

Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Aug. 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in room 250 of the Miller Learning Center, Mary Bedell presiding.

Members Present: John Achee, Maor Bar-Peled, Mary Bedell, Brian Binder, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Brian Condie, Elizabeth Davis, Jorge Escalante, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Maria Hybinette, Kevin Jones, Betina Kaplan, Kristin Kundert, Jain Kwon, Gary Lautenschlager, Megan Lutz, Dan Nakano, Rielle Navitski, Don Nelson, Chris Pizzino, Jennifer Rice, Mike Roden, Leslie Gordon Simons, Jiyeon So, Steve Soper, Nanette Spina, Phillip Stancil, Qun Zhao.

Proxies: Joshua Bousquette (proxy for Katie Chapman), Huabei Guo (proxy for Lianchun Wang).

Members not present: Thomas Biggs, Suzanne Ellenberger, Takahiro Ito, Ming-Jun Lai, Reid Messich, Silvia Moreno, Lakshmish Ramaswamy, Piers Stephens.

Approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting: Approved without corrections.

President Mary Bedell's Remarks

President Bedell welcomed all members of the Faculty Senate, and recognized this year's new Senators, as well as the presence of Dean Alan Dorsey and Senior Associate Dean Kecia Thomas. She also offered her thanks to outgoing Senate President Adam Goodie and to Sherry Gray.

President Bedell spoke about the important function the Faculty Senate plays, including as a conduit of communication between the Senate and the individual departments in Franklin College. Then she reviewed the rules regarding meetings, the conduct of Senators, and the duties and functions of the Senate's various committees. She expressed early thanks to the Faculty Affairs Committee, which has the special task this year of conducting the 5-year review of Dean Dorsey. This year, the Dean's review by the Senate will be coordinated with the Dean's review by the Provost's Office.

Dean Alan Dorsey's Remarks

Dean Dorsey welcomed all Senators, old and new, to the 2017-2018 academic year.

Dean Dorsey then spoke about the encouraging upward trend in enrollments and credit hours within Franklin College (from calendar year 2015 to calendar year 2016), and its positive effects on the Franklin College budget. He attributed the enrollment/credit hour increases in large part to the successful expansion of online summer course offerings, and also remarked on the boost provided by the unusually large class of incoming students in Fall 2017.

Regarding the incoming class of students, Dean Dorsey noted its unusually strong academic credentials – an average high school GPA of 4.0 and an average ACT score of 30 (out of 36) – and its diversity. To all Senators who would like to know more about the incoming class, he recommended reading the information provided on the UGA news website.

Next, Dean Dorsey reported on the successful fund-raising efforts of the Franklin College Office of Development, which raised 29.9 million dollars in gifts and pledges in Fiscal Year 2017, the highest total of any academic unit at UGA; and which, by raising 78.4 million dollars since 2012, has already surpassed its original 8-year capital campaign goal of 75 million dollars by the year 2020.

Finally, Dean Dorsey praised the Franklin College faculty for raising 80.1 million dollars in extramural support (from federal agencies, foundations, etc.) during Fiscal Year 2017, up 10% from Fiscal Year 2016.

Q&A: Dean Dorsey was asked to comment about some of the instructional budget cuts, which have resulted in larger classes taught by a smaller pool of instructors. He explained that the dip that occurred in enrollment/credit hours several years ago resulted in budget cuts, which in turn caused staffing cuts in some units.

Q&A: Dean Dorsey was asked how the attempt at raising the visibility of online summer courses was going; he responded that the heavy advertisement of these courses appeared to be successful, in that enrollment in online summer courses has increased significantly. In a follow-up question, Dean Dorsey was asked whether online summer instruction might be so successful that face-to-face instruction would soon be phased out altogether, to which he replied that the age of instruction by robots is not yet upon us.

Committee Reports

Academic Standards Committee. Received 8 petitions, approved 3 and denied 5.

Curriculum Committee. Approved 13 new courses, approved 169 course changes, approved 7 Bulletin changes, approved 11 General Education Core Course proposals, approved 2 Multicultural Course proposals, approved 1 termination of Undergraduate Certificate for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, approved 30 Double Dawgs proposals.

Executive Committee. Nothing to report.

Committee on Faculty Affairs. Nothing to report.

Committee on Planning & Evaluation. Nothing to report.

New Business

Elections for 2017-18

All 7 of the following new committee chairs and committee members were approved by unanimous vote.

New Committee Chair Nominations:

Academic Standards Committee – Rielle Navitski (Theatre & Film)

Planning & Evaluation Committee – Elizabeth Davis (English)

New Committee Member Nominations

Executive Committee – Steven Soper (History)

Curriculum Committee – Thomas Cerbu (Comparative Literature)

Academic Standards – Gary Lautenschlager (Psychology)

Faculty Affairs – Betina Kaplan (Romance Languages)

Awards Committee – Silvia Moreno (Cellular Biology)

President Bedell noted that there is an open spot for a faculty member in Fine Arts on the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Latin American & Caribbean Studies Undergraduate Certificate Termination. Faculty Senator Rielle Navitski spoke briefly about this proposed change, which should help the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Institute offer more choices to students while avoiding conflicts with its already demanding minor degree requirements. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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