

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026

The meeting was held via zoom at 3:40 PM, Carmen Comeaux presiding.

Members Present: Jason Aryeh, Yuri Balashov, Timothy Bolger, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Megan Demarche, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Christian Klimczak, Pablo Lapegna, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Andres Matlock, Amna Qayyum, John Ross, Amy Ross, Inseok Song, Vincent Starai, Jennifer Stull, Sachiko Terui, Demi Thomlouis, Lisa Townsley, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Yang Yang

Proxies: None

Members not present: Sara Blankenship, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Heide Crawford, Fei Dou, Drew Etheridge, Richard Habbard, Dennis Kyle, Lindsey Reynolds, Daniel Rood, David Saltz, Andrea Sweigart, Bram Tucker

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Mario Erasmo, Frederick Maier

Approval of the minutes of the February 17, 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 the Franklin College Senate and its member for their service and contributions to shared governance, and acknowledged Honors Week and end-of-year activities upcoming. Following up from previous discussion, Dean Stenport confirmed that a memo last week to heads and directors addressed questions related to the requirement to upload course syllabi and CVs, and was shared with Senate leadership. Dean Stenport addressed UGA's efforts to ensure institutional competency activities, in which Franklin College, its units and faculty, play key roles. Faculty are encouraged to ensure that courses contributing to institutional competencies are properly recognized by UGA, benefiting students. The college and OVPI are also working to ensure that implementation aligns with principles of shared governance and fair representation, and minimizes administrative burden on faculty.

Academic advising is undergoing restructuring in the Office of Student Academic Services under the leadership of Senior Director Angela Bowlus, expected to take effect in Fall 2027. Professional advisors will be organized by division. This structure is expected to improve advising efficiency, strengthen collaboration with departments and undergraduate directors, and enhance student support, notably for those pursuing double majors, minors, or certificates. There will also be increased support for first-year students. These changes are expected to improve student retention and support timely progression through degree programs.

Dean Stenport also highlighted several upcoming events, which faculty are encouraged to participate in:

- The **Spring Celebration of Humanities** is currently underway, featuring talks, presentations, and engagement activities.
- On **March 23**, the college will co-sponsor *Healthcare 5.0: Driving Precision Health and Education through Immersive Technology and Artificial Intelligence*, a daylong conference organized by the College of Pharmacy.
- Also on March 23, the Department of Statistics will host the **Bradley Lecture**, featuring Dr. Lars Peter Hansen, Nobel Memorial Prize recipient in Economics.
- The **Dawg Day of Giving** will take place on **March 26**, a university-wide philanthropic initiative.
- A major conference on the **future of graduate education** will be held on March 26, including a keynote address at 3:00 PM in the Chapel by a former president of the Council of Graduate Schools.
- On **March 27**, Julia R. Posselt (University of Southern California) will deliver a lecture titled *“From Gatekeepers to Waymakers: Reimagining Graduate Education.”*

Dean Stenport encouraged participation in these events and expressed her enthusiasm for the college’s engagement.

She concluded by thanking the Senate for the opportunity to provide remarks.

At the end of the session, Carmen Comeaux invited Dean Stenport to participate in the trivia competition at the Humanities Fest on the evening of March 19.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered 2 appeals, both were approved.

Curriculum: Reviewed 17 new courses were approved; 10 reviewed and 7 of those course changes were approved. They also approved a Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Forestry and an Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Humanities which we will vote on today in our major business. They also approved five different requirements for courses that requested changes to meet Franklin requirements for the literature or fine arts, philosophy, and religion requirements. They also approved two courses to meet university requirements for the new cultural diversity requirements.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for a Certificate in Applied Humanities – Dr. Mario Erasmo, 18 Approved, none opposed and None Abstention
- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Forestry – Dr. Fred Meyer, 21 approved, none opposed and none Abstention
- Resolution on institutional competencies – Dr. Jonathan Haddad, 19 approved, none opposed and none Abstention.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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