

Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Feb. 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in room 213 of the Miller Learning Center, Mary Bedell presiding.

Members Present: Maor Bar-Peled, Mary Bedell, Thomas Biggs, Brian Binder, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Katie Chapman, Brian Condie, Elizabeth Davis, Suzanne Ellenberger, Lisa Fusillo, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Takahiro Ito, Jain Kwon, Ming-Jun Lai, Gary Lautenschlager, Megan Lutz, Reid Messich, Rielle Navitski, Don Nelson, Chris Pizzino, Lakshmish Ramaswamy, Jennifer Rice, Mike Roden, Rohan Sikri, Jiyeon So, Steve Soper, Lianchun Wang, Qun Zhao.

Proxies: Daniel Rood (for Kevin Jones), DeLoris Hesse (for Silvia Moreno), Saar Hersonsky (for Dan Nakano).

Members not present: John Achee, Jorge Escalante, Maria Hybinette, Betina Kaplan, Kristin Kundert, Leslie Gordon Simons, Nanette Spina, Phillip Stancil, Sunkoo Yuh.

Guests: Prof. Laura German (Anthropology), David Lee (Vice-President for Research), Prof. Abhyuday Mandal (Statistics), Prof. John Miller (Computer Science), Prof. Laurie Reitsema (Anthropology), Prof. T. N. Sriram (Statistics).

Approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2018 meeting: Approved without corrections.

President Mary Bedell's Remarks

President Bedell reviewed the minutes from the special session held on Jan. 20, 2018, and reminded members that another special session will follow today's regular meeting.

Dean Alan Dorsey's Remarks

Dean Dorsey began by encouraging faculty to inform one another of opportunities for awards and other forms of national and international recognition, for example by working with department heads to compile and share lists of awards.

Dean Dorsey then noted some of the highlights from President Jere Morehead's recent State of the University address, which emphasized three themes: increasing scholarship support, enhancing our learning environment, and tackling grand challenges. On the first theme, President Morehead spoke of the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program, including a new development aimed at helping students from low-income backgrounds who struggle to make ends meet after they begin attending the University of Georgia: President Morehead announced that \$250,000 will go toward a pilot program providing small completion grants of up to \$2,000 to students in need.

Next, Dean Dorsey mentioned that the recipients of UGA's Diversity and Inclusion grants were announced last month. And he directed attention to the final report of the Task Force on Student Learning and Success, which is available on the website of the Office of the President.

Among the recommendations of special relevance to Franklin College of Arts & Sciences faculty are: to strengthen students' writing and writing requirements (a campus committee could study this goal); to make data literacy a core part of student learning (President Morehead hopes that faculty will come up with a proposal on how to implement this goal); to promote active learning pedagogy (toward this end an intensive summer institute is being funded to help faculty incorporate active learning techniques into their courses); and to transform classrooms into active learning spaces (Dean Dorsey offered as an example the new SCALE-UP classrooms in the Science Learning Center).

Dean Dorsey then welcomed questions. Asked how funds from donors are allocated, Dean Dorsey noted that the distribution of resources often adheres to donors' specific wishes (e.g., the creation of a chaired position in a particular field).

Committee Reports

Academic Standards Committee. No report: 2 petitions pending.

Curriculum Committee. Reviewed 10 new courses and 63 course changes; approved: 21 Bulletin changes (various departments), 3 General Education Core Course proposals (various departments), 1 Double Dawg proposal (Sociology), 1 New Major proposal (Data Science), and 1 Multi-Cultural Course proposal (English).

Executive Committee. Continued discussion of Faculty Senate governance at the special session that will follow the regular meeting today.

Committee on Faculty Affairs. Nothing to report.

Committee on Planning & Evaluation. Nothing to report.

New Business

Proposal for a new major in Data Science. Three guests from the departments of computer science and statistics (Profs. Mandal, Miller, and Sriram) answered several questions, regarding the proposed major's relationships with the Institute of Bioinformatics and the Biology Department, and the experience of similar majors at other American universities. The motion was approved unanimously.

University Response to community regarding the Baldwin Hall expansion. Prof. Laurie Reitsemma provided a brief timeline of the events surrounding the Baldwin Hall expansion, reviewed the five goals to which the University expressed its commitment in the spring of 2017, and called upon the Faculty Senate to request that the University provide a systematic update on those committed goals. The five goals are: 1) to conduct DNA analysis of the Baldwin cemetery remains; 2) to determine living relations of individuals who were buried in the cemetery, and to explore further genetic linkages; 3) to understand better the ties between the cemetery and slavery; 4) to ensure that the company tasked with analyzing the cemetery remains, Southeastern Archaeological Services, prepare a report and make it public; and 5) to work together with the local community on this project. Vice-President for Research David Lee took the opportunity to provide an impromptu update on most of the goals, highlighting the progress made by Dr. Marguerite Madden in creating a digital, interactive map narrating the African American history of Athens, and explaining that the lab hired to analyze the DNA of the

cemetery remains has not yet provided a report. A lively question and answer session followed, focusing on the need for a good, communicative relationship between the University and the community, and on the effort to ensure a timely completion of DNA analysis. As time was running short, President Bedell and Executive Committee Chair Rice proposed a return to this issue at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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