

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
August 21, 2003
Approved September 16, 2003

1. Call to Order:

Presiding Officer Nancy Felson [Classics] called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM in Room 248 of the Student Learning Center.

2. Identification of Proxies and Visitors:

Proxies: Jace Weaver for Glenn Wallis [Religion], Mary Moore for Michael Marshall [Art], Barney Whitman for Juergen Wiegel [Microbiology], and Ben Ehlers for Reinaldo Roman [History]. Gary Love for K.K. Mon [Physics and Astronomy]. Jace Weaver will be serving as proxy for Glenn Wallis for the entire year, Ben Ehlers for Reinald Roman the entire semester.

Absences: Barry Palevitz [Plant Biology], Christine Harold [Speech/Communication], Eve. T. Powell [History], and Steve Miller [Psychology]

Visitors: None.

Total: 35 Present, 4 Absent, 0 Visitors.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Senate Meetings:

No minutes were approved at this meeting. Senators were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting on April 15, 2003. The vote to approve those minutes will be held at the next Senate meeting on September 16, 2003.

4. Comments by the Presiding Officer, Nancy Felson:

Nancy Felson [Classics], the newly elected Presiding officer, welcomed the new and returning senators. Professor Felson emphasized the important role of the Senate in faculty governance. She noted that senators could perhaps best serve this role if they keep themselves informed, proactive, accessible to the faculty at large, and vigilant to the many issues facing the College. She urged all senators to read the Senate Bylaws and become informed about budget issues that pertain to Arts and Sciences. To this end, senators are encouraged to attend the meeting with Provost Arnett Mace next Monday (August 25, 2003) at the Masters Auditorium at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. The Provost will be discussing general issues with the College and the current budget situation. The meeting will also serve as a forum for discussing faculty concerns and issues.

Professor Felson also raised the possibility that the Senate might wish to discuss the current controversies regarding President Adams, which is, apparently, being discussed by some

other colleges within the University. If faculty are interested in having the Senate discuss this situation, they should forward this request to the steering committee.

5a. Comments by Dean Wyatt Anderson:

Dean Anderson welcomed the new and returning senators and noted that the Dean's office welcomes faculty input and also takes faculty governance very seriously. According to the Dean, this philosophy is shared by the new Provost who appears to have developed a good working relationship with the Dean's office. Dean Anderson noted that, if interested, senators could also invite President Adams to a meeting.

The Dean stated that the biggest problem facing his office, our College, and the University as a whole, is the current and future state of the budget. To date, the University has had to cut its budget by 11%. This year, the Dean's office is asked to cut the College budget by an additional 2.5% (which translates to about 2 million dollars). The plan for these budget cuts must be finalized within two weeks (therefore any suggestions by faculty must be received by the Dean's office as soon as possible). Next year, an additional 5% of the budget must be cut. Collectively, this (7.5%) translates to about 6 million dollars from the working budget, which is approximately 70 million dollars. The Dean noted that about 32 million of this operating budget is now coming from grants/contracts (almost one dollar for every two in the budget). He also noted that the College budget has been at least partially shielded/aided by the instructional mission of the College, the large number of enrolled students (including the Gwinnet Center, where enrollment is peaking at 33,500 students), and the tuition increases (which resulted in about \$900,000). The Dean's plan for cutting the budget has not yet been formed but this plan will ultimately try to preserve the core mission of the College. Thus, there are no plans as of yet to eliminate departments or layoff faculty and staff. The furlough proposal (surrendering pay for a short period) has also been abandoned. The budgets of centers and institutes are being examined closely and department heads have been asked to reduce their operating budgets by 25%. Travel funds have been discontinued along with almost all recruitment efforts either not already initiated (e.g., verbal offers) or under a special category (such as endowments). An exception is limited recruitment focusing on instruction (e.g., postdoctoral teaching fellows, temporary teachers).

Nancy Felson [Classics] asked the Dean to clarify the decision-making process as to which areas will receive teaching fellowships. The Dean replied that the selection reflects teaching needs (big majors that are understaffed like speech, psychology, history, and chemistry, understaffed laboratory classes). The Dean also noted that, in some cases, finding faculty to serve as lecturers is difficult. For instance, although Spanish has received two full-time lecturers, it remains very difficult to recruit new qualified individuals to teach Spanish. The Dean also noted that this type of projected budget cut (2 years in advance) is unusual.

