

Resolutions for Senate vote—final draft for October meeting

Item 1

After discussion with the Senate at a meeting on 9/17/19, the ad hoc committee on Baldwin Hall presents the following resolution for a Senate vote:

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that in the matter of Baldwin Hall, the rights of the descendant community were not sufficiently respected by UGA's manner of exhuming, reburial, and researching the graves and human remains discovered in the Old Athens Cemetery. The Senate therefore urges President Jere Morehead to issue an apology to the descendant community.

Item 2

After discussion with the Senate at a meeting on 9/17/19, the ad hoc committee on Baldwin Hall presents the following resolution for a Senate vote:

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that in the matter of Baldwin Hall, the descendant community has the right to public consultation with UGA regarding two outstanding issues: 1.) the proper treatment of the graves and human remains in the portion of the Old Athens Cemetery not currently under federal protection, and 2.) the best method for publicly discussing and providing genetic analysis to identify, where possible, direct descendants of the persons whose remains were removed to Oconee Hill Cemetery. Therefore the Senate urges President Jere Morehead to authorize public, robust consultation concerning both issues, adhering to well-established best practices in cultural resource management. As demonstrated by successful cases at other universities, this consultation will best be conducted by an expert or experts from outside the immediate stakeholding groups, will allow for multiple public opportunities and modes for community input, will provide community education as the consultation process unfolds, will try to synthesize disparate views between and among stakeholders through open dialogue, and will operate in a transparent manner throughout the process.

Item 3

After discussion with the Senate at a meeting on 9/17/19, the ad hoc committee on Baldwin Hall presents the following resolution for a Senate vote:

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that if UGA media spokespersons and other University officials publicly object to the actions, speech, or writing of faculty in areas of their disciplinary expertise, these objections must be scholarly in nature and have evidentiary value. The Senate judges that there was no substantial evidence, and no scholarly expertise, backing public remarks authored by Greg Trevor of the Office of Media and Communications and directed at Dr. Laurie Reitsema in March of 2018. The Senate judges that Mr. Trevor's remarks

mischaracterized the presentation Dr. Reitsema gave to the Senate. Dr. Reitsema appeared before the Senate to present information germane to the situation. She spoke factually, within the realm of her expertise and her close familiarity with the Baldwin Hall matter, and with the University's best interests in mind. The Senate urges President Jere Morehead to instruct the Office of Media and Communications to apologize for singling out an expert faculty member for undue criticism, and to assure faculty that such conduct will not occur going forward.