Faculty Senate Resolution Number S-2017-10

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 REGARDING THE CSCU “STUDENTS FIRST” INITIATIVE: AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SHARED GOVERNANCE

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: May 3, 2017

[ ] 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 5/5/17

Date

cc: Ellen Durnin, 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: The resolution to the CSCU is noted, I am grateful for the Senator’s desire and willingness to participate in the process.

Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU 5/12/17

Date
Resolution Concerning the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities “Students First” Initiative: An Affirmation of our Commitment to Shared Governance

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

Whereas, shared governance is essential to academic excellence;

Whereas, The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) President and Board of Regents recently approved a “Students First” initiative that entails a far-reaching administrative restructuring of CSCU, including the consolidation of twelve community colleges and “the elimination of redundancies” through the centralization of services throughout our 17 institutions;

Whereas, The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) “Students First” initiative was approved by the Board of Regents without the involvement of our existing shared governance structures;

Whereas, Few details of such an impactful initiative have been provided, causing concern among the colleges and universities due to the unanticipated lack of transparency;

Whereas, The language of “consolidation” and the “elimination of redundancies” suggests the reduction or elimination of the staff positions of those who have faithfully served our institutions for many years;

Whereas, Such an extensive restructuring, based mainly on the reduction of essential staff, could negatively impact our ability to maintain academic excellence;

Whereas, The current fiscal crisis of our system is related to continually declining support of the Connecticut Legislature for public higher education; and

Whereas, We recognize the special responsibility of the Board of Regents to work with the Connecticut Legislature to generate the necessary revenues to support our shared mission of providing accessible and high quality education for our students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm our commitment to a culture of shared governance and to being critical participants on the six design and implementation “teams for the administrative consolidation strategy plan,” as part of which we will provide critical “input and engagement ... to finalize the design and initiate implementation of the Students First Plan”;

Resolved, That to maintain an appropriate workforce to ensure vital services for students we will be steadfast in our support for our loyal staff colleagues, who have supported our achievement of academic excellence over the years; and

Resolved, That we will work with our CSCU President and the Board of Regents to encourage the Connecticut State Legislature to provide the necessary funding so as to support the achievement of academic excellence at our state institutions of public higher education.