

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020

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

Members Present: Michael Bachmann, Benjamin Britton, Peter Brosius, Clifton Buck, Tom Cerbu, Brian Condie, Maduranga Dassanyake, Gauri Datta, Inge DiBella, Vince Du, Allison Farley Raffle, Timothy Gupton, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Richard Hubbard, Caner Kazanci, Emily Koh, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Nancee Reeves, Jennifer Rice, Cassia Roth, Bala Sarasvati, Rohan Sikri, Anne Summers, Cynthia Suveg, Michael Usher, Alberto Villate-Isaza, Hang Yin

Members not present: Yohannes Abate and Leslie Gordon Simmons

Guests: Daniela Di Iorio, Adam Goodie, Amy Ross, Clark Alexander, Ellen Ritchey, Phaidra Buchanan

Approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting: Unanimously approved with no corrections.

President DeLoris Hesse's Remarks:

DeLoris Hesse mentioned the three agenda items of today's meeting. Jennifer Rice provided an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall. A formal proposal for a university council level committee on Baldwin Hall might be an agenda item in future university council meetings. One of the agenda items on tomorrow's university council meeting is the full report and resolutions from our senate as an informational item, where Jennifer Rice and Chris Pizzino have been invited to answer questions.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks:

- Dean Dorsey went over the Zoombombing attack that occurred on October 27. A horrific Zoombombing attack occurred during a lecture presented by a Harvard professor, part of the Franklin Visiting Scholars Program and co-sponsored by the Institute for Women's Studies and Department of Romance Languages, including misogynistic, racist and homophobic segments, images and hate filled threats against several participants, particularly female faculty members. Eventually the meeting organizers were able to regain control of the presentation, but not before the attacker inflicted significant terror and trauma. Dean Dorsey has since corresponded with and reached out to several of the victims and continues to offer support to those affected by this attack. The University of Georgia has since launched an investigation involving the University of Georgia Police Department, Enterprise Information Technology Systems, Equal Opportunity Office. Dean Dorsey shared the report from the chief of police (Daniel Silk) with the senate earlier

today via e-mail. According to the report, information transmitted during the event came from servers in the Netherlands, Spain, Canada and Kansas, and not UGA servers. To date, the perpetrators' identities remain unknown. In addition, on November 5th, one of the victims of that attack, a UGA faculty member and her spouse were followed by an unfamiliar car, pulling behind them in their driveway. After confronting driver, the unfamiliar car sped away, and Athens Clark County Police responded. Unfortunately and sadly, the perpetrators have not yet been identified, despite thorough investigations by ACCPD and UGAPD. Several senators have collaborated on a proposal addressing possible actions to prevent future Zoom bombing attacks such as improved Zoom security, and protocols for appropriate responses to such hate crimes should they occur in the future. Dean Dorsey stated his interest in learning more about these proposals and certainly welcome input from this group and others in the faculty senate about actions that will advance Franklin college's goal to create an inclusive and safe environment for learning, and for a scholarship.

- Anne Summers had two questions for Dean Dorsey: Another college has been offered the opportunity by provost to receive a monetary reward for each course that achieves a hundred percent face to face attendance. Anne Summers asked whether Franklin college has plans in regard to taking advantage of this action or opportunity. Her second question was regarding the university's plans to ramp up its current fairly minimal surveillance and testing to address the students returning to campus after the break. Dean Dorsey stated that there are plans to increase testing in Spring, including saliva-based testing. As for the first question, the Provost's office developed a plan to provide supplemental funding to schools and colleges if they're able to increase in person instruction in the spring term. They've been working with academic units across the college that can provide additional in person instruction safely, often taking advantage of new instructional spaces where students can social distance easily and attend class more frequently. However, there are no specific plans to discuss at the moment. DeLoris Hesse stated the need to postpone further discussion in the interest of time.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: The chair of the committee Alisa Luxenberg reported that the executive committee met once at the end of October, discussing revisions to the Franklin Senate bylaws. The proposed changes are an agenda item of today's meeting.
- Curriculum Committee: The chair of the committee Steve Holland reported that in the past month, they have approved 31 new courses, 27 course changes, a bulletin change in microbiology, an area of emphasis in School of Music, and four experiential learning courses in various departments.
- Committee on Academic Standards: The chair of the committee Chris Petersen reported that three petitions from students were reviewed and approved.
- Committee on Faculty Affairs: No report.
- Committee on Planning and Evaluation: No report.

