

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESOLUTION Opposing the CT/BOR Policy on “Academic Program/Low
Complete Review Process”**

September 26, 2018

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

Whereas, SCSU promotes academic excellence through innovative teaching and learning experiences and a broad range of socially relevant programs that support its social justice mission; and

Whereas, academic excellence may be reflected in academically and socially relevant programs, regardless of enrollment profiles; and

Whereas, the value of programs offered at SCSU and the extent to which they provide educational opportunities for our students cannot be measured by graduation rates alone; and

Whereas, there are occasions when it is appropriate to review and discontinue programs; and

Whereas, there is a contractually mandated process for initiating a recommendation for program review and discontinuance (CBA Article 5.20); and

Whereas, the contractually mandated process specifies program review and discontinuance as a local (i.e., campus) matter; and

Whereas, according to the contractually mandated process, a recommendation for program discontinuance is to be investigated through a faculty-driven shared-governance approach; and

Whereas, the BOR is proposing a policy entitled “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process” that ignores CBA Article 5.20; and

Whereas, the proposed BOR policy was created without any consultation with the contractually specific faculty governance bodies on the University campuses; and

Whereas, the contractually mandated faculty-driven shared-governance approach specifies a role for the University President, but not for the Chief Academic officer, for whom the proposed BOR policy on Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process creates a role, in conflict with the CBA; and

Whereas, the failure of the BOR to recognize in its proposed policy the role of the faculty governance bodies is a violation of the CBA entered into by the BOR; and

Whereas, failure to engage in shared governance and respect the shared authority of the faculty imperils accreditation; and

Whereas, the “trigger” numbers in the policy are not evidence-based thresholds for action; therefore be it

Resolved, That the proposed policy, entitled “Academic Program/Low Completer Review Process,” is unsupportable, as it

is inconsistent with the CBA, which specifies program review as a campus-based, faculty-driven process; and further

Resolved, That any policy in which program review is triggered solely by the number of graduating students would undermine the mission of higher education and be a disservice to students.

Approved on September 26, 2018

Maria Diamantis, President of the SCSU Faculty Senate