

**Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Miller Learning Center, room 150**

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 PM, Benjamin Britton presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Mark Anderson, Adam Barb, Holly Bik, Kelly Black, Benjamin Britton, Joel Caughran, Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Carmen Comeaux, Le Guan, Dan Hall, Peter Hoffer, Allison Howard, Christin Huggins, Joe Kellner, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Ro Martini Paula, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Richard Neupert, Chris Peterson, Laurie Reitsema, Amy Ross, Alexandra Shapiro, Matthew Shipes, Jennifer Stull, Justine Tinkler, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Hang Yin

Proxies: Wei Niu for Fae Dou, Courtney McDaniel for DeLoris Hesse, Charlotte Garing for Steve Holland, Tim Hoover for Anne Summers

Members not present: Toyin Alli, Maduranga Dassanayake, Rebecca Gose, Richard Hubbard, Imi Hwangbo, Bernd Schuttler, Andrea Sweigart, Sarah Wright

Guests: Pete Brosius, William Pridemore

Approval of the minutes of the September 19, 2023 meeting: The minutes were approved without corrections unanimously by voice-vote.

President Benjamin Britton's Remarks:

Professor Britton reviewed meeting protocol and processes for adding new agenda items: any new agenda items for upcoming meetings can be sent to executive committee chair, Christine Albright, and items not on the announced agenda can be added with a 2/3 majority vote of Senators attending the meeting. Agenda items may be added to future meetings with a majority vote, and agenda items are typically forwarded from other committees to the executive committee once they are ready.

For discussion topics, all Senators/proxies have the opportunity to speak first, followed by visitors. These same members may speak or comment a second time after others waiting to speak are given a chance.

Dean Anna Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport thanked the senate leadership and all senators for their service.

There have been new administrative appointments in the Dean's Office effective November 1:

- Dr. Jamie Kreiner has been appointed as Senior Associate Dean and will assume the role as Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs. Thank you to Dr. Thomas Mote for his service as Associate Dean.

- Dr. Neil Lyall will fill vacancy created by Dr. Thomas Mote – Liaison to Heads of Units in Mathematical and Physical Sciences.
- Dr. Marshall Shepherd will be appointed Associate Dean for Research Scholarship and Partnership dealing especially with Inter/Multi/Trans-Disciplinary Collaboration. This is a new position for the college, funded partially with support from Provost's Office.

The nomination deadline for the Dean's Advisory Committee was Friday, October 20, and will start meeting in January.

Dean Stenport has continued a 'Listening and Learning' tour through the College, and will visit each department by the end of the semester. In addition to sharing her observations and areas of focus for the college, Dean Stenport asks that each department prepares a list of their priorities for the year.

In addition, Dean Stenport is continuing to meet with alumni and friends of the college in various settings. Most recently in Charlotte NC, future meetings in Athens, Macon, and then in Savannah.

Based on recent meetings with Franklin College's career academic advisors, led by Diane Miller, current students have expressed an interest in a more dedicated approach to career education as part of their experience in the college. This includes opportunities for internships as well as engagement with alumni about professional opportunities. Based on a recent meeting with department heads/institute directors, there are several courses currently offered in the college that can be integrated into the curriculum as electives or in other ways to encourage career aspiration as a part of a disciplinary training. The idea of pursuing this in a systematic manner was received enthusiastically by many department heads. In addition, faculty members have the opportunity to partner with the career services center to learn about the services they offer.

The Franklin College Board of Advisors met in mid-October, and is a volunteer board of alumni, donors, and friends of the college. In this meeting, research and education in the departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Geography was featured. This meeting focused on strengthening support for research and scholarship by Franklin faculty and educating board members on the critical role that graduate and especially doctoral/terminal advanced degree students play in the college's educational, research, and scholarly activity.

The University has stated a priority of supporting increased recognition of our faculty for distinctions like external awards, prizes, fellowships, residencies, etc. The Dean's office invited Allan Aycock and the Office of Institutional Research to present to department heads and institute directors to improve methods of identifying applicable awards, and ways to encourage and support faculty nominations for awards.

Committee Reports

- Executive: The committee had nothing to report.
- Academic Standards: The committee had nothing to report.
- Curriculum: The committee approved 21 new courses, 36 course changes, and 1 bulletin change in Genetics
- Faculty Affairs: The committee had nothing to report.
- Planning and Evaluation: The committee had nothing to report.

New Business:

Election of Senate President-elect: Candidate: Sandy Martin, Senator, Department of Religion

Dr. Martin was approved as President-elect by a unanimous voice vote.

Motion on Franklin College Business Services: Pete Brosius, Professor, Department of Anthropology

The motion requests that the Franklin College Faculty Senate create an ad hoc committee to “systematically document faculty experiences and concerns with FBSO, identify consistent patterns shared by different faculty, review FCBO procedures, and identify concrete steps to address issues of concern for faculty.”

Dr. Brosius describes the challenges faced with losing dedicated departmental office managers, and identifies the sense of frustration that many faculty are reportedly sharing about this issue. It is important to mention that none of these challenges are due to staff members in the FCBO, in fact they are often the ones helping to solve problems faculty are facing.

Several motions were made during discussion, including a motion to amend the proposal presented, adding more specific language.

Ultimately, a motion was made to refer the proposal to the Planning and Evaluation Committee to take more time to fully consider this proposal and find the best way to move forward. This motion passes with a vote of 33 yes, 0 no, with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Shipes

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