Faculty Senate Resolution Number F-2018-01

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:
RESOLUTION Opposing the CT/BOR Policy on "Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process"

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: September 26, 2018

[ ] This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL

[X] 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: 10/5/18

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: 10-9-18
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

RESOLUTION Opposing the CT/BOR Policy on “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process”
September 26, 2018

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence; and

Whereas, SCSU promotes academic excellence through innovative teaching and learning experiences and a broad range of socially relevant programs that support its social justice mission; and

Whereas, academic excellence may be reflected in academically and socially relevant programs, regardless of enrollment profiles; and

Whereas, the value of programs offered at SCSU and the extent to which they provide educational opportunities for our students cannot be measured by graduation rates alone; and

Whereas, there are occasions when it is appropriate to review and discontinue programs; and

Whereas, there is a contractually mandated process for initiating a recommendation for program review and discontinuance (CBA Article 5.20); and

Whereas, the contractually mandated process specifies program review and discontinuance as a local (i.e., campus) matter; and

Whereas, according to the contractually mandated process, a recommendation for program discontinuance is to be investigated through a faculty-driven shared-governance approach; and

Whereas, the BOR is proposing a policy entitled “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process” that ignores CBA Article 5.20; and

Whereas, the proposed BOR policy was created without any consultation with the contractually specific faculty governance bodies on the University campuses; and

Whereas, the contractually mandated faculty-driven shared-governance approach specifies a role for the University President, but not for the chief academic officer, for whom the proposed BOR policy on Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process creates a role, in conflict with the CBA; and

Whereas, the failure of the BOR to recognize in its proposed policy the role of the faculty governance bodies is a violation of the CBA entered into by the BOR; and

Whereas, failure to engage in shared governance and respect the shared authority of the faculty imperils accreditation; and

Whereas, the “trigger” numbers in the policy are not evidence-based thresholds for action; therefore be it

Resolved. That the proposed policy, entitled “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process,” is unsupportable, as it is inconsistent with the CBA, which specifies program review as a campus-based, faculty-driven process; and further

Resolved. That any policy in which program review is triggered solely by the number of graduating students would undermine the mission of higher education and be a disservice to students.