Robert Rumley [Math] asked the Dean how the additional 5% cut projected for next year would be handled. He also opined that he personally would prefer a pay furlough to loss of future faculty lines and that it might be helpful for the Dean's office to encourage faculty input regarding the best approach to making the necessary cuts. Dean Anderson reiterated that all faculty input is welcome and that no departments will be left unscathed by the coming cuts. The Dean's office, for instance, is surrendering most (except for about \$100,000) of its surplus

budget (typically used for renovations, small conferences, etc). Also, some of the administration are helping the College cover instruction. . The Dean also said that a furlough approach has been ruled out by the Chancellor's office.

5b. Comments by Associate Dean Hugh Ruppensburg:

Associate Dean Ruppensburg welcomed the Senate and thanked faculty for offering freshman seminars. Dean Ruppensburg noted that many committees work all year (e.g., admissions, academic standards, and curriculum). For example, the academic standard's committee must hear student appeals on a constant basis (the University Council is investigating whether to broaden this process and form a University wide appeals committee).

Nancy Felson [Classics] asked Dean Ruppensburg to explain any overlaps between the University Council and Faculty Senate. He replied that there were strong parallels between the Council and Senate, with many analogous committees.

6. Committee Reports:

6a) Committee on Committees:

Chair Marjanne Gooze [Germanic] reported that the committee had met on August 12, 2003 and had set membership lists for the Senate's standing committees. The revised list was distributed and approved by voice vote. Most, but not all, senators have been assigned to one of the six standing committees, in accordance with Senate policy. In addition, the Senate, by voice vote, approved the Committee's recommendation that B. Randy Hammond [Psychology] serve as the Senate Secretary for 2003-04.

6b) Academic Standards Committee:

Chair Barbara McCaskill [English] reported that the committee met on May 2nd and 23rd, July 17th and August 15, 2003. The committee reviewed a total of 41 student petitions. Twenty-seven petitions were approved, 9 were denied and 4 were tables pending further information. One posthumous degree was granted.

6c) Admissions Committee:

Chair Alisa Luxemburg [Art] reported that the committee met on May 23rd and August 19, 2003. The committee reviewed a total of 10 petitions. Six petitions were approved and four were denied.

6d) Curriculum Committee: No report.

6e) Planning Committee: No report.

6f) Professional Concerns: No report.

6g) Steering Committee: No report.

7) Old Business:

Nancy Felson [Classics] reported her impression that the Senate's revisions to the faculty promotion and tenure guidelines appears to have had a significant impact. Dean Anderson, in his welcoming remarks, mentioned that the final form of the guidelines had not yet been decided by the University Council who will reconsider the guidelines this year. Associate Dean Ruppensburg also said that his impression was that the Senate's comments were influential, particularly in retaining the college-level review committee (maintaining a three-tier review system, rather than the two-tier system advocated by the revised guidelines). In her opening remarks, Nancy Felson also said that the issues surrounding the use of the AB degree by colleges other than Arts and Sciences (who have different criteria) has not yet been resolved. The Dean, in his opening remarks, said that it was unlikely that our collective objections will prevail because the Regent's policy does allow these degrees to be issued by any college and it is likely that we will be outvoted in the University Council.

The Senate recommendation to waive fees for foreign students was unsuccessful.

8) New Business:

Nancy Felson [Classics] called for a nomination to elect a Presiding Officer Pro Tem who would serve as the Presiding Officer if she were absent. Robert Rumley was nominated and approved by unanimous vote.

Near the end of the meeting, all of the Senate members introduced themselves and voiced any issues that they felt needed to be addressed. Most senators had no current issue to report. Two senators voiced the opinion that grade appeals are a pending issue that will need to be discussed by the relevant committee.

After adjournment, the newly assigned committees assembled.

10) Next Meeting:

The next meeting on September 16, 2003 will be held at 3:30 in Room 248 of the Student Learning Center. Agenda items for this meeting are due to the Steering committee by September 2, 2003.

11) Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted by B. Randy Hammond, Psychology