

**Central Connecticut State University**  
UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

**Senate Motion Number FS 15.16.003R**

TO: President Jack Miller

FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached resolution of the University Senate, dealing with: **SCSU Faculty Senate Resolution on BOR Contract Proposals** is presented to you for your consideration.
2. This motion was adopted by the University Senate on **11/23/2015**.
3. After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.
4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.
  - a) By **12/02/2015**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).
  - b) By **12/16/2015**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

**12/02/2015**


Date

  
Stephen Cohen, President, University Senate


**ENDORSEMENT:**

TO: President of the University Senate

FROM: President Jack Miller

1. Motion Approved : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Motion Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Explanatory statement must be appended).
3. Action "is deferred": \_\_\_\_\_
4. Resolution Noted:  \_\_\_\_\_
5. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

12/4/15  
Date

  
President Jack Miller



Southern Connecticut  
State University

Resolution: "The CCSU Faculty Senate  
endorses the SCSU Faculty Senate's  
Statement on contract proposals of the  
Board of Regents for Higher Education".

## FACULTY SENATE

### STATEMENT ON CONTRACT PROPOSALS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence. This is accomplished through excellent teaching, research and other creative activities that advance knowledge, professional service derived from the expertise of the faculty, and the promotion of an environment where the academic faculty, consisting of professors, librarians, coaches and counselors, in cooperation with the administrative faculty, can nurture intellectual development of students so they can have rewarding lives and be productive citizens.

As is the case in all accredited and respected institutions of higher education, academic freedom for the faculty is the cornerstone of academic excellence. Academic freedom allows innovative thinking, the full examination of all avenues of thought, and unfettered research through leading-edge investigations—all essential elements of intellectual communities.

The foundation for academic freedom is tenure. Tenure ensures that innovative thought and ground-breaking inquiry will be protected to allow the advancement of human understanding, human expression, science, ethics and social justice—for the benefit of individuals and society.

The character of institutions of higher learning is shaped by a system of shared governance, which incorporates the expertise of the faculty into developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating academic programs and institutional policies. Shared governance is essential to sustaining academic freedom, supporting the appropriate oversight of the tenure system, ensuring that universities remain focused on academics and achieving academic excellence.

Academic freedom, the tenure system and shared governance are recognized as core elements of higher education in the United States that foster learning and assure educational excellence for students by ensuring conditions where critical thinking can be developed and experimental ideas can be explored within a curriculum led by disciplinary experts. Only institutions of higher education in the U.S. that maintain these fundamental conditions can be accredited by regional and professional accreditation councils, which require fidelity to these values in policy and practice.

Past collective bargaining between the faculty union and the Board of Trustees, the predecessor governing body to the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), universally recognized the vital essentiality of academic freedom, tenure and shared governance. Current contract proposals from the BOR contradict and undermine academic freedom, tenure and shared governance, thereby threatening the quality of higher education in the four Connecticut State Universities (CSU) by defeating the possibility of achieving academic excellence.

Other contradictions are present in the BOR proposals. For example, the document calls for assessing collegiality in the evaluation of faculty members. Yet the proposal takes the anti-collegial position of removing mediation and termination committees, currently empaneled to review dismissals of members of the faculty. Exposing the State to greater likelihood of expensive litigation by removing these levels of appeal creates the potential to siphon funds away from direct academic services for students.

BOR proposals would cause great harm to the CSU System, interfering with its goal of meeting the educational needs of Connecticut's residents, and undercutting its system-wide goal of student success. Under the conditions of such proposals, students would be subject to taking fewer courses with and receiving less mentoring from full-time professors, having larger classes that afford less individual attention, and being relegated to distance learning and pre-recorded lectures—resurrected elements of the discredited *Transform CSCU 2020* debacle that supposedly was abandoned by the BOR. Our students deserve better.

The tone and content of the BOR contract proposals are misguided, troubling, and, in the end, will leave our students woefully disadvantaged. The SCSU Faculty Senate calls upon the BOR to bargain in better faith and with more careful thought about how the four Connecticut State Universities need to function to meet accreditation standards, incorporate academic integrity and achieve academic excellence for the sake of our students, as well as for the future economic viability of our state.

By unanimous approval, November 4, 2015