

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in room 267 of the Miller Learning Center, Chad Howe presiding.

Members Present: Yohannes Abate, Mary Bedell, Thomas Biggs, Brian Binder, Peter Brosius, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Katie Chapman, Brian Condie, Doug Crowe, Elizabeth Davis, Jorge Escalante, Alison Farley, Lisa Fusillo, DeLoris Hesse, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Kristin Kundert, Gary Lautenschlager, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Megan Lutz, Alisa Luxenberg, Silvia Moreno, Emily Moulso, Joe Norman, Chris Peterson, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Cassia Roth, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Jiyeon So, Steve Soper, Nanette Spina, Michael Usher, Hang Yin, Qun Zhao.

Proxies: Vince Du (proxy for Suzanne Ellenberger), Steven Grossvogel (proxy for Betina Kaplan), Nick Heynen (proxy for Jennifer Rice).

Members not present: Ming-Jun Lai.

Guests: Prof. Ibigbolade Aderibigbe (African Studies), Prof. Celeste Condit (Communication Studies), Prof. Akinloye Ojo (African Studies), Lee Shearer (*Athens Banner-Herald*), Prof. Janet Westpheling (Genetics).

Approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting: Approved without corrections.

President Chad Howe's Remarks

- President Howe began by offering his thanks to administrative specialist Sherry Gray, outgoing Faculty Senate President Mary Bedell, and the many others who have helped him prepare to take over as the new Faculty Senate president.
- President Howe also encouraged Faculty Senators to interact with their department colleagues, to inform their colleagues about Faculty Senate events (for example, by forwarding meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes), and to invite them to attend Faculty Senate meetings so we can hear about issues of importance across the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.
- President Howe informed Senators that the average Faculty Senate meeting in the new academic year (2018-19) is likely to run one hour and fifteen minutes.
- Finally, President Howe announced that the first item of business at the next Faculty Senate meeting, on Sept. 18, 2018, will be to provide brief orientation information on each of the five Faculty Senate committees. Those interested in learning about the main duties and issues of the five committees may also consult the Faculty Senate by-laws.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks

- Dean Dorsey began by expressing his appreciation for the individuals he works closely with, including new Faculty Senate president, Chad Howe; Senior Associate Dean, Kecia Thomas; and administrative specialist, Sherry Gray.

- Dean Dorsey then drew attention to three indicators of what promises to be a great year ahead: the academic talents of our student body, our fundraising efforts, and the research awards won by our faculty. He also recommended that everyone watch UGA President Jere Morehead's brief "welcome back" video, which aired on Aug. 13, 2018.
- Dean Dorsey offered some statistical updates to demonstrate the progress made during the past year and the achievements of UGA's students, fundraisers, and faculty. He repeated the good news from April 2018, that total Franklin College credit hours went up in 2017, making it the third consecutive year of increases, which has helped increase the base budget by over one million dollars. He noted that part of the increase in credit hours was due to the success of online courses, in particular courses offered during the summer. Next, he reviewed the impressive record of this year's incoming group of undergraduate students. Once again, it is a large group – of 5,750 students – and it arrives with an impressive high school GPA (4.04) and average ATC (30) and SAT (1,365) scores; it is also a diverse group, with 31% self-identifying as a minority. He also reported on Franklin College's ongoing fundraising efforts, which resulted in 16.7 million dollars of gifts and pledges in fiscal year 2018. Franklin College is rapidly closing in on the goal it set in 2012, to raise 100 million dollars by the year 2020. UGA as a whole raised 242 million dollars in fiscal year 2018. Finally, he noted that Franklin College faculty research awards increased by 3% last year.
- Dean Dorsey reported some leadership transition news. Pamela Whitten left her position as UGA Provost to become the president of Kennesaw State University. Libby Morris is now UGA's Interim Provost. UGA President Jere Morehead has named a committee, co-chaired by Ben Ayers (College of Business) and Denise Spangler (College of Education), to conduct a national search for a permanent provost. It is expected that the new provost will be named in the Spring of 2019.
- Dean Dorsey also noted that UGA has adopted new accounting software – called OneSource, developed by PeopleSoft – to integrate UGA with the University System of Georgia. The launch of this new software occurred on July 1, 2018. He asked that faculty be patient and understanding as the transition to the new software unfolds.
- Dean Dorsey also provided an update on the Baldwin Hall expansion and burial remains issue. In May, an advisory task force chaired by Michelle Cook, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Strategic University Initiatives, began work on plans to create a memorial to honor the individuals whose remains were discovered in the course of renovations to expand Baldwin Hall. This morning, in a press release, the task force, with input from University of Georgia faculty, staff, students, and members of the Athens community, unveiled the architectural rendering of a new memorial which will be erected near Baldwin Hall. Dean Dorsey also reported that Vice President for Research David Lee will provide updates to Faculty Senate President Chad Howe on the research begun last year to learn more about the individuals whose remains were discovered.
- Dean Dorsey opened the floor to questions. A Faculty Senator asked how we might consult the updates provided by David Lee. It was agreed that Faculty Senate President Chad Howe can send updates from David Lee out to all Faculty Senators by email.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Standards Committee: Received 8 petitions, approved 2, denied 6.
- Curriculum Committee: Approved 48 new courses, approved 109 course changes, approved 8 Double Dawg proposals in various departments, and approved 2 graduate certificate proposals in African Studies and Communication Studies.

