

Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

Members Present: Jason Aryeh, Yuri Balashov, Casey Bergman, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Paula De Santo, Megan DeMarche, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Jay Ivey, Christian Klimczak, Pablo Lapegna, Andres Matlock, Daniel Rood, Amy Ross, Inseok Song, Vincent Starai, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Demi Thomloundis, Lisa Townsley, Frans Weiser

Proxies: Ingie Hovland for Paul Babinski, Jeff Sherwood for David Saltz, Richard Hubbard for Wayne Suggs, Susan Tanner for Bram Tucker

Members not present: Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Fei Dou, S. Prashant Kumar, Dennis Kyle, Isaac Ocloo, Lindsey Reynolds, John Rose, Yang Yang

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Neil Lyall, April Hewell, Marguerite Madden, Kris Petti

Approval of the minutes of the August 18, 2026 meeting: The minutes were approved without corrections by unanimous consent.

President Amy Ross' Remarks:

President Ross began by commenting favorably on the Faculty Senate vision lunch. About onethird of senators either attended (9) or wrote in with comments expressing their goals for the Senate in the next few years. The Senate bylaws were read, and the composition and purview of the committees were also discussed. Ross requested that all senators read the Senate bylaws, especially the committee sections, by the next meeting. All senators should also remind their departments that the Faculty Senate is open to address any faculty concerns that involve more than one department. They should solicit input from their faculty on issues that should be brought before the Senate this year. Ross noted that the bylaws state that committees are supposed to meet during the first Senate meeting of the year and receive their charge from the Executive committee. As this was not done in August, replacement breakout meetings will take place at the October in-person meeting.

Dean Anna Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport began by thanking the Faculty Senate for their service. Enrollment numbers for the college are not yet fully confirmed since the official census is not until Oct 31st, so the dean expects to report on the numbers at the following meeting. The college's internal professional development and research funding programs, the RIP, RIS, and I-Cubed, are actively seeking proposals with a deadline of Oct 1st. The college would like a robust number of applications, which would also aid in future fundraising. Faculty, departments, and student groups are also encouraged to apply for funding from the Parent Leadership Council (deadline of Oct 1). These proposals, even if not funded, help educate students' parents about the range of activities going on in the college. The dean announced that the Franklin Residential College has a new director, Dr. Magdy Alabady. He is seeking faculty to advise and mentor student groups working on interdisciplinary projects in the FRC. Dean Stenport complimented the breadth and quality of the opportunities in the StudyAway programs she witnessed in the recent Study Away Fair. She also

noted several upcoming events, including performances and exhibitions in the arts at the School of Music, Athenaeum, and the School of Art, among others. Franklin Create! is hosting a “start-up social” on Sept 24th (4-7pm) in Sanford Stadium for students interested in entrepreneurship. On Oct 7th at 2pm in the Special Collections Library, the journalist McKay Coppins will also be giving a special seminar on the “Casinofication of America.” The dean thanked the Senate for the opportunity to present her remarks.

Committee Reports: (delivered by committee chairs)

Executive: The executive committee will serve as a clearinghouse for ideas and discussions stemming from the vision lunch and concerning the Senate bylaws. They are also looking for a new member of the committee.

Academic Standards: The committee met and discussed the bylaws for the committee as well as the structure of petitions to the committee. Over the summer, 12 petitions were approved, 2 denied. In the last month, there were 3 petitions, and all were approved.

Curriculum: Since the last meeting, the committee approved 4 new courses, changes to 28 courses, and a new BS in geospatial data science (up for a vote to the full Senate).

Faculty Affairs: nothing to report

Planning and Evaluation: The committee met to review the bylaws and charge for the committee.

New Business:

Proposal for new undergraduate degree in Geospatial Data Science

Marguerite Madden in the Dept. of Geography made the presentation. There was some discussion about making sure that students are aware of potential prerequisites and about the math requirement. Madden suggested they would be happy to work with the relevant departments on these potential issues.

- The motion to approve was passed 28-0 with no abstentions.

Proposal for appointing a Senate Parliamentarian

Amy Ross proposed an official position of Senate Parliamentarian to enforce Robert’s Rules of Order during Senate meetings. During discussion, she suggested that the parliamentarian would be helpful for the smooth operation of the Senate, particularly since the meetings are most often on Zoom. Robert’s Rules help track motions that can be traced later, while allowing everyone to have their say. A parliamentarian could also advise on when two-thirds versus a simple majority are needed for motions. The parliamentarian would be appointed by the executive committee following a call for volunteers.

- The motion was passed 29-0 with 2 abstentions.

Old Business:

Update on Combining CRNs for End-of-Course Evaluations

Ross suggested that this issue be directed to the Executive committee, who would then decide whether Academic Standards or Faculty Affairs should take the lead on it. Andres Matlock agreed for the Executive committee.

Update on Uploading Syllabi/CVs

Ross heard from the Vice President for Instruction, Marissa Pagnattaro, that the upload website has been updated. Senators should ask their departments for comments on the updated process. The VP has invited the Senate to meet with her to discuss any concerns, and the executive committee will consider doing so if any remain.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Bolger

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology