

Franklin College Faculty Senate: Motion on Franklin College Business Services

Three years ago, Franklin College centralized in the Franklin College Business Services Office (FBSO) many responsibilities previously held by department-based office managers and accountants. This had significant consequences for faculty responsibilities as well as the operation of academic units they are affiliated with. Faculty have been diverted from their teaching and research responsibilities by the increased administrative financial burden exacerbated by the challenges of interacting with a financial system dependent on management procedures that require dedicated daily use by trained experts in order to be used successfully. More than this, numerous faculty report incidences of vendors not being paid, lost research funds, delayed reimbursements, and a general frustration from interacting with numerous FBSO personnel that often provide conflicting answers through multiple email threads and tickets. Anecdotal evidence suggests that these concerns are widespread among Franklin College faculty, but little effort has been directed at addressing their frustrations because, as faculty and departments, we are fragmented. We recognize that FBSO staff have their own frustrations with faculty not trained in financial management procedures and devote an inordinate amount of time sorting out messes. In short, there appears to be a consistent pattern here, but the anecdotal nature of individual faculty concerns has prevented a systematic appraisal of business processes or a search for possible solutions.

To move from anecdote to analysis and identify solutions, faculty in the Department of Anthropology request that the Franklin College Faculty Senate constitute 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.