

**Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
January 13, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER:

Presiding officer Nancy Felson [Classics] called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM in Room 150 of the Student Learning Center. Before the meeting officially began, President Adams addressed the Senate.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT MICHAEL ADAMS:

President Adams greeted the Senate and noted that he plans to speak to the Senate once again when information regarding current issues (mostly the budget) is more available. This would probably be in about 90 days, after the meetings of the State Legislature conclude. At that time, there should also be more information regarding capital projects, salary budgets, fund raising, etc. Dr. Adams reiterated that the upper administration regards the College of Arts and Sciences as the core of the University and is committed to the success of the College. For example, two-thirds of the Venture Fund (\$270,000) went to the College last year. Financial input to the college continues to increase from numerous ancillary sources, with 294 College faculty receiving extra compensation from such sources.

President Adams remarked that both he and Provost Arnett Mace have spent much of their last half year listening in order to appreciate the issues of importance to College faculty. It is clear that faculty and administration share the desire to move the University in a positive direction. Nonetheless, many challenges must be addressed in the coming year: (1) the upper administration needs to establish better communication with the faculty as a whole; (2) there is an urgent need to address the poor morale among faculty and staff; (3) the upper administration needs to do a better job of discussing the budget process and, perhaps most significantly, of dealing with the budget cuts themselves. At present, the magnitude of these cuts is unclear. The worst-case scenario, without tuition increases, would be an additional 5% cut in 2005 (bringing the total over the last few years to a 20% reduction in operating costs for the College). This would almost certainly result in many layoffs, not, however, for tenured or tenure-track faculty. To date, layoffs within the College have been minimal. Most of the budget cuts have been handled by not replacing jobs lost through attrition. As noted at the December 9th meeting, President Adams remains optimistic regarding future funding. Historically, the University has been a high funding priority for the State. Nonetheless, it is imperative that the University achieves some level of funding autonomy. The best universities, and those best able to handle the constant flux in the economy, are those that gain some independence from state budgets. They achieve this through endowments, and we must increase our number of endowed faculty chairs.

Dr. Mace added that the College of Arts and Sciences has 24 endowed positions, compared to 22 in the Law School and 31 in the Terry College of Business. Six out of the 14 positions funded by the Georgia Research Alliance are in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Barry Palevitz [Plant Biology] called attention to the incongruity between salaries paid to staff (such as janitors, who are paid poverty-level wages) and the celebrated salaries paid to the coaches of our athletic teams. He cited, as an example, the recently reported \$50,000 bonus given to the new Athletic Director even before he began his new job. These kinds of discrepancies, he said, reflect our misguided priorities.

President Adams response: The University and athletic budget are separate. The Athletic Association generates an independent revenue and does not receive funds from the University. In order to stay competitive in the SEC, the University must pay salaries that are competitive. The salary of the new

Athletic Director, President Adams said, is average compared to those in his same position at equivalent universities.

Nancy Felson [Classics] asked if there is a role for College faculty in determining the best strategies for dealing with budgetary restrictions and the restoration of funds. President Adams responded that faculty input is always appreciated and that such input is particularly important in helping State legislators understand faculty needs.

The President's address and the ensuing discussion ended at 4 PM and the regular senate meeting started at that time.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROXIES AND VISITORS:

Proxies: James Anderson [Chemistry] for Mary Eidsness [Chemistry], John Brewer [Biochemistry] for Joseph Mendicino [Biochemistry], Robert Moser for Luis Correa-Diaz [Romance Languages]

Absences: Rebecca Engauser [Dance], K.K. Mon [Physics/Astro], Christine Harold [Speech Comm], Laura Mason [History]

Visitors: Aaron Johnson [Sociology, IBR], Ross Markman [Athens-Banner Herald], Allen Sullivan [Athens-Banner Herald], Meg Armstrong [President's office]

Total: 42 Present, 4 Absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SENATE MEETINGS:

The Senate voted unanimously to approve the minutes from 11/20/2003.

COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER, NANCY FELSON:

Keeping her comments brief in view of time constraints, Nancy Felson noted only that her intentions for this academic year would be to continue efforts at activating the voice of the faculty and improving faculty governance, and to have responses from the poll inform the deliberations of the Planning Committee.

COMMENTS BY DEAN WYATT ANDERSON:

Dean Anderson affirmed President Adams' identification of the budget as the biggest challenge facing the College in the coming year. So far, the College has handled budget cuts through attrition, which has impacted some departments heavily. An additional 5% cut, however, would require even more significant curtailments. The Dean's office continues to negotiate budget cuts with the administration. Due to the teaching mission of the College, negotiations have been relatively successful so far: last year funds were returned to many departments for renovations, travel, etc. Future cuts will focus on staff in non-departmental units such as Centers and Institutes.

Dean Anderson noted that approximately 25-30% of the faculty hold named professorships in the College (Research, Regents, Distinguished, etc) and that efforts are being made to increase the number of endowments.

