

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:43 PM via Zoom, Sandy Martin presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Mark Anderson, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bynum, Monsur Chowdhury, Megan DeMarche, Rebecca Gose, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Austin Heil, Peter Hoffer, Allison Howard, Richard Hubbard, Christin Huggins, Christian Klimczak, Dennis Kyle, Pablo Lapegna, Sandy Martin, Lindsey Reynolds, John Rose, Amy Ross, David Saltz, Alexandra Shapiro, Jennifer Stull, Anne Summers, Andrea Sweigart, Demi Thomlouis, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Sarah Wright, Yang Yang

Proxies: Jon Forrest for Joshua Bousquette,

Members not present: Kelly Black, Carmen Comeaux, Fei Dou, Drew Etheridge, Nicolas Lucero, Rodrigo Martini Paula, Daniel Rood, Bernd Schuttler

Guests: Benjamin Britton

Approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting: The minutes were approved without corrections with 35 ayes and one abstention vote.

President Sandy Martin's Remarks:

Thank you all very much for your service in the Faculty Senate. Do not think for one minute that your service is unappreciated. It is very important that we are participating in faculty governance, something that is greatly needed.

I thought past president, Ben Britton, could offer us a fuller and more in depth welcome and orientation. I believe there are about 20 new members at least and I think it would be good to have Ben tell us what the Faculty Senate and the major committees are about.

Ben Britton's remarks:

Thanks so much to Sandy and the Executive Committee for inviting me back to make a little orientation and introduction to the Faculty Senate. Welcome back to you all and thank you all so much for serving. I will start with what happens in the meetings.

Every Senate meeting there will be a vote on the minutes, followed with remarks by the Senate President and then remarks by the Dean of the Franklin College. Afterwards, this is followed by a time for questions from Senators, then committee reports, and then new agenda items. Outside of this, each committee may schedule additional meetings that complement and supplement the work of the main working meeting of the Senate. Additionally, some business of the committees happens via email.

Senate meetings can be in person and on Zoom, so please take note of the schedule because it does change.

The first thing to know for everybody that is new is attendance. If you can't attend a Senate meeting, it is fine. But you need to find a proxy who is on the faculty of the Franklin College. The

proxy can't already be a Senator. You are not considered absent if you have a proxy. Your proxy has exactly the same privileges as you, including the right to vote.

Just a note that if you have two consecutive absences without a proxy, your department will have to find another person to be senator.

The bylaws state the Senate business is to consider and act upon matters of educational policy of the college, including establishment of requirements of all degree programs and the suspension or abolition of existing programs. To authorize the granting of degrees to students who have not met all degree requirements and to consider and to make recommendations on matters that concern one or more departments or the college as a whole. To assist and advise the Dean on matters of importance to the college. To study and make recommendations concerning the structure and organization of the college and to consider any proposal to create, abolish, or significantly restructure any unit of the college. And to make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may seem advisable.

The business comes to the Senate from the Senators, committees, from faculty members, and from the Dean's office. The normal business of the Senate is prepared by the committees. The committees will generally forward these items when ready to the Executive Committee to be put on the agenda.

The Executive Committee puts items on the agenda, interprets the bylaws, and makes committee assignments. Any new agenda items you want to address as Senators can be sent to the Executive Committee chair, Christine Albright.

The Curriculum Committee takes items related to changes to programs and courses.

The Committee on Academic Standards rules on petitions by students for exceptions to the academic regulations by the college. They handle grade appeals among other matters.

The Committee on Faculty Affairs recommends to the Senate, to the Dean, and to the administrators and staff of the University ways to improve the conditions of employment for the faculty of the college. It also reviews the effectiveness and success of the incumbent Dean in carrying out a charge to administer the rules and regulations enacted by the Faculty every five years, among other duties.

The Committee on Planning and Evaluation evaluates and advises the Dean on matters related to the Franklin College's goals fulfilling the University's strategic plan on long term development.

The recruitment of the President, President Elect, and Secretary positions happen at the level of the Senate. It would be amazing if we had Senators bring candidates for these important positions of leadership to the Executive Committee for nomination.

As Senators, you can bring agenda items or matters of concern to your departments.

Items not on the agenda may be added at the meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senators attending.

Shared governance is an incredibly remarkable aspect of our workplace. It is an institution to preserve. To paraphrase Astra Taylor: Shared governance may not actually exist, but we will miss it when it's gone. The Franklin Faculty Senate has done some remarkable work over the years. It is an amazing opportunity to build solidarity across job categories and to get to know dear colleagues from across the college.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Happy start of fall semester everyone. It is great to be back on campus. Thank you, senators and senate leadership, for your service. I am even more excited to be back on campus because I am teaching a GradFIRST seminar this semester.

