

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:41 on Zoom, Benjamin Britton presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Adam Barb, Holly Bik, Kelly Black, Benjamin Britton, Joel Caughran, Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Fae Dou, Rebecca Gose, Dan Hall, Peter Hoffer, Steve Holland, Allison Howard, Richard Hubbard, Christin Huggins, Joe Kellner, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Ro Martini Paula, Emily Mouilso, Chris Peterson, Laurie Reitsema, Amy Ross, Bernd Schuttler, Matthew Shipes, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Sarah Wright

Proxies: none

Members not present: Toyin Alli, Mark Anderson, Le Guan, DeLoris Hesse, Imi Hwangbo, Vasant Muralidharan, Richard Neupert, Alexandra Shapiro, Anne Summers, Justine Tinkler, Hang Yin

Guests: William Graham, Christina Hanawalt, Johana Royo

Approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting: The minutes were approved without corrections unanimously by voice vote.

President Benjamin Britton's Remarks:

Thank you to Matt Shipes serving as Secretary. We are currently searching for a new secretary for next year. Please reach out to Matt with any questions about the position.

We are also currently looking for nominees for a new President Elect, as well as committee chairs recommended by the Executive Committee for the following academic year. Thank you in advance to everyone serving as chairs. These positions are incredibly helpful to the continuity of faculty self-governance at Franklin College.

Anyone who is interested in self-nominating may email Christine Albright.

Senate operation reminders:

- Any new proposed agenda items may be sent to Executive Committee Chair Christine Albright
- Items not on the agenda may be added by 2/3 majority Senator vote, and will be added to next meeting's agenda by the Executive Committee
- Committees will forward items to the executive committee when ready to be added to the next agenda

Procedure for discussion –

- Raise hand to be added to the queue
- Visitors will be recognized after there are no Senators waiting to speak,

- People looking to speak a second time will be recognized when there are no new voices waiting to speak – answering a question/making a motion do not count
- Voting begins after discussion ends – only Senators may vote.

Meetings will always end at 5:00 PM at the latest. Thanks to Sherry Gray for everything she does to make these meetings happen.

Dean Anna Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport begins by thanking all the senators, the Executive Committee and those in leadership roles for the service they provide.

The Dean's office has been working on advancing several strategic areas:

The first area is to continue to support the college in inclusive excellence. We have inclusive excellence advocacy awards sponsored by the college. The deadline is very soon, April 5 (faculty) and April 26 (staff), to nominate or self-nominate. Please contact the Dean's office for more information.

The second point is to enhance the number of external recognition awards, fellowships, and prizes. The College has created a committee to help and support the work in this area. Contact points for that work are Jamie Kreiner, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, and Marshall Shepherd, Associate Dean for Research.

The Dean's Advisory Council is a new advisory body that has met twice and is working on two priorities for this year: support for/engagement with multidisciplinary collaboration across research, education, and public engagement, and the second is advancements in graduate education. Janet Frick, Associate Professor in Psychology, is the chair of that council.

We have received a large number of applications for seed grants that are RIP grants – Rapid Interdisciplinary. There were 13 RIP project proposals, as well as 3 I-Cubed submissions (Innovation and Interdisciplinary Instruction). The College hopes to fund as many of those proposals as possible. Dean Stenport goes on to recognize the Presidential Seed Grant award winners who were Franklin College PIs – including Youjin Kong, Assistant Professor in Philosophy, Roberto Perdisci, Professor in the School of Computing, and Marshall Shepherd. The college is awarding seed grant funding to six additional projects that were not selected for the presidential initiative, but were highly ranked. These were led by Genchen Mai, Assistant Professor in Geography, Yiping Zhao, Professor in Physics and Astronomy, Adam Greer, Assistant Professor in Marine Sciences, Jin Sun, Assistant Professor in the School of Computing, Vladislav Klepov, Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Tina Salguero, Associate Professor in Chemistry.

