

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Thursday, September 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM via Zoom, Cindy Hahamovitch presiding.

Members Present: Toyin Alli, Michael Bachmann, Benjamin Britton, Clifton Buck, Liming Cai, Joel Caughran, Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Carmen Comeaux, Brian Condie, Gauri Datta, Inge DiBella, Le Guan, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Imi Hwangbo, Caner Kazanci, Joe Kellner, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Nancee Reeves, Laurie Reitsema, Amy Ross, Bala Sarasvati, Matthew Shipes, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Anne Summers, Cynthia Suveg, Alberto Villate-Isaza, Frans Weiser, Hang Yin

Proxies: Fikri Avci for Adam Barb, Sharina Maillo-Pozo for Timothy Gupton, Rumya Putchha for Emily Koh

Members not present: Maduranga Dassanyake and Vince Du

Approval of the minutes of the August 25, 2021 Special Session and April 20, 2021 meeting: Minutes from both meetings were unanimously approved as distributed.

New Business:

- DeLoris Hesse called for a motion to amend the current agenda to include a vote to discuss and ratify *A Call for Increased Local Control of Campus Health and Safety Measures*, a resolution written by Dr. Karie Davis-Nozemack, President of the Georgia Institute of Technology's Faculty Senate, and distributed throughout all institutions of the USG. *Motion passed 40 affirmative, 1 negative, 0 abstain.*
- DeLoris Hesse moved to vote on a slate of candidates that included officers of the Senate as well as Committee members and Chairs. *Motion passed unanimously.*

President Cindy Hahamovitch's Remarks

- Cindy Hahamovitch thanked all previous officers of the Senate, and Chairs of the Senate committees for their service.
- Senate by-laws require that committees meet during our first scheduled Senate meeting. We cannot do breakout groups in a zoom webinar so you will be receiving an email from your chair, who will hold a zoom meeting in the near future, before the next scheduled Senate meeting.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks

- **Dean Dorsey welcomed both new members and returning members to the first regular meeting the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences faculty senate.** He encouraged everyone to review the Senate bylaws and, more specifically, the duties and responsibilities for the many committees of the Senate.
- **Earlier this summer I announced my intention to step down from the Deanship** and return to a faculty role as a tenured professor in the Franklin College effective at the end of June 2022. The Provost has initiated a process for a search for the next dean of the Franklin college and has already solicited nominations for search

committee members. I expect further information about search committee membership as well as the search process to be forthcoming soon.

- **Comments on Franklin Senate Resolution**

- The resurgence of the COVID pandemic driven by the Delta variant continues to pose a grave danger to the health and safety of Georgians, Athenians, and members of the UGA community. Over the past month I've heard from many of you have shared the concerns you have for yourselves for family members and for colleagues and students and I acknowledge and share many of those concerns. As I stated at the special session of the senate on August 25, the only way out of the pandemic is for widespread vaccination of the population and until that occurs continued preventive health and safety measures such as wearing a face covering indoors.
- Ideally, a sense of altruism would cause people to voluntarily participate in such measures. Lacking voluntary participation, requirements or mandates may be needed. Last year the University System of Georgia implemented a system-wide mask requirement, a welcome and much needed tool to combat the spread of the virus on our campus and on other campuses. I would like to see the Board of Regents implement the same successful requirement now as an immediate emergency measure to safeguard our community.
- Current USG policies do not require either vaccinations or masking, and UGA is bound by these constraints. At our last meeting many of you expressed the opinion that the Franklin College should implement its own vaccination and masking requirements. As Dean, I do not have the authority to implement distinct practices or policies for the College, that would contradict the University's policies and set the Franklin College apart from the other Schools and Colleges of the University. I will continue to do whatever I can on behalf of the students, the faculty, and the staff of the College.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive Committee:** No new business reported
- **Academic Standards:** (Chris Peterson) The committee considered eight appeals, seven were approved and one was denied.
- **Curriculum Committee:** Steve Holland thanked the committee for their hard work, and especially April Brown in the Dean's office. Since the April meeting, the committee has approved:
 - 12 new courses
 - 54 course changes
 - 1 Area of Emphasis in mathematics that we will vote on today
 - 1 General Education requirement (MUSCI 2600)
 - 1 Undergraduate Certificate in Computer Science
 - 3 Experiential Learning proposals
 - 6 Bulletin changes and
 - 7 Multicultural Course proposals
- **Faculty Affairs:** No new business reported
- **Planning and Evaluation:** No new business reported

New Business:

1. **Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Financial Mathematics – Michael Usher, Department of Mathematics.** *A motion to approve this proposal passed with 38 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.*

