

**Franklin College Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in room 350 of the Miller Learning Center, Jennifer Rice presiding.

**Members Present:** Yohannes Abate, Michael Bachmann, Brian Binder, Peter Brosius, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Brian Condie, Gauri Datta, Suzanne Ellenberger, Allison Farley Raffle, Lisa Fusillo, Chris Garvin, Timothy Gupton, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Richard Hubbard, Betina Kaplan, Sidney Kushner, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Gary Lautenschlager, Megan Lutz, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Jennifer Rice, Rohan Sikri, Anne Summers, Michael Usher

**Proxies:** Alexander Sager for Katie Chapman, Steven Soper for Cindy Hahamovitch, Ben Ehlers for Cassia Roth

**Members not present:** Caner Kazanci, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Sylvia Moreno, Nancee Reeves, Leslie Gordon Simons, Hang Yin

**Guests:** Janet Westpheling, Genetics; Mary Bedell, Genetics; Carolyn Medine, Director of the Institute for African American Studies

**Approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting:** Unanimously approved with no corrections.

- Prior to beginning the agenda, there was discussion regarding the revised agenda that was sent out on February 14, 2020. A concern was raised that the revised agenda did not adhere to the Franklin Faculty Senate by-laws. The question was whether the executive committee has the authority to amend a posted agenda. Robert's rules were used to address the concern and states that a majority vote is required at the beginning of meetings to adopt an agenda to be used as an official guide for the meeting. It was moved and seconded that the revised agenda be used with no discussion and it was unanimously approved (31 approved, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed).
- Moving forward, Jennifer Rice and DeLoris Hesse will review the by-laws and Robert's Rules to ensure that the best procedure is practiced.

**President Jennifer Rice's Remarks**

- Jennifer will be on Research Leave in the coming month and will not attend the next meeting. DeLoris Hesse will preside over the meeting with the presumption of the results from the election for the President-elect candidate.

**Dean Dorsey's Remarks**

- Reminder about the naming ceremony at the Georgia Center for the College of Education in honor of Mary Frances Early followed by the annual namesake lecture at 2:00 on February 25. The naming has already been approved and is effective on February 1, 2020. Ms. Early was the first African American graduate of the University of Georgia.

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences strategic planning: The UGA University Council adopted a plan for the University in the fall of 2019. Each School and College has been asked to develop their own plans to align with and support the University's plan. Dean Dorsey is working on the Franklin College strategic plan which will elaborate on the University's goals and will include some of our own goals as well. In addition to articulating these goals, we will lay out key performance indicators (KPI's) which will measure progress for those goals. As part of the planning process, he will be in touch with several stakeholder groups in the College consisting of faculty, students, staff, and possibly alumni. The College has been working with PSO faculty in the Fanning Institute who have experience in developing continuous plans across the state of Georgia to efficiently and effectively gather feedback. The draft of the plan is due in early April and the final version is due in the fall 2020 semester. Some work has already been done with Department Heads providing their input and the next step is to work with faculty. He intends to work with the Faculty Senate members and proposed the next meeting be dedicated to working on the process with members from the Fanning Institute present to facilitate the process. The meeting will need to be convened in a different location on campus where Faculty Senate members can sit at small tables to promote discussion. No questions were asked.
- Jennifer Rice indicated that this will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting after it has been approved by the Executive Committee. There will be no other agenda items that day. If there are pressing agenda items, another meeting will be called.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Curriculum Committee: 70 new courses were reviewed; 6 course changes were approved including 4 General Education changes from various departments; 1 Multicultural change from the Linguistics Department, and 1 termination of undergraduate Certificate from the African American Studies Department. 10 Bulletin changes from various departments were approved.
- Academic Standards: 4 Petitions; 3 were approved and 1 denied.
- Faculty Affairs: Concerning issue from the Board of Regents about limiting the number of years instructors of basic language classes can teach to 7 years. Dean Dorsey is aware of the issue and is working on it with the Office of Faculty Affairs but there is no resolution at this time. A potential solution could be changing instructor's titles. Discussions are ongoing.
- Planning and Evaluation: No report

