

At the March 20th, 2018 meeting of the Faculty Senate of the Franklin College the issue of the Baldwin Hall expansion and the discovery and reburial of human remains, most of whom were likely enslaved individuals with African ancestry, was discussed as an agenda item. This meeting included a presentation from representatives of the Department of Anthropology. An article appeared in the Athens Banner Herald about the meeting on March 21st. A UGA response was posted in the comments of the article, and then appeared as an Opinion Piece in Athens Banner Herald on March 22. The following clarifications are provided on behalf of the Franklin Faculty Senate:

- 1) The discussion among the Senators, Department of Anthropology representatives, and visitors at the meeting was professional and appropriate to the charge of the Franklin Faculty Senate. A wide range of facts, issues, and viewpoints were presented and discussed, and there was no effort by any group of Faculty in the Senate, Anthropology faculty, or guests at the meeting to do anything other than generate a discussion on the topic.
- 2) An ad hoc committee of Senators to examine the issues raised was proposed at the March 20th meeting. The Senate is now in the process of assessing a potential charge and duties for such an ad hoc committee, which was formally convened at an April 3 special session by a vote of 27-0-0. The Committee will take great care to conduct its activities in an unbiased, professional, and transparent manner. The Senate and the ad hoc committee have not made any formal decisions or opinions regarding the Baldwin Hall issue.

We also wish to state that the Faculty Senate of the Franklin College firmly supports the principle that faculty of all ranks at UGA have the right to express their opinions on matters of concern to their departments, their professional activities, and any other aspects of academic life and pursuits. We strongly oppose efforts to discourage, discredit, or dismiss the opinions of faculty at UGA when they are expressed in appropriate and professional forums.

April 3, 2018