

Motion on the departmental requirement to provide updated annual and post-tenure review policies for approval by the University of Georgia administration, presented to the Franklin College Faculty Senate, November 2022.

Whereas the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG), at its meeting of October 13, 2021, has undermined academic freedom in Georgia by removing the procedural protections of tenure from the system post-tenure review policy, effectively making tenure in name only at all 26 institutions of the USG,

Whereas the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), guardian of academic freedom in the United States, has therefore censured the University System of Georgia for its decision,

Whereas tenure is the basis for academic freedom and the undermining of tenure by the USG, as recognized by the AAUP, places an undue burden on faculty members to properly fulfill their core responsibilities to advance and transmit knowledge,

Whereas the changes from the Board of Regents reduce the competitive position of the University of Georgia to attract and retain high achieving faculty, and is thus counter to the best interests of the state of Georgia,

Whereas the Georgia Tech faculty voted on September 20, 2022 to adopt a comparable resolution,

Be it resolved,

The Franklin College Faculty Senate recognizes that changes to the University of Georgia's faculty evaluation policies were developed under duress as a necessary protection against arbitrary enforcement and do not represent the long-term interest of the institution and its faculty.

The Franklin College Faculty Senate commits to the removal of these changes as a long-term goal. Then only will it be possible for the AAUP to remove its justified censorship of the USG, decided upon in March 2022.

The Franklin College Faculty Senate commends the UGA Working Group on Faculty Evaluation Policies and Practices' efforts to protect faculty given the changes mandated by the Board of Regents.