FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution Number F-2017-06

To: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, Southern Connecticut State University
From: Maria Diamantis, Ed.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:
FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION TO SET THE “W” (WRITING INTENSIVE) COURSE ENROLLMENT CAP AT 22,
EFFECTIVE FALL 2018

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: December 6, 2017

[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.

Maria Diamantis, Ed.D., President, Faculty Senate
Date: 12/14/17

cc: Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

To: Maria Diamantis, Ed.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate
From: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

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:

Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU
Date: 12/18/17
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution to Set the “W” (Writing Intensive) Course Enrollment Cap at 22, effective Fall semester 2018

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, SCSU faculty addressed the enrollment caps for courses involving extensive writing in order to support academic student achievement, as well as goals related to retention and graduation, which are often referred to as “student success”;

Whereas, LEP Tier I enrollment caps for “Inquiry” and “Critical Thinking” courses, which were expected to address “written communication,” were originally capped at 20 students;

Whereas, “W” (writing intensive) courses were capped at 20 students;

Whereas, The abovementioned enrollment caps were arrived at through our shared governance processes as part of our commitment to serve the widely recognized academic needs of our 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 “W” classes from 20 to 23 (an increase of 3 students);

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

Whereas, Recent assessment data indicates that written communication is an area in which our students face significant challenges;

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

Whereas, There are a selected number of “W” courses in which the enrollment is set at less than 23 due to “local arrangements” deriving from the requirements of lab courses or the from limited number of computers in a classroom, and other reasons;

Whereas, In the Fall 2011 semester, the Faculty Senate passed a “Resolution on Adverse Educational Impacts of Increased Course Enrollment Limits” (Resolution F-11-01/November 14, 2011), in response to the increase, in Fall 2011, of the enrollment caps from 20 to 23 in LEP Tier I “Inquiry” and “Critical Thinking” classes as well as in “W” classes;

Whereas, In the Fall 2013 semester, the Faculty Senate approved an Undergraduate Curriculum
Forum “Resolution on Class Caps” (F-13-03/November 20, 2013), a Resolution that suggests that the increase in enrollment caps may have “serious impact on effective instructional delivery and student success”;

Whereas, In the Spring 2016 semester, the Faculty Senate approved a “Resolution to Restore 20-student class caps for Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Writing Intensive classes,” (S-16-13/April 6, 2016); and

Whereas, The Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, with broad representation from Faculty and other constituencies from across the University, approved a motion September 28, 2017, to restore “Writing Intensive” classes to their original cap of 20 students within three years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That “W” course enrollment caps shall be set at 22 (i.e., the reduction of the course cap by one student), effective Fall 2018; and

Be it further resolved, That during the 2018-19 academic year, the Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, and Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, mindful of relevant enrollment data and budgetary considerations, will address a strategy to further incrementally reduce “W” class enrollment caps (Writing Intensive classes) so as to restore the enrollment cap of 20 that was previously agreed upon through our shared governance processes.