appeal Policy, it will be discussed at a later time.

Elections: Senator Rothbard announced that the ballots have been distributed and are due on Monday. Once ballots are counted, the results will be announced soon.

Finance : Treasurer Madonia reported that the total unencumbered Travel Funds for FT faculty is \$91,603 and for the PT \$15,363.

The resolution on the amount of the Travel Funds for the next academic year is still pending President Papazian's approval.

Personnel Policy: Senator Shea and Senator Tomczak reported that the committee is working on finalizing the DEC document. It will be brought to senate for approval next week.

The survey on the administration will need to be discussed further with the senate.

Senator Pettigrew, chair of the P&T committee, visited the Personnel Policy committee to discuss the P&T members' concerns on the recusal rule. The Personnel Policy committee invited Brian Johnson and Susan Cusato, former FS presidents for their input on the issue. The Personnel Policy committee didn't take any action on this, due to lack of quorum. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Rules: Senator Coca reported that the committee is working to finish their work.

#### New Business:

UCF's revisions to the UCF Constitution: Two years ago the UCF had proposed changes on their Constitution to be tried for two years. Those changes are now approved unanimously by the UCF (4-14-16) and presented to FS for approval.

There was a motion to approve the UCF revisions as proposed. Seconded. Discussion commenced but due to loss of quorum and time constraints, no action was taken, it will be acted upon at the next faculty senate meeting, May 5, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Diamantis  
Faculty Senate Secretary