

January 23, 2018
Special called session
Closed meeting for Senators and Proxies only
Senate Effectiveness

Summary of the meeting:

President Bedell gave a brief presentation summarizing the subject of the closed meeting. She emphasized the need to discuss whether the Senate is meeting points (c) and (d) in the official Senate Charge, which are: (c) To consider and make recommendations on matters that concern one or more departments or the College as a whole; (d) To assist and advise the Dean on matters of importance to the College. Drawing on available meeting minutes from 2001-2005, President Bedell also provided some historical context on past activities of the Franklin Senate that seem to address this aspect of our charge. She also briefly provided a look at the minutes of the College of Education Senate meetings to see what types of activities they do and issues they address. The discussion was then opened up to all Senators (moderated by Bedell and Jennifer Rice, Chair of the Executive Committee), to report back on their own ideas, and those provided by faculty in their departments, regarding Senate effectiveness. The following themes emerged:

- 1) Many Senators expressed a strong desire to have more **open and informal discussion** on a wider variety of issues among all the Senators. The Senate is an important forum for communication across departments in Franklin College that many felt is not being well utilized.
- 2) Several Senators asked for more **basic information and training** on Senate procedures and practices. This could include an orientation for new Senators at the beginning of each academic year and/or more discussion in the full Senate about what each Committee does.
- 3) Issues of **communication** between the Senators and the Dean were also discussed. Several Senators expressed a desire to have better mechanisms to create more of a two-way (back and forth) form of communication between the Senate and Dean on ongoing issues of concern (as opposed to decisions that have already been made), than currently takes place.
- 4) Issues of the **Senate culture** were discussed. Many people asked when most of the Senate's activities became approving or disapproving Minors, Certificates, Institutes, and Program Terminations. There is strong interest in the Senate addressing a wider range of issue affecting faculty and students in Franklin College.

At 4:35 Senator Rice asked how the Senate would like to proceed. There was a strong desire to continue this discussion. Senators felt more time for discussion among only Senators and Proxies was need to determine next steps, and whether any practices of the Senate should be reconsidered. A vote was taken at 4:40 on whether or not to have another closed Special Session in the February meeting. The vote was unanimously in favor of having another closed session.