The Dean also clarified a comment made in the last meeting by Arnett Mace: the possibility that an additional teaching load (an average of ½ course) might again be required in the coming year despite the original assurances by Provost Mace that the increase would last one year only. In response to his query, Dean Anderson reported, Mace had assured him that the additional teaching load would only be requested in the worst-case scenario, namely, if the full 5% budget cut were necessary.

Juergen Wiegel [Microbiology] asked if graduate teaching assistants would be asked to teach additional courses. Dean Anderson responded that there are no plans to increase the teaching responsibilities of individual GTAs, but that the College will probably increase the number of assistantships offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. *Academic Standards Committee:*

The Committee met on November 25, 2003 and reviewed a total of 11 student petitions. Eight were approved, two petitions were denied and one was tabled requesting verification.

2. *Admissions Committee:*

The Committee reviewed a total of 13 petitions for readmission over the past month. Six petitions were approved and seven petitions were denied.

3. *Curriculum Committee:*

The Committee met on Dec. 10, 2003 and approved five proposals:

- to create an Institute for Native American Studies to be housed in Religion.
- to revise entrance requirements of the undergraduate major in Genetics.
- to revise the online bulletin degree requirements for the undergraduate major in English.
- to allow ITAL 4040, Topics in Italian Cinema, Culture, and Literature, to count towards the College Fine Arts Requirement
- to allow ITAL 4030, Topics in Literature and Culture of Italy, to count towards the College Literature requirement.

The committee also approved 13 courses submitted in CAPA; it discussed a proposed change in an Art History course with Prof. Shelley Zuraw.

4. *Professional Concerns Committee:* no report

5. *Planning Committee:* no report

6. *Steering Committee:* the committee conducted its business by email, providing an agenda and advising the Presiding Officer on the poll.

7. *Committee on Committees:* no report

OLD BUSINESS

a). Response to Provost Mace's remark that the current increased teaching load (1/2 course/year) may be extended for an additional year:

The Senate voted (20 to 4) to charge Nancy Felson [Classics] to write a letter to Provost Mace on behalf of the Senate asking him to keep his promise not to extend the extra teaching requirement beyond the

current year. The statement should be direct but not confrontational and should be delivered in a timely fashion.

b). Cover letter and questionnaire:

A draft of the two documents was distributed. Nancy Felson [Classics] reported that she and Robert Rumely [Math] met with a group of experts from the Institute of Behavioral Research (IBR), including Aaron Johnson, to discuss the formulation of the cover letter and the questionnaire. Three basic questions, originally formulated by the Senate, were used as the guiding principles: Should the Senate have any response whatsoever? Should it focus on the audit? Should the response be relegated to the Senate or should it involve the College Faculty as a whole? Aaron Johnson was present to field questions from the Senate.

Randy Clarke [Philosophy] noted that there was very little difference between the first and second questions and that perhaps the two should be integrated, and Marjanne Gooze [German and Slavic] made a motion to that effect. James Anderson [Chemistry] proposed a friendly amendment, that 'controversy' replaced by 'leadership' in order to emphasize that this questionnaire transcends the original controversy over the decision concerning Athletic Director Vince Dooley. This motion, seconded as revised, was passed with 26 in favor, seven opposed.

Several senators urged that any action by the Senate needed to be timely. Nancy Felson [Classics] indicated that now that the Senate had approved all aspects of the process, the electronic questionnaire should go out to the faculty within the next two days.

John Brewer [Biochemistry] moved that the questionnaire be reduced to a single question, a simple and direct a vote of confidence or no confidence in the President. This question would read "I support the President and have faith in his leadership of the University." Response options would include "I agree," "I disagree," and "no opinion." By a friendly amendment, the request "Please explain the rationale for this choice" was added. This motion was defeated with four in favor, 29 opposed.

Mitch Rothstein [Mathematics] noted that the earlier minutes did not contain a clear motion reflecting an official Senate decision to send out this questionnaire. Nancy Felson [Classics] responded that such approval was voted on by email, with 75% of the Senators voting, a large majority in favor of sending out the questionnaire; she also acknowledged that the Bylaws do not sanction an email vote, so taking another vote today would be in order. A few senators felt that approval was inherent in the continuing discussion of the questionnaire and in other motions. Mitch Rothstein, however, called the question, with a motion that the Faculty Senate favors sending out the questionnaire as currently formulated; the motion passed with 20 in favor and 3 opposed.

One senator asked whether the web-based voting system was both secure and anonymous. Michael Brewer, the inter-net specialist who is overseeing the system, assured the Senate that the questionnaire was both secure and anonymous: it would only be registering whether a faculty votes, in order to prevent repeated voting, and not how he or she votes.

Due to time constraints, new business was postponed until the next meeting, on February 19, 2004. Agenda Items for that meeting are due to the Steering committee by Feb. 9, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM.

Submitted by B. Randy Hammond [Psychology]