- Executive Committee: No new business reported.
- Committee on Faculty Affairs: No new business reported.
- Committee on Planning & Evaluation: No new business reported.

New Business:

- Nominations and Elections for 2018-19. Faculty Senate President Chad Howe presented a proposed list of new Faculty Senate officers, committee chairs, and committee members to the assembled Senators, who unanimously approved the whole slate of candidates. The new officers elected are: President-elect Jennifer Rice (Geography) and Secretary Megan Lutz (Statistics). A list of the five committee chairs and ten new committee members can be found at the UGA Faculty Senate website, as a linked item on the Aug. 21, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting agenda.
- Proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in African Studies. Approved unanimously.
- Proposal for a new Graduate Certificate in Science and Health Communication. Approved unanimously.
- Baldwin Hall Ad Hoc Committee update. Given that a number of Faculty Senators were new to the University of Georgia and Athens, the chair of the committee, Chris Pizzino (English) briefly introduced the Baldwin Hall and burial remains issue, before appealing for volunteers to round out the committee. He answered a number of questions from Faculty Senators and guests. Asked by a new Faculty Senator why Franklin College, in particular, is taking up this issue, Prof. Pizzino referred to the expertise offered by members of the Anthropology Department, and to the contributions of several other departments in Franklin College, including History and African American Studies. Asked by a guest what is meant by the phrase “unmet needs” in the Committee’s charge, Prof. Pizzino made the case for appealing to experts regarding the past, present, and future actions of the University of Georgia on this matter. Asked whether ground-penetrating radar can be counted upon to determine whether more bodies remain buried in the vicinity of Baldwin Hall, Prof. Pizzino reported that conversations he has had with various Franklin College faculty who are familiar with this technology indicate that, yes, it is capable of determining the presence, and the extent, of still-existing graves. Prof. Pizzino then appealed for volunteers to join the committee, which must have a representative from all five divisions of Franklin College. Asked by a guest whether the committee members must be Faculty Senators, Pizzino replied that he believed this is a rule. [After the fact, Prof. Pizzino learned that the committee members do not, in fact, have to be Faculty Senators, and he communicated this new information to the guest who asked the question.] Joining Pizzino on the committee are: Mary Bedell (Genetics), Peter Brosius (Anthropology), Mike Usher (Mathematics), and Kristin Kundert (Theater & Film).
- Recommended Change regarding Dean’s List. Prof. Rielle Navitski (Theater & Film), on behalf of last year’s Academic Standards Committee, answered questions regarding the following proposed change: “Any student with a documented disability, registered with the Disability Resource Center, and on a reduced course load due to their disability, shall be considered eligible for the Dean’s List despite the reduced course load.” A lively

discussion took place, regarding the wisdom of establishing a minimum number of hours for students with disabilities who hope to qualify for the Dean's List, the possible distinction between a learning disability and a traumatic brain injury, and other issues which might require consultation with the Disability Resource Center. In the end, the Faculty Senate unanimously passed a motion to refer the proposed change to the new Academic Standards Committee for further consideration.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Soper
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for History