Faculty Senate Resolution Number S-16-13

To: Mary Papazian, PhD., President, Southern Connecticut State University
From: William Faraslas, DrPH, President, SCU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:
Resolution to Restore 20-student class caps for Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Writing Intensive classes

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: April 6, 2016

[ X ] This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL
[ ] This Resolution is presented for INFORMATION

In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), "When the Senate makes a written recommendation to the President, the President shall acknowledge and respond to the recommendation in writing within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the Senate’s recommendation."

After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form and return it to the President of the Faculty Senate.

William Faraslas, DrPH, President, Faculty Senate April 6, 2016

cc: Ellen Durnin, PhD, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

To: Mary Papazian, PhD., President, SCU Faculty Senate
From: William Faraslas, DrPH, President, SCU

Resolution for approval:
[ ] Resolution APPROVED
[ ] Resolution DISAPPROVED (Provide comments below or attach statement)
Comments: 

Resolution for information:
[ ] Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)
Comments:

Mary Papazian, PhD., President, SCU 5/2/16

Date
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Resolution to Restore 20 student class caps for Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Writing Intensive classes

Whereas, SCSU exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, SCSU seeks to be "a recognized leader for teaching, learning, and student success";

Whereas, the Liberal Education Program (LEP) document (Spring, 2009), states that Tier I courses are "generally capped at 20 students";

Whereas, "Inquiry" and "Critical Thinking" were LEP Tier I courses capped at 20 students;

Whereas, "Writing Intensive" classes were capped at 20 students;

Whereas, the Council of Academic Chairs, and the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs agreed, in March 2011, to a temporary increase in enrollment for "Inquiry," "Critical Thinking" and "Writing Intensive" classes from 20 to 23 (an increase of 3 students);

Whereas, it has been four years since the temporary agreement was made regarding increases in class sizes;

Whereas, recent assessment data from the SCSU Office of Assessment and Planning indicates that academic writing is an area of weakness for our students, including the "Inquiry" and "Critical Thinking" classes in the LEP program that focus on writing;

Whereas, the same assessment data suggests that we are not achieving the proposed learning outcomes of the LEP in the area of writing;

Whereas, the previous cap of 20 students was arrived at by a process of shared governance with the shared goal of meeting the widely recognized academic needs of our first year students;

Whereas, smaller classes would provide greater opportunities supporting our students’ learning, including individual attention to the needs of each student;

Whereas, Senate Resolution F-09-01 was approved by the University President on November 24, 2009, recognizing that the Liberal Education Program required "smaller classes," and agreeing to "provide the necessary resources" for the implementation of the program;

Therefore be it resolved, that the "Inquiry," "Critical Thinking," and "Writing Intensive" classes all be returned to their previously agreed upon cap of 20 students per class by the Spring semester 2017.

Approved by the Faculty Senate, April 6, 2016