1. The Faculty Advisory Committee last year worked on guidance for the Dean's office around online graduate education and advancing multidisciplinary research. This group will be putting on two multidisciplinary mixers this semester. The first is on September 26, 5:00-7:00pm. The topic is "Health, Gender, Equity." Please contact Associate Dean Marshall Shepherd for details. I want to encourage everyone to consider attending to get to know others in areas of shared interest.
2. The Dean's office has an ongoing commitment to the College's [Inclusive Excellence plan](#). This portfolio is now under the purview of Associate Dean Marshall Shepherd. One of the areas that we will be spending time on this year is strengthening collaborations between the Franklin College and HBCUs and minority serving institutions.
3. I want to thank faculty and leadership for your efforts in philanthropy and alumni engagement. We doubled our efforts, with more than 15 million dollars coming into Franklin College in fiscal year 2024.
4. In AY24-25, the Dean's Office will continue to increase opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration, research, scholarship, and creative activity, including seed-fund programs. Please stay tuned for announcements.
5. We will continue efforts in enhancing academic innovation, including the development of new degree programs on the undergraduate and graduate level as well as online and professional master's programs. The Franklin College has a new Office of Academic Innovation, led by Sr. Associate Dean Paula Lemons. I encourage everyone to consider what academic innovation might look like for you and your programs and to reach out to Dr. Lemons.
6. We have a continued investment in operating judiciously in a highly resource constrained environment. The dean's office is continuing to assess practices and policies to enhance fiscal responsibility and resourcefulness.
7. We have a priority also this academic year on community building, organizing events to bring college faculty, staff, and students together. Please consider attending to get to know your Franklin friends.
8. We continue to encourage the nomination of our extraordinary faculty for external awards, prizes, and prestigious recognition. To that end, the College established a new standing committee last academic year, led by Associate Dean Marshall Shepherd and by the new Associate Dean for faculty affairs, Adam Goodie.
9. The University's [Strategic Enrollment Plan 2024-2028](#) outlines the path forward in the coming five years for how the University will guide enrollment into our academic programs. First year recruitment and undergraduate enrollment is expected to grow only 1% per year, compared to a higher rate in years past. Second, there is a priority in growing graduate enrollment, which bodes very well for Franklin and our emphasis in launching new online graduate programs and to continue to support on-campus graduate program development, including DoubleDawgs.
10. The Center for Teaching and Learning has a remarkable [set of resources](#) to aid in pedagogy and impactful instruction, which includes a checklist for expected [syllabus components](#). The CTL site also offers clarity on UGA and USG policies that are important for us all to be aware of.

Provost Hu, Vice President Pagnattaro, and Graduate Dean Walcott sent a [memo](#) via email on Aug. 5 with instruction updates. First, Instructors are highly encouraged to develop a course policy on the use of generative AI and communicate your expectations with students. Second, if a class cannot meet when professional matters require absence from campus, it is [UGA policy](#) that classes must be covered by a member of the faculty or by an approved teaching assistant. Third, employees engaging in political activities and/or associated political expression, must do so only in their personal capacity, and shall not speak on behalf of the USG or its institutions, or hold themselves out as representing the USG or its institutions, unless specifically authorized by the USG or the employee's institution, as applicable.

The policy of the Board of Regents is that the USG and its institutions shall foster an environment where all members of the USG community are free to share ideas and opinions, even those that some may find offensive. Ideas and opinions should be openly and freely debated and discussed, both inside and outside of the classroom, without fear of suppression or reprisal. We should promote intellectual debates, not close them off, and uphold the values of civility and mutual respect while doing so.

11. Last, I encourage you to all enjoy the Fall semester. Attend a talk, or a lecture. Show up to a colleague's or a student-organized event. Come to one of the College's events, including Homecoming on October 5. Go to a performance or an art show and enjoy the richness and the beauty of life on campus at UGA and in Franklin.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Asked by a faculty member at the end of Spring semester to interpret bylaws under the appointment of Department Heads. In Article 4, section one, and number three, the bylaw says: the search committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for presentation to the faculty of the department. After a period of appropriate review, the faculty will vote on the candidates and present to the Dean a list, and then it says in parentheses, ranked or unranked. The Executive Committee was asked to interpret the "ranked or unranked." The Executive Committee decided that the bylaw is worded in such a way that the faculty is the subject there, and thus the faculty has agency to send either a ranked or an unranked list of candidates to the Dean.

Academic Standards: The committee considered seven appeals. Four were approved and three denied.

Curriculum: The committee considered 13 new courses, 204 course changes, 28 bulletin changes, seven General Education proposals, and three Franklin College Multicultural Proposals.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: We will be meeting to discuss the proposal to establish a parliamentarian.

New Business:

Elections:

- Senate Committee Chairpersons for AY2024-25:
 - Curriculum Committee: Frans Weiser, Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies.
 - Planning & Evaluation Committee: Amy Ross, Geography

- The nominees were considered together and were confirmed with a unanimous vote
- Election of the Proposed Members of Senate Committees for AY 2024-2025
 - All proposed members were confirmed with a unanimous vote

Meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike White

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Genetics