Faculty Senate Resolution Number S-2018-11

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 ON ENDORSING THE FACULTY SENATE ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE’S “STRATEGIC VISION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE” FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: March 28, 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

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______________________________________________________________
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Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

Date
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY (SCSU)
FACULTY SENATE
Resolution Endorsing the Faculty Senate Academic Strategic Plan Committee’s “Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence” for transmission to the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee

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

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty;

Whereas, The CSU-AAUP Contract expects collegial governance to be practiced on each campus by an elected Senate in keeping with campus traditions;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is “the agency by which the faculty can actively participate in the governance and policy-making decisions of the University on the basis of the principle of shared authority”;

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is committed to shared governance;

Whereas, The Vision Statement of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan for Southern Connecticut State University expects that faculty will “engage in outstanding research and creative activity” and thereby “challenge students to achieve their full potential”;

Whereas, the integration of faculty research and other creative activity, teaching, and student learning in pursuit of academic excellence is essential to SCSU’s mission and identity as a University;

Whereas, pursuit of academic excellence will enhance our reputation as an academic institution;

Whereas, The Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee was elected as part of the University-wide Senate Elections as a representative body of the faculty;

Whereas, The Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee provided leadership for the Academic Strategic Planning process that culminated in SCSU’s first Academic Strategic Plan in 2004, and participated in the academic dimensions of the University Strategic Plan in 2007 - 2012, and in 2015;

Whereas, In Fall 2016, President Bertolino tasked the Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee with developing an Academic Strategic Plan for the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee; and

Whereas, The Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee has developed a “Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate endorses the Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee’s “Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence, 2018”; and

Resolved, That the Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee’s “Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence” be transmitted to the Strategic Planning Implementation Committee for inclusion in the University strategic plan.
Southern Connecticut State University Faculty Academic Strategic Plan Committee
“A Strategic Vision for Academic Excellence, 2018”.

Part I: Purpose

Our academic strategic plan asserts that the priority mission of our institution is academic excellence. The academic strategic plan will identify and articulate structures and other supports necessary to achieve and maintain such excellence, which involves the integration of research, teaching and student learning.

The University’s faculty is responsible for the creation, advancement, transmission, critique and preservation of knowledge. Accordingly Southern is committed to providing appropriate support for a distinguished faculty that strives for excellence in the integration of teaching and scholarly activity. The appropriate support of faculty scholarly, creative and curricular activity is central to the University’s achievement of its academic vision and mission. Such academic support of faculty must be the central strategic priority for the University. The faculty will thereby achieve excellence in the integration of research and teaching. The faculty will be further empowered to prepare students to complete their academic studies and degrees to the best of their abilities.

The following goals are set forth in the context and spirit of our shared governance structures and under the auspices of the University-wide Faculty Senate as the official representative body of the University Faculty.

Goals:
1. Foster interaction among faculty members in all schools through: university-wide lectures and thematic conferences; departmental, school and university-wide colloquia and interdisciplinary conferences; and support of course innovations.
2. Increase support for faculty-led academic events and related activities that enhance our intellectual culture.
3. Increase research-reassigned time for research or creative projects, with a more transparent and consistent application process across the schools, insuring a more equitable provision of this contractual resource.
4. Increase funding for:
   a. Pursuit of competitive research grants from external resources;
   b. Internal grants for curriculum innovation;
   c. Internal Faculty Creative Activity Grants;
   d. Travel for research;
   e. Travel for professional attendance and participation;
   f. Sabbaticals/professional leaves;
   g. Start-up funds and equipment for new faculty.
5. Provide appropriate support for the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research and Faculty Development to insure their capability to facilitate faculty-driven research and scholarship.
6. Achieve an equitable restructuring of Faculty credit load on the model of the School of Business 3+1 program to support Faculty Creative Activity across the institution.
7. Promote the academic achievement of our students by establishing appropriate class sizes of no more than 20 students per section for courses that emphasize written communication, including “W” (writing intensive), as well as Tier I LEP courses, “Inquiry” and “Critical Thinking”.

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8. Increase funding for Faculty Searches, as well as for supporting the new hires.


10. Initiate a critical appraisal of the role of our Liberal Education Program (Gen Ed Program), including the First Year Experience, in our pursuit of academic excellence. Said appraisal will take place under the auspices of the Faculty Senate, and with the provision of appropriate resources by the administration.

PART II: IMPLEMENTATION

Our vision and goals require a strategic commitment to incremental increases in funding and other resources. We propose a three-pronged approach:

1. Making a University strategic commitment to Academic Excellence from operating funds;

2. Tasking Institutional Advancement with raising designated funds (relative to the identified goals);

3. Reaching out to the other campuses to make proposals for increases in funding in the designated areas as part of the next Contract negotiations.

In conclusion, our strategic vision requires the valuation of our faculty as scholars pursuing academic excellence in their disciplines on behalf of our institution. Such a strategic valuation of our faculty’s pursuit of academic excellence will enhance our reputation as an academic institution.

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iii Our first Academic Strategic Plan was then nested in the next iteration of strategic planning (implemented 2007 – 2012): https://www.southernct.edu/academics/SCSU_Strategic_Plan.pdf (Please see, for example, Overarching Goals and Strategic Initiatives,” C. Foster and Institutional Climate of Excellence in Teaching, Scholarship, and Creative Activity.)