



FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate Resolution Number s-2024-11

To: Dwayne Smith, Ph.D., Interim President, Southern Connecticut State University

From: Natalie Starling, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

**RESOLUTION Regarding** Affirming Safety and Belonging at Southern Connecticut State University

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: 03/27/2024

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.

Natalie Starling, Ph.D.

President, SCSU Faculty Senate

DocuSigned by:  
  
Signature

3/27/2024

Date

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

**ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT**

**Resolution for Approval:**

Resolution APPROVED

Resolution DISAPPROVED (Attach statement)

**Resolution for Information:**

Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.

President, SCSU

DocuSigned by:  
  
Signature

3/27/2024

Date

## SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

### Resolution for Information

#### Resolution Regarding Affirming Safety and Belonging at Southern Connecticut State University

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

Whereas, The Faculty Senate is the official governing body for shared governance;

Whereas, The Faculty Senate has historically expressed responses to incidents and events in our collective university community that impacted perceptions of safety and belonging ([Resolution S-2019-16](#): Resolution on Misogyny, Gender-Based Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct; [Resolution F-2021-09](#): Resolution Regarding Swastika Found on Campus; [Resolution F-2020-02](#): Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day);

Whereas, Acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred have been documented and/or reported within our university community during the 2023-2024 academic year, specifically targeting the Department of Women's & Gender Studies, its offices, and bulletin board spaces on 9/21/2023, 11/6/2023, 1/25/2024, 2/26/2024, 2/27/2024, 3/5/2024 and 3/18/2024;

Whereas, Such acts and threats, and any acts and threats in any area of our collective university community, are disturbing, especially on a campus that strives to be a social justice exemplar;

Whereas, Such acts and threats threaten all members of our community and make some members feel less safe on campus, the place where a sense of trust, safety, and belonging is paramount to the well-being of all members;

Whereas, Acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred negatively impact one's standing and advancement, professional growth, opportunities and ability to participate fully in the intellectual academic community;

Whereas, Standing together in denouncing such acts and threats helps to make it clear that our university community will not tolerate any form of bigotry, violence or hatred in our community; and

Whereas, The Council of Academic Chairs (CAC) has formally responded on March 19, 2024, with the following Statement of Support for the Department of Women's & Gender Studies:

*Dear President Smith, Provost Prezant, Deans, and Associate Deans,*

*The members of the Chairs Council of Southern CT State University stand in solidarity with Dr. Tricia Lin, affiliated faculty, students, and staff of the department of Women's and Gender Studies. We applaud their efforts to provide a safe place for students; to offer the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation and debate; and to raise awareness of challenging issues in a rigorous and thoughtful manner. We denounce hateful language and vandalism and call on campus administrators to ensure the safety of students, staff, and faculty;*

now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That, as affirmed in the aforementioned resolutions, the Faculty Senate unequivocally supports and reaffirms the rights of all individuals to participate in and receive the benefits of our community; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate condemns acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred in our community; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate condemns the specific acts and threats of violence, bigotry, and hatred targeting the Department of Women's & Gender Studies, its offices, and bulletin board spaces.