

FACULTY SENATE*Approved Minutes of September 23, 2015*

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

The 2nd 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)	Tom Radice (History)	Wes O'Brien (Media Studies)	Jon Wharton (Political Science)	Patricia Major (Special Ed/Reading)
Valerie Andrushko (Anthropology)	Jim Fullmer (Earth Science)	Stephen Amerman (History)	Jonathan Irving (Music)	Michael Nizhnikov (Psychology)	Ron Tamura (Special Ed/Reading)
Greg Cochenet (Art)	Sanja Grubacic (Econ/Finance)	Jerry Dunklee (Journalism)	Maria Krol (Nursing)	Kevin Colwell (Psychology)	Sheila H. Garvey (Theatre)
Michael Makubika (Athletics)	Beena Achhpal (Education)	Elsie Okobi (Library Science)	Antoinette Towle (Nursing)	William Faraclas (President)	Jian Wu (WLL/Foreign Language)
Sarah Crawford (Biology)	Peter Madonia (Ed Leadership)	Diane Tomasko (Library Services)	Gene Brady (Part-Time Faculty)	Deborah Flynn (Public Health)	Luke Eilderts (World Literature Language)
Ericka Barnes (Chemistry)	Joel Dodson (English)	Jeff Dickens (Library Services)	Robin Esposito (Part-Time Faculty)	Michael Dodge (Recreation/Leisure)	
Jane McGinn (Communication)	Mike Shea (English)	Mina Park (Management / MIS)	Obiageli Okwuka (Part-Time Faculty)	Scott Graves (Environmental and Marine Studies)	
Deborah Weiss (Com Disorders)	Scott Ellis (English)	Rajesh Elhance (Marketing)	Walter Stutzmann (Part-Time Faculty)	Heather Pizzanello (Social Work)	Liz Keenan (UCF)
Amal Abdel Raouf (Computer Science)	Matt Rothbard (Exercise Science)	Maria Diamantis (Mathematics)	David Pettigrew (Philosophy)	Stephen Monroe Tomczak (Social Work)	Elizabeth Rhoades (Grad Council)
Michelle Lawler (Counseling)	Robert Gregory (Exercise Science)	Joe Fields (Mathematics)	Todd Schwendemann (Physics)	Jessica Kenty-Drane (Sociology)	Mary Papazian (SCSU President)
Guests:	Jaye Bailey Mark Rojewski Tracy Tyree				

Approval of Minutes: The Senate Meeting of September 9, 2015 Minutes were approved as distributed.

Guest: Dr. Bette S. Bergeron, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs - President Faraclas welcomed the Provost and thanked her for coming to address the Senate. Dr. Bergeron welcomed all senators to the new academic year and she reminded all of our enrollment issue which is now affecting our academic affairs area; our graduate admissions are really hurting our enrollment status. She urged all senators to reach out as much as possible when we advise students and she assured all that the application process will be improved. Much of our fiscal updates will be announced during President Papazian's State of the University

address next Wednesday, which is scheduled for 1 pm at the ASC Ballroom. Drs. Tyree and Sass are working on improving our academic advisement which needs to have a university wide discussion and the Senate can have representatives to work on the Academic Steering Committee. The committee will write a report to President Papazian by the end of the spring semester on what they have found and what they recommend for improvements in the future.

All areas of the university would be involved including representatives from admissions and the data gathered from students.

The issue was raised that there is a need for mentoring in addition to advising and the committee will figure out what is the best outcome to address our students' needs. The committee will first find out and define what is advising and how to best proceed forward. The committee will examine a few models, ie faculty providing the advising and mentoring and other will be giving the pin.

Concern was raised that departmental equity of advising is good, yet some faculty are better than others in advising. This needs to be examined carefully during evaluations and its definition in the contract.

Suggestion was made that the committee should have reps from both graduate and undergraduate faculty.

Recommendation was offered to create an anonymous survey/input from students about their interactions with advisors.

Faculty requested that the EAB power point presentation is available on line; the Provost will make sure that happens.

Efforts will also be made to have "academic maps" for programs with accreditation requirements so that advisors can assist students better.

The graduate level classes need to be looked carefully as cancelations do happen and this creates problems with students directly.

"Senior" Faculty members who are aware of specific program with specific needs should be part of the committee.

The provost agreed that the graduate programs have many areas that need to be examined. After asking the Provost on her "analysis" of SCSU since her arrival, she responded that she is impressed of the passion and quality of faculty; the time she spends with FLC is her favorite time and puts a smile on her face; faculty seem earnest and passionate; yet she is frustrated with some internal and external barriers to make things easier, some of which are imposed by self, administration, or state level. Pride and yet frustration and great concern of the system issues and what will happen. She hopes that we will concentrate on our own strategic plan and not let other issues interfere.

