

Franklin College Senate
Minutes the Meeting of January 18th, 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm in SLC 250

There were 27 attendees including two proxies:

Michelle Ballif (English), Sarah Blackwell (Romance Languages), Adrian Burd (Marine Sciences), Keith Campbell (Psychology) Stacey Casado (Romance Languages), Lisa Fusillo (Dance), Ed Halper (Philosophy, proxy for Richard Winfield), Erika Hermanowicz (Classics), Ken Honerkamp (Religion), Thomas Houser (Art), Elham Izadi (Mathematics) Asen Kirin (Art), Gary Lautenschlager (Psychology), Roy Legette (Music), Gordana Maric (Mathematics), Bill McCormick (Statistics), Ron Miller (English), Masaki Mori (Comparative Literature), Alberto Patino-Douce (Geology), Vladimir Popik (Chemistry), Brigitte Rossbacher (Germanic & Slavic Languages), Lijiang Shen (Speech Communication), Marshall Shepherd (Geography), Michael Tiemeyer (BMB), Anne Summers (Microbiology), Bram Tucker (Anthropolgy), John Turo-Escobar (Music), Janet Westpheling (Genetics, proxy for John Wares.

2. The faculty present approved the October 12th minutes that now includes the resolution regarding the senate's stand on ORP.

The faculty present approved the November 16th minutes.

3. Presiding Officer Anne Summers passed on a request from Hugh Ruppensburg to announce that University Council is short on nominations. Life Sciences, Humanities and Art either have the minimal number or less than the minimal number of nominations necessary to offer a slate. It is optimal for people to have a choice, so please nominate yourself and/or recruit colleagues in your Dept/Division to be nominated.

4. Dean Stokes' remarks:

*She just met with the Department heads. There is still uncertainty as to what the budget will be.

*The chancellor is calling for higher education to be "more efficient." An editorial in the Athens Banner Herald called this "a shot across the bow" for higher education facilities in Georgia. Thus, Dean Stokes said she does not yet know where the college stands on her primary request for relief of salary compression and inversion among faculty and staff.

*Dean Stokes was asked whether the term "efficiency" has yet been defined, to which she answered no, but that this is not just about delivery of classes. The chancellor is coming from a "business model" and is looking at the "big picture" of administrative procedure and the processes of how decisions get made.

*While it is hard to predict what will happen in the legislature, it looks like a 3 percent (3%) salary raise for faculty. Dean Stokes has notified all Dept. heads that she is looking to each Department's 5-year plans to confirm priorities and make adjustments in

allocations and will take into account recent shortfalls that may have compromised meeting goals.

*At the latest meeting of the deans with the Provost, the Dean of the College of Agriculture asked if the University would consider eliminating the status of Graduate Faculty at UGA. While this was a necessary measure to have in place 20 or 30 years ago, the Dean argued, it is no longer necessary. Dean Stokes asked the senators to talk with their departments and send her comments by the beginning of February. She also agreed to send out some information to departments to inform them more specifically what dispensing with Graduate Faculty status means. She asked that the senator and/or the dept head report the views of the departments on this matter to her by early February.

*As to the matter of ORP, University Council has sent a resolution on this matter to be sent to the chancellor. Dean Stokes is expecting action by Board of Regents to separate ORP (Optional Retirement Plan) from TRS (Teachers Retirement System) in a manner that will not compromise either program. Historically, the two have been linked by formula initially designed to help ORP get started. As this is no longer needed, it has been recognized that the two entities need not (should not) be tied together. Dean Stokes is expecting support for this proposal from the governor, but we will not know until the chancellor meets with the governor. The University Council proposal would also allow ORP account holders to switch to TRS and vice versa at limited, designated times.

5. Committee reports: All committees reported they are proceeding as usual. The Steering Committee will offer a resolution during New Business.

6. Old Business. A follow-up report from Keith Campbell (Psychology) on ORP concerns. The senate resolution re: ORP passed in October of 2006 must be addressed at the next February meeting (the senate gave itself four months to ponder the resolution). At that time (February), the resolution must be given an up or down vote OR voted to be rescinded OR left on the table "to die."

Keith Campbell reported having a good meeting with the Associate Vice President of Human Resources. He said that office is quite aware of anger among faculty and staff and that the Associate VP agrees that ORP and TRS needs to be de-coupled. The Associate VP also said sending the Senate's above noted resolution forward now would be an embarrassment to the chancellor, and discouraged such an action at this point.

7. New Business:

As discussed at the November meeting, there is concern that the Senate has not been asked to discuss or provide input to the University Council (UC) and, thus, to upper administration on at least 3 major issues this year including ORP, the revised General Education requirements, and the new guidelines for re-organizing a college. Sarah Blackwell (English, Steering Committee Chair) offered a potential two-phase solution to improve communication between The Franklin College Senate and University Council. The first phase (that can be implemented immediately) is to request that the two senators who this year are appointed to both the Senate and University Council report at each Senate meeting (as one of the agenda items) any business of the UC that is of importance

to the Senate. The second phase would occur next year by appointing two senators, whether also serving on the UC or not, to act as liaisons and report on UC proceedings to the Senate at every meeting.

It was requested that senators be informed of the UC agenda before its meetings and be apprised of the UC outcomes before the Senate meetings. A. Summers (Microbiology) suggested that the liaisons write a paragraph or two specifying the details of UC meetings and email this to all senators soon after the UC meeting. H. Ruppensburg (Sr. Assoc. Dean) reminded the Senate that the UC does post its agenda before every meeting and senators could look at that as a way to keep abreast. He also suggested targeting our efforts at the UC members who are also faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. Many people brought up the name of Susan Mattern. She is in the College (History Department) and she is head of UC's executive committee this year. As she sets the agenda for University Council, she would be a good source of suggestions for improved, and more timely, communication between the two bodies. Presiding officer A. Summers agreed to contact Dr. Mattern in this regard.

There was a comment that while UC minutes online are helpful, there is often a delay to get them posted. Rapid, brief outlines of important UC plans/actions from our Senate liaisons will be an important way to keep ahead.

It was suggested that perhaps the Presiding officer of the Senate should meet on a regular basis with the head of the Executive Committee of the UC. Summers replied that it is important that all the senators are in the information loop.

It was agreed that we should add a discussion of University Council issues to the Senate's agenda on a monthly basis. That senators should be alerted to issues that are going to be, and have just been, addressed in the UC. This, it was agreed, could be accomplished, in part, with two liaisons who are Franklin College senators. In future years