- Michael Usher (visitor): Financial mathematics is an area of applied math that is attractive from a career standpoint for our majors and allows majors to take finance courses that are not open to non-Terry students.
 - Will you require an ethics course? (No) Are there career opportunities (Yes, many as well as student interest)
- 2. Proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate Program in Cybersecurity and Privacy – Thiab Taha, Roberto Perdisci, and Kyu Lee, Department of Computer Science.** *A motion to approve this proposal passed with 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.*
- Roberto Perdisci (visitor): This certificate would be useful primarily for undergraduate students in Computer Science, as well as some students in Mathematical Sciences and Engineering, who aim to become experts in the growing field of Computer Security and Privacy.
- 3. Discussion and vote of a resolution regarding the University System of Georgia's policy not to mandate vaccines or wearing masks in public buildings on USG campuses and to ban faculty from requiring masks in classrooms and labs this Fall 2021.** *A motion to approve this resolution passed with 40 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions.*
- Support of the resolution as written:
 - Benjamin Britton (Art): We have the right to think, the right to speak, the right to act in the service of the common good and for the well-being of all individuals in our university community and beyond. These are the positive roles of the Faculty and we've been hired to perform them in the service of all our professional capacities as trusted stewards of the university's mission. To undermine the positive roles of the Faculty would be a great mistake for the university to make.
 - Inge Dibella (Germanic and Slavic Studies): The Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies supports this resolution.
 - Bala Sarasvati (Theater and Film): The Department of Theater and Film Studies reports strong faculty support of the entire resolution.
 - Sidney Kushner (Genetics): I support the resolution irrespective of whether we have the authority to institute a mask mandate.
 - Amy Ross (Geography): I support the resolution completely. I think we should call on those in authority (Dean Dorsey and President Morehead) to support us.
 - Item 9 It is therefore RESOLVED that the faculty senate urge the USG and UGA leadership to reopen public COVID-19 testing facilities similar to the previous facility at Legion Field, given current shortages of test kits and appointments in Athens, GA.
 - Joel Caughran: We have testing facilities setup over at the health Center. This item is now moot.
 - Jordan Pickett (Classics) and Amy Ross (Geography): We need a representative from the medical oversight task force to visit the Senate, report on the testing, and address questions.
 - Item 11 It is therefore RESOLVED that if our administrators fail to act, we, the faculty of the Franklin College, assert that faculty would be acting ethically, responsibly, and in accordance with CDC guidelines by changing the modality of their delivery of instruction to protect the campus and wider communities.
 - Steven Holland (Geology): Dean Dorsey said what we don't have the authority to act independent of USG and UGA policies, and as much as I disagree with them, I feel like item number 11 ought to be removed.
 - Joel Caughran (Chemistry): We don't have the authority to endorse Faculty going against the USG mandate, we can't demand that our President and Dean contravene, and this item should be eliminated. I don't have an issue with an

individual faculty member deciding to mandate masks or require their students to have vaccinations before they come into the room, but that should be an individual faculty member's decision recognizing the repercussions that may come from this decision.

- Anne Summers (Microbiology): I think that the issue is not whether we have any kind of authority to make the changes as opposed to whether we have the intrinsic moral authority to make a statement about them and to make a recommendation about them. We do not give that up just because others have given that up, and so I think it's essential to our role as tenured faculty members to speak truth to power. That is the responsibility of tenure.
- Cindy Hahamovitch (History): I want to clarify how people are understanding this item. It says that if somebody chooses to teach in a hybrid manner, which we have been told not to do, or to teach online, that we believe that they're acting ethically and responsibly and in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Other comments:
 - Kendall Marchman (Religion): I have one faculty Member who's concerned that there's no acknowledgement of exemptions for health reasons or religious reasons which they would like displayed in the resolutions. *Motion to amend resolution to add exception for health or religious reasons passed unanimously.*
 - DeLoris Hesse (Cellular Biology): The Mary Frances Early College of Education senate has met and ratified our resolution. Motion to include the MFECOE on this resolution in the top line. *Motion to amend passed unanimously*
 - Joseph Fu (visitor): Just to open a point of information I have mandated masks in my classes, and as of today I have not been disciplined. Second point with regard to item 11. I would submit to those who object to it that I hope you will agree that, under certain circumstances, it is appropriate to defy authority. Any moral approach to governance and to the responsibilities of tenure in a major institution like ours should include this possibility.

4. A Call for Increased Local Control of Campus Health and Safety Measures. *A motion to approve an amended resolution passed unanimously.*

- Joe Kellner (History): Why doesn't it mention vaccines, when the vaccine mandates with required testing for those that oppose vaccine are clearly what we need.
- DeLoris Hesse (Cellular Biology): This was written to be very broad in hopes that all of the USG institutions would accept it as is without any edits.
- Cindy Hahamovitch (History): Motion to amend the resolution to include "rules related to mandatory vaccinations". *This motion passed unanimously.*

Old Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at (insert time). 4:32

Respectfully submitted,
DeLoris Hesse
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Cellular Biology