New Business:

- Proposed changes to the Senate by-laws to allow for remote meetings and voting, and to clarify procedures and conduct of meetings - Alisa Luxenberg, Senator and Executive Committee Chair: Alisa Luxenberg summarized the proposed changes, which include:
 - Wording that allows meeting and voting remotely.
 - Clarification on how meetings are called and how agendas could be set.
 - Language that makes sure that not all of the power rested with the executive committee, and that a certain number of senators could also petition to have a meeting called when warranted.
 - A new section on conduct of meetings.
 - Consolidation of redundant sections.

By-laws state that prior to the first regular meeting, that there should be convening of all the new members of the senate and discuss the responsibilities and powers of the senate as well as the committees that they serve on. Alisa Luxenberg stated that this has really not been done, and is the one outstanding issue that they did not address, and asked for the senate's input. Cindy Hahamovitch suggested that the last fifteen minutes of the first meeting of the year serve as an opportunity for committees to break up to get a basic orientation. DeLoris Hesse agreed with this suggestion. Cassia Roth asked for clarification on the language on calling for special meetings (Section III, item 3.) This item was added so that special meetings could be called not only by the executive committee, but by the senators as well. There was general consensus that this item could be improved by further clarification. Clifton Buck asked about the possibility of a hybrid meeting. DeLoris Hesse stated that it is up to the senate to decide, but mentioned the convenience factor of an online meeting, and the difficulty of managing both an electronic and in-person meeting simultaneously. To Ann Summer's suggestion on having the description of each committee's duties available online, DeLoris Hesse stated that that information is already available online, but the workload information is not, which may be added should the committees decide to. Jennifer Rice added that different versions of this information exist in multiple places online, which may be a cause for discrepancies. Dean Dorsey stated that there are also the Senate policies and procedures, which are separate from the By-laws. DeLoris Hesse stated the need to consolidate all this information into a single place that is easy to find. The motion that meetings and any scheduled votes may be held remotely via audio-visual technology was approved by 29 votes in favor, no opposed, and no abstentions.

- Discussion and vote to endorse "Racial Justice Demands" from the Beyond Baldwin student group and a Senate statement-Jennifer Rice (Senator), Geography and Phaidra Buchanan (UGA student): Phaidra Buchanan summarized the goals of the beyond Baldwin group, and the revisions made based on the feedback received from the previous senate meeting. Jennifer Rice made a motion that the Senate endorse the revised version of the racial justice demands from the Beyond Baldwin group. Vera Lee-Schoenfeld stated that it might be advantageous to acknowledge the initiatives that the university has taken or the focus groups that have been put together in order to avoid a response from the administration that these issues were raised and addressed previously. Dr. Holland stated

that this was discussed by their faculty in Geology. While there was very broad support on raising racial justice at the university, there has been concerns such as the long list, the faculty senate being asked to approve the entire document without any ability to choose the parts that they approve. Buchanan stated that amending the document would be against their goal to keep the document consistent as they are gathering more signatories. Dr. Buck stated that he got similar response from the faculty of Marine Sciences. Dr. Villate-Isaza stated that it is not the task of the faculty senate to change the document, but to vote to endorse it or not. Dr. Britton thanked the Beyond Baldwin group for their effort, and said that he received no outstanding reservations from the faculty of arts. The motion to endorse the document passed with 30 votes for, 4 opposed and no abstentions. Dr. Rice indicated that there is a statement prepared and shared by the senate that can be voted on, or be discussed to get feedback. The discussion had to be postponed to the next meeting in the interest of time.

- Presentation on recent Zoombombing event and Resolution for consideration - Eric Morales-Franceschini, English. Co-sponsors Cassia Roth (Senator), History and Chris Pizzino (Senator), English. The word "Zoombombing" sounds like a prank, but the lieutenant referred to these hate crimes (Zoombombing and the car event) as terroristic acts. According to the IT, there has been as many as six such incidents, with increasing intensity, including credible death threats against UGA faculty. In these events, people were acting in their collegiate, pedagogical or scholarly capacity. Hesse proposed that (1) the faculty senate form an ad hoc committee to examine these issues (2) and that we hold special senate meeting next month to discuss this very timely issue. Rice asked if the previous agenda item on Beyond Baldwin group can be a part of the special meeting. Hahamovitch made a motion to discuss both issues in the special meeting. The motion was passed by a show of hands. Hesse asked for volunteers who wish to serve on the ad hoc committee contact her by 5pm tomorrow. Cassie Roth urged everyone to attend the special meeting even though it is not required, emphasizing the seriousness of the issue: existence of physical threats, trespassing on a faculty members property, and that women of color were attacked.

Old Business:

None was reported.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Caner Kazanci

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for the Mathematics Department