The College will have contributed approximately \$100,000 in FY 24 for multidisciplinary projects, and a significant amount of that funding is coming from philanthropy. Thank you to those faculty who are involved with supporting this fundraising, and working with alumni, department heads, and undergraduate and graduate coordinators to solidify giving back to the

college. Also thank you to faculty who are considering ways in which their projects can be of interest to donors and coordinating with our development officers to story tell and share more about the great work our faculty and graduate students are doing. We want to find ways to fund as much of this work as is possible.

We have some exciting developments in academic innovation. A faculty committee is working on developing an online masters degree in data science and bioinformatics. This is an opportunity for us to serve the needs of the State. We know there are many professionals who would like to pursue a degree from the Franklin College online while working full-time.

There is a College all-faculty meeting April 30th, and faculty have already received a calendar invitation. This meeting is meant to be a way to reflect on the past academic year, discuss opportunities and priorities for the future, and perhaps most importantly recognize the achievements of our colleagues. This meeting will be paired with an end-of-year reception and will recognize all faculty who have received and earned internal and external awards.

Dean Stenport concludes by sharing several upcoming events and guest speakers hosted by different departments in the College, and wishing everyone a good rest of the semester.

Committee Reports

- Executive: Nothing to report.
- Academic Standards: Heard five appeals, three denied and two were approved.
- Curriculum: 80 new courses were reviewed and approved, 106 course changes, 2 multicultural proposals: WMST 2300 and WMST 3100, 1 Area of Emphasis proposal in Mathematics, 1 new online major proposal in Art, 1 termination of a major in Music (on today's agenda), 1 environmental awareness proposal: PBIO 3650-3650L. The committee also reminded everyone about the new requirements to update course offerings in the new PARC system to share with each department.
- Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.
- Planning and Evaluation: the committee has two items to report:
 - First Item – issues regarding faculty working with Franklin Business service office. The committee met with Dean Jamie Kreiner and Dean Stenport January 25 and Senior Director of Finance and Administration of Franklin Dean's Office, Stephanie Rosso to have a dialogue about ways to improve how faculty can work with the business office. They came up with a list of observations and recommendations that will be sent to the Dean's Office. Some of these recommendations are:
 - As department heads meet regularly with division managers in the business office, senators can encourage colleagues to help find ways to maximize the effectiveness of these meetings. Also, faculty members are welcome to join these meetings.
 - The FBSO can provide regular training to incoming faculty cohorts, and special training sections for faculty groups that have common needs. This will help build community and a relationship with the business office.

- The College can implement a system to provide feedback to the business office regularly and communicate updates and improvement to the system.
 - Senators and department heads should communicate with faculty in their department. If an issue isn't being raised or addressed, then faculty should email up the chain of command to the appropriate business office supervisor and to Stephanie Rosso, the Senior Director for Finance and Administration. They are also welcome to include Associate Dean Jamie Kreiner with these emails.
- Second item – We are working on establishing guidelines and a narrative to add to the Senate's bylaws concerning the Parliamentarian role.

New Business:

Proposal for an Online Program: Master's in Art Education: Christina Hanawalt and Mira Kallio-Tavin, Lamar Dodd School of Art

This proposal is for transitioning this degree from an in-person to an online version, and eventually removing the in-person program. This program is intended for teachers who are full-time professionals, and it is much more accommodating for them to work online. The in-person program also has had a low enrollment for a number of years. In Georgia, programs must be approved for teachers to receive a salary increase from completing their professional degrees. There are currently only 6 approved nationwide, and just 2 in the state.

The proposal passes unanimously by voice vote.

Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Mathematics and Data Science: Bill Graham, Department Head, Mathematics

There is a lot of interest in data science lately and a lot of math that interacts with it. The Math department proposes to offer an area of emphasis which incorporates courses in statistics, increases number of hours from standard major tracks. There is a lot of demand for this kind of program, and a lot of interactions between math and various aspects of data science.

The proposal passes unanimously by voice vote.

Proposal for Termination of the Master's of Education in Music Education: Johanna Royo, Hugh Hodgson School of Music

This degree has been dormant since 2000. The Master of Music Education is currently an online program with robust enrollment. We have decided that the best course of action is to terminate the degree.

The proposal passes unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Shipes

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for the Hugh Hodgson School of Music