

Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2026

The meeting was held virtually on Zoom starting at 3:40 PM, Amy Ross presiding.

Members Present: Jason Aryeh, Paul Babinski, Yuri Balashov, Casey Bergman, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Paula De Santo, Fei Dou, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Jay Ivey, Christian Klimczak, S. Prashant Kumar, Pablo Lapeгна, Andres Matlock, Isaac Ocloo, Lindsey Reynolds, John Rose, Amy Ross, Vincent Starai, Wayne Suggs, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Lisa Townsley, Frans Weiser, Yang Yang

Proxies: Susan Tanner for Bram Tucker

Members not present: Megan DeMarche, Dennis Kyle, Daniel Rood, David Saltz, Inseok Song, Demi Thomlouis

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Derrick Lemons, Jim Lauderdale, Neil Lyall, April Hewell

Approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Amy Ross' Remarks:

Amy Ross took over as the new president for AY2026-2027. She announced all Senators were invited to a lunch and conversation about a vision for the Franklin Senate on Aug 28th at noon. She also dedicated the meeting to the memory of Pete Brosius, Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology and former Franklin Senator.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport began by thanking the outgoing and incoming Senate leadership for their service. She introduced Dan Bara as Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Adam Barb as Associate Dean for Physical and Mathematical Sciences. The dean reported that enrollment and credit hours appeared slightly down from the previous year, as of the first week of class, although the numbers are still fluid. She spoke briefly about the uncertainty affecting international graduate students due to new regulations for students holding F and J visas to declare their program by Sept 15th and reduce their approved duration of stay. She directed students, staff and faculty to the Office of Global Engagement for questions and concerns. Likewise, the university is complying with new program-of-study requirements for federal financial aid, and the Dean's office will be holding information sessions for undergraduate coordinators and directors of graduate studies on preparing for these changes. UGA and the college are also working on preparing for the implementation of the new general core curriculum. Dean Stenport then turned the discussion to private philanthropy and was pleased to report that Franklin has been on a steep upward trajectory in donation totals, with \$32 million last fiscal year compared with a rolling average of about \$7.5 million three years earlier. From these sources, the college is able to support professional development, research, creative work,

and scholarship. Therefore, she invited applications for the Rapid Interdisciplinary Proposal and Research Intensification System, opening Sept 1st and closing Oct 1st. The overall research environment is evolving, and faculty were encouraged to stay abreast of developments, particularly through REST and the UGA faculty research listserv (UGARESEARCHFAC@listserv.uga.edu). Research expenditures are slightly down but have been relatively stable. Several events were announced, including an Open House for Franklin CREATE! on Sept 2nd, 11-1pm at 324 Boyd, a Cookies and Conversation in the same location on Sept 10th, events for new faculty on Sept 17th and for newly-promoted faculty on Sept 30th, and a special public talk by science communicator Alie Ward on Sept 8th at 3pm in Special Collections. Finally, the dean spoke briefly about compliance, reminding faculty about syllabus submission, UGA's Freedom of Expression Policy, and university policy on serving alcohol at events.

Committee Reports: (delivered by incoming chairs)

Executive: Andres Matlock re-emphasized that conversations about the role of faculty governance will be continuing.

Academic Standards: Christian Klimczak stated that the committee has been working to redesign the website to make the applications and appeals more coherent.

Curriculum: Vincent Starai (filling in for Bram Tucker) stated that the committee approved 12 new courses, 23 course changes, 1 area of emphasis, 1 minor, and a unit name change. Ross added that the unequal workload of the curriculum committee compared to others would be part of ongoing discussions.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Faculty Senate offices and committees

The Senate approved multiple motions to approve those nominated to serve in various Senate offices and committees.

- A motion was made to approve the proposed Senate committee chairpersons (Matlock, Klimczak, Tucker, John Rose, and Allison Howard). The motion passed 24 to 0 with no abstentions.
- A motion was made to approve the proposed Senate committee members. The motion passed 30 to 0 with no abstentions.
- A possible motion to approve Ross and Pablo Lapegna as President and President-elect was discussed, but ultimately was determined not to be needed since they were elected previously.
- A motion was made to approve Timothy Bolger as Secretary. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Ross and Lapegna discussed the imbalance in committee workload and the process of committee appointments. As a first step, Ross asked each of the committees to convene a meeting to discuss the role of that committee and the Senate bylaws pertaining to it.

Academic Program/Curriculum Proposals

- A proposal for a Minor in Christian Studies was presented by Derrick Lemons in the Religion department. The motion passed 34-0 with no abstentions.
- A proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Anatomy and Physiology was presented by Jim Lauderdale in Cellular Biology. The motion passed 31-0 with no abstentions.

- A proposal for a unit name change from the Department of Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies to the Department of World Languages and Literatures was made by Frans Weiser of that department. This proposal generated significant discussion. The department feels that the current name is not accurate in that it houses several programs in African and Asian languages and the new name would better align with similar departments at other institutions. Concern was expressed by several Senators that the new name was overly broad and could lead to confusion with the other language departments (Germanic & Slavic Studies and Romance Languages). Several suggestions for other potential names were voiced. Concern that these other departments may be folded into one language department in the future was also expressed, although it was stated that the college supports the three departments in their current form. The motion for the name change was passed with 27 in favor, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
- Austin Heil of Marine Sciences brought a point for discussion about combining CRNs for course evaluations. In some programs, one class may be taught with multiple CRNs, and currently these are not combined for evaluations. For small classes, this can be a problem due to the requirement for at least 6 responses before evaluations are made available. Other senators also agreed with this concern. Associate Dean Goodie suggested that this is likely to be a university-level problem and potential solution. Senior Associate Dean Lyall added that the Office of Instruction and Registrar have been made of aware of this problem, and Dean Stenport has heard similar comments from student representatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Bolger

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology