

**Faculty Senate Resolution Number \_\_\_\_\_**

To: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, Southern Connecticut State University  
From: Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding \_\_\_\_\_

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This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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.

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Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate      Date

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

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**ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

**Resolution for Approval:**

- Resolution APPROVED  
 Resolution DISAPPROVED (Provide comments below or attach statement)

**Resolution for Information:**

- Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

### RESOLUTION REGARDING COURSE CLASS ENROLLMENT CAPS FOR ONLINE COURSES

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

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

Whereas, Standard practice at Southern dictates an online class cap of no more than 25 students to ensure the best pedagogy and delivery practices and to maximize the opportunity for student success; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the enrollment for online courses be capped at no more than 25 students per class; and be it further

Resolved, That departments may choose to offer selected courses with more than 25 students per class when they deem it appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate supports the Statement from the UCF Steering Committee, approved by the UCF on September 10, 2020. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statement from UCF Steering Committee, approved by UCF 9/10/20:

The Undergraduate Curriculum Forum continues to be concerned about preserving maximum course caps of 25 for both asynchronous and synchronous online course. In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university needed to suddenly close and pivot to all-online, emergency course offerings. Under those circumstances, exceeding the maximum course caps was unavoidable. We applaud the amazing job undertaken by all faculty, and their students, to adapt to that exclusively online platform.

On the fall course roster, some 260 online course sections list course caps that exceed 25. There are varying reasons that 30 departments and programs opted to run sections with more than 25 students. But, the underlying reason was the desire by faculty to teach in an online modality due to COVID-19 concerns, and the lack of immediate funds to hire more faculty in time to teach the needed smaller sections to meet the cap.

The university is about to enter its third semester under difficult circumstances. In this “new normal,” it is imperative that the university make smaller class size, and its pedagogical benefits to students, a renewed priority.

The UCF is calling on faculty, chairs, deans, and administration to collaborate to plan a semester that makes possible a 25-student course cap for any online course. We must remain cognizant of the current course enrollment caps for all modalities and their vital role in ensuring quality education. In the midst of this global crisis, we must maintain our academic standards to ensure a robust and enriching experience to which our students will want to return.

Course enrollment caps were implemented based on sound pedagogical rationale and should be maintained. Currently, in addition to the online courses cap of 25, writing courses are capped at 22.

Smaller class size is particularly beneficial for students taking 100-200 level, FYE and LEP courses. Students in these courses often have underdeveloped skillsets in time management and writing.

Thus, course caps ensure students enrolled in these classes receive the additional attention and guidance they require. A positive experience in these formative classes leads to student success and will bolster student retention. As we plan for spring 2021, we reassert our commitment to a strong curriculum centered on student success by honoring all course enrollment caps.