Senate Resolution Number F-14-04

Faculty Senate Resolution

To: SCSU President Mary A. Papazian
From: William Faraclas, President of the SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate regards: Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Draft, December 10, 2014.

The Resolution is presented to you for your [ ] APPROVAL [X] INFORMATION

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

In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), the President of the University will return the Resolution to the President of the Senate within 15 school days of the receipt of the Resolution.

cc: Bette S. Bergeron, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

William Faraclas, President, Faculty Senate

12-12-14
Date

ENDORSEMENT of Faculty Senate Resolution, F-14-04

To: William Faraclas, President SCSU Faculty Senate
From: Mary A. Papazian, President of the University

1. Motion APPROVED
2. Motion DISAPPROVED ____________________________ (attach statement)
3. Motion NOTED X
4. Comments The resolution is premature and attempts to pre-empt the strategic planning process. The contents of the resolution should be directed to the Strategic Planning Committee.

10/31/14
Date

Signature
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution on the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Draft, December 10, 2014.

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 SCSU Faculty Senate is committed to shared governance;

Whereas the Academic Policy Committee has carefully reviewed the University's 2015-2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives Draft (hereafter the Strategic Plan Draft) and has found the Strategic Plan Draft conceptually deficient in crucial respects related to the pursuit of academic excellence;

Whereas Universities across the United States identify academics, research, the dissemination of knowledge, and teaching and learning as their mission;

Whereas the expression "academic achievement" has not been included in the Strategic Plan Draft;

Whereas the concept of "knowledge" does not appear in any of the goals or objectives, which seems to be a troubling lacuna since, as a University, "knowledge" would be at the center of our endeavor, in the sense that part of the focus of our essential mission would be to transmit, preserve, and create knowledge;

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft makes no mention of specific disciplines of teaching and learning, or areas such as science and technology, or the arts;

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft makes no reference to the Faculty in a number of Goals and Objectives, and specifically those involving Research (Innovate) and Engagement/Outreach (Impact);

Whereas, the activity of Teaching is mentioned only in passing in Goal 1 (Excel), and has been omitted in Goal 2 (Innovate), resulting in a surprising lack of emphasis on Teaching in a University's Strategic Plan,

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft does not recognize the distinctive and unique role of a Faculty at an institution of Higher Education in the activities of teaching, research, advising, and shared
governance, activities that are indispensable to the pursuit of academic excellence;

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft does not reflect the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) Vision of “students completing personally and professionally rewarding academic programs;”

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft does not reflect the CSCU Mission to provide “the creation of knowledge … by providing affordable, innovative, and rigorous programs;”

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft does not reflect the CSU Mission to provide “exemplary … undergraduate and graduate instruction [and] advance and extend knowledge, research, learning and culture;”

Whereas the concept of "student success" as articulated in the Strategic Plan Draft seems to be conceived according to efficiencies of retention and graduation rates rather than academic achievement and personal growth;

Whereas the emphasis in the Strategic Plan Draft on a "student-centered" model ignores the collaborative nature of teaching and learning that involves moreover a transformative engagement with an environing world;

Whereas in the absence of any mention of "academic achievement," and with the virtual exclusion of the "Faculty," the emphasis on "student success," and on a "student-centered environment" in the Strategic Plan Draft evokes a "customer service model" that would be more appropriate to a corporation than to an academic institution;

Whereas the eclipse of the Faculty in the Strategic Plan Draft diminishes the Faculty's contractual prerogative concerning curriculum, academic policy, and other matters of campus community concern;

Whereas the Mission of SCSU affirms a commitment to exemplary education and academic excellence;

Whereas the Strategic Plan Draft makes no commitment to investing in elements essential to academic excellence, such as Faculty, the Liberal Arts Core, pedagogically appropriate class sizes and student support services;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Strategic Plan Draft be significantly revised to elevate academics as a galvanizing theme and recognize the distinctive role of the Faculty at an institution of Higher Education in matters of teaching, research, advising, shared governance and other areas crucial for the achievement of academic excellence.