She suggested that we need to work together and good things will happen.

The Provost reminded all senators that President Papazian will deliver the State of the University Address, next Wednesday, September 30, 1-2, in the ASC Ballroom.

The Provost also reminded everyone that she will attend the P&T Information Session on October 5, 1-2 pm, in EN B 121 with the P&T committee. All faculty are invited.

Announcements

- Tuesday next week, there will be a celebration of the 2015 Chinese Mid Autumn Festival in EN B 121 from 12-1 pm.
- Senator Fuller announced that Tuesday night we will have total lunar eclipse and it will also be a super moon that night.

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's State of the University Address - next W at 1 pm in ASC Ballroom - all are encouraged to attend.
- Elections were counted and results will be reported soon.
- An Advising Steering Committee is being formed across the university with Drs. Tyree, Sass, and Provost Bergeron as the co-chairs of the committee. The committee will explore best practices and appropriate models for advising our students. The Faculty Senate has been asked for a representative.
- Yesterday we had a very good meeting with President Papazian, Provost Bergeron, and Chief of Staff Bailey. Discussion centered on ways to improve the process of resolution approvals.
- The UCF has voted to extend a formal membership representation on UCF to the Director of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program (IDS). The Senate needs to approve this as per UCF Constitution.
- Report was sent out and distributed today from the August 28, 2015 Faculty Retreat. The items could be used as reference points during our meetings/discussion in the future.
- President Faraclas also suggested that the election of the Senate President is an item for thought through the year and not one to be addressed at the end of the year.
- Two Senate representatives for the Budget and Planning committee are Senators Shea and Madonia serving their last year of their term.

Standing Committees Updates:

- Academic Policy - Senator Pettigrew - had first meeting, new members.
Topics discussed:
 - to craft a resolution to advocate for smaller class sizes where possible;
 - to examine the issue of reassigned time - which is a contractual resource but contract is vague and the committee will try to find out how it is distributed to University and then how it is distributed to the schools - to assure that there are no inequities across schools and across Jr vs Sr faculty members;
 - to revisit the Creative Activity Fund and Grant Fund and restore them as originally designed for.
 - to request from senator to look into reassigned time for advising clubs.
- Elections - Senator Eilders reported the results for Senator Rothbard. These elections had one of the greatest number of self-nominations and casted ballots. Results will be distributed electronically, too.
- Finance - Senator Madonia - there is no report on the state of funding on travel at this time; but it probably is a large pool at this time of year; FT are budgeted for \$1200 and PT for \$700. For the past three years we start with the \$1200 allocation as settled by the President (as opposed to our recommendation of \$1500 contractual limit allocation). Come January the money is unencumbered and the pool remains large, as a smaller percentage of faculty travel. Senator Madonia suggested that we communicate and convince with the President now, because by December/January is too late to change the amounts. The

Finance committee will be discussing this and it is important for the faculty to provide suggestions, to the committee or Senator Madonia. Input will be appreciated.

The administration reported that travel money don't carry over, which is not what the Senate and faculty knew from past discussions with the president(s) and for years we had large amounts that were carried over (has been reported in past Senate minutes); the finance will try to look into that.

- Personnel Policy - Senator Shea - the committee's big task this year is to create a DEC document and make sure that there is no inconsistencies on duties and responsibilities of the committee; which feeds into all other documents. The committee is also examine all documents to find the DEC references and correct them.
- Rules - Senator O'Brien - the committee had brought forward the Chairpersonship document and subsequently it was asked from President Papazian that the committee meets with administration (Deans and Provost) to examine further questions (18) that the administration now wishes to address. The committee will review this document one more time. It was reported that Greg Cochenet will assist Wes in his position as chair of the committee.
- Student Policy - Senator Flynn - at committee's first meeting they reviewed the Sexual Misconduct Policy and it seems to be a very concerning issue for many departments. Guests will be addressing the Senate committee to clarify issues. Another topics of discussion for the committee will be the (a) Veterans Affairs and veterans on our campus and (b) the International studies office.

At this time there was a motion to waive the 1:45 rule. It was seconded and the motion was approved by majority.

- Technology - Senator Dodson -- distributed a handout. This semester there were a lot of complains on classroom technology issues at the start of classes. So, the report includes the Faculty Vision and a proposal how the IT problems will be resolved in the classroom and how do we handle it. There will be a designated email for senate's technology committee and faculty can email directly to the committee with any concerns.

Some discussion occurred on having guests/visitors to address the senate during the middle of meeting so that senate has time to complete senate business.

Suggestion: committees distribute their reports prior to meeting, unless they present a resolution for action.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Diamantis
Secretary Faculty Senate