

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026

The meeting was held in person at 3:40 PM at the Tate Center, Rm 141, Carmen Comeaux presiding.

Members Present: Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bousquette, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Megan Demarche, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Allison Howard, James Howard, Christian Klimczak, Dennis Kyle, Pablo Lapegna, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Andres Matlock, Amna Qayyum, Lindsey Reynolds, Daniel Rood, Inseok Song, Vincent Starai, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Demi Thomloundis, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Yang Yang

Proxies: David Saltz → Jeff Sherwood

Members not present: Jason Aryeh, Joshua Bynum, Fei Dou, Austin Heil, Richard Hubbard, John Ross, Amy Ross, Jennifer Stull, Michael White

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Aaron Meskin, Debbie Montgomery

Approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2026 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Carmen Comeaux's Remarks:

Carmen Comeaux began the meeting.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport thanked Franklin Senate leadership for their service in this year and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Faculty members were reminded that the annual faculty meeting would take place on Tuesday, April 28 at 3:00 PM, Room 171 MLC. Members were encouraged to attend and participate in discussions regarding faculty governance and highlights from the year the state of the college address. An additional reminder was provided regarding the faculty appreciation and recognition reception scheduled for Reading Day from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The event was intended to recognize faculty achievements, service, teaching excellence, and contributions made during the academic year. The dean mentioned a remarkable set of faculty members honored and recognized during the University of Georgia's honors week. Additional good news: Ed Pavlic, Professor of English and African American Studies, has been awarded a Guggenheim fellowship. The dean congratulated Ed Pavlic. Retired biochemistry and molecular biology professor emeritus Gerald Hart and cellular biology professor Karl Lechtreck have been elected as AAAS Fellows. The dean also took a moment to reflect on what makes University of Georgia so special by mentioning its commitment on experiential learning for all undergraduate students. There was a remarkable event on April 20 where the dean spent two hours viewing the CURO undergraduate research showcase and it was amazing. She mentioned that it was amazing because of the support from the faculty in guiding and mentoring the undergraduate students on their research journey. There were nearly 1000 students who participated in CURO this year and

over 500 students were from Franklin College. That include award winners for the best project paper from the School of Computing about a heat sensor. She thanked the faculty for their commitment to experiential learning. The dean also recognized two faculty members from the Franklin College who received the CURO mentoring award, Erin Dolan from Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Roberta Salmi from Anthropology. The dean reported that as of April 15, the rate of acceptance is up by 50% from last year. This wouldn't happen if there were not strong research activity and confidence that grants were there and were able to support students. This wouldn't happen without the support from the Franklin faculty members. Dean congratulated the faculty members and mentioned that dean's office will monitor those numbers carefully.

Dean Stenport discussed ADA compliance. Units and individuals with questions or specific needs are encouraged to contact Franklin OIT or the Digital Accessibility Services Hub, called DASH, which can help identify appropriate resources or guidance based on the situation. The college has met 82% compliance rate in terms of uploading syllabi and instructor CVs per University System of Georgia's policy. The office of instruction will be rolling out a significantly revamped website for syllabi and cv upload planned for this coming July. Franklin College senators have requested to increase representation and perhaps make the process of comprehensive learner record approval more streamlined. That recommendation has been heard by the vice president of instruction and more information to come.

Dean Stenport closed her remark with congratulations and acknowledgement that the points and the feedback and the processes that senate faculty bring forward in the Faculty Senate.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Nothing to report.

Curriculum: 18 new courses were approved; 23 course changes 10 reviewed and 4 items will be on the agenda today to vote for.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for a Certificate in Sports Humanities – Dr. Aaron Meskin, Philosophy, 34 Approved, none opposed and None Abstention
- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Visual Communications – Debbie Montgomery, Lamar Dodd School of Art, 34 approved, none opposed and none Abstention
- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Textiles – Debbie Montgomery, Lamar Dodd School of Art, 34 approved, none opposed and none Abstention.

- Proposal for Academic Program Name Change – Fabric Design to Textiles – Joe Peragine, Lamar Dodd School of Art, 34 approved, none opposed and none Abstention.
- Proposal to modify Franklin Senate committee selection process – Andrea Sweigart, Chair, FCAS Senate Executive Committee: It was discussed but no voting.
- Vote on Senate Officers: Approve 33, no oppose and abstention
- Statement on Syllabus Policy – Joe Fu, Mathematics: Approve: 21
Abstention: 4 Oppose: No

There was a discussion on compliance 88 policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Monsur Chowdhury
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Statistics