#### **New Business:**

- Report from Carolyn Medine regarding the termination of the undergraduate certificate in African American Studies. This certificate was the founding degree of the program but there have been no students signed up for the degree in 5 years. With their thriving minor, the faculty have discussed this since 2015 and have decided to terminate the certificate and reduce the number of credit hours required for the minor. The hope is that this will increase the number of students enrolled for the minor. There were no questions. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Jennifer Rice indicated that Thomas Cerbu was unable to continue as president-elect of the Faculty senate and suggested DeLoris Hesse would be a dedicated and qualified replacement. There was no discussion or questions. The motion was unanimously approved. Jennifer Rice thanked DeLoris Hesse for agreeing to take on this responsibility.
- The next order of business was to vote to allow Jennifer Rice to send the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall Final Report adopted April 23, 2019, Baldwin Hall Resolutions adopted October 15, 2019, and correspondence from President Morehead regarding the

Resolutions dated November 7, 2019 to the chair of the University Council Executive Committee for their information and consideration.

Discussion from Senators (Chris Pizzino): included additional verification of why a vote is necessary was in conversation with the head of the University Council Executive Committee and the impression was that he and possibly other members of the Committee were interested in discussing these matters and that the Committee would feel better authorized to discuss these items if these documents came as the result of a vote from the Faculty Senate.

Questions and comments from visitors: Janet Westpheling from Genetics stated that she felt the Faculty Senate was putting these documents forward on behalf of the faculty of Franklin College and she feels the documents are seriously flawed and do not represent her personal opinions. She requested that the documents do not be put forward to the University Council. She also asked why the Senate wanted to send the documents forward and what would they hope to accomplish.

A question by a Senator (Chris Pizzino) was asked of Dr. Westpheling: In the appendices to the report, the two statements from her, were they present at her request? The response was yes. Was there data or evidence that she provided regarding Baldwin Hall that was withheld? She did not answer the question but instead stated she originally asked if any administrators (unnamed) quoted in the document were interviewed and if Pam Whitten had been interviewed and asked if she said any of the things that were claimed she had said. Westpheling indicated that she never received an answer. Pizzino stated that there were two claims and he wanted to keep them separate. 1) He stated Westpheling asked if the unnamed administrators were interviewed, and, 2) if Pam Whitten had been interviewed. Westpheling indicated that the answer obtained was that Pizzino could not interview them. Pizzino indicated that Westpheling's question was answered but it was not the answer she wanted to hear. Pizzino also indicated that he tried to give Westpheling a complete answer but she repeatedly interrupted him. She did not remember interrupting him. An affirmative show of Senators hands who remembered the incident was taken.

Another Senator stated that if Westpheling disagreed with the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee that she should provide data supporting this. She again stated that she does not think the report represents all the faculty of Franklin College, but no new data or information was offered by Westpheling.

Another comment from a Senator: She never thought the Faculty Senate needed to be concerned about representing the majority of faculty members, but rather, to be representatives of faculty concerns generally.

The question was then raised about how widespread objections to the Ad Hoc Committee's Report have been. Senators from numerous departments indicated they had spoken with their respective faculty members and no concerns or objections about the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall were expressed. The only known objection to the report is by 1 person (Westpheling).

Rice expressed disappointment that the work of the Committee has been mischaracterized by upper administration. She feels the Committee has done good work and a professional and thorough job.

The motion to send the documents to the University Council Executive Committee was unanimously approved (35 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 objections).

- Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Committee: The work of the Ad Hoc Committee has been completed. Pizzino will give any additional ongoing information to the Faculty Senate at a later time.

Question asked by a Senator: Should the Committee be dissolved prior to sending the documents to the University Council Executive Committee. The answer was that Rice would handle any questions that may arise from submission of these documents to the University Council Executive Committee.

The motion to send the documents to the University Council Executive Committee was unanimously approved (35 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 objections).

**Old Business:** None was reported.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Ellenberger  
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for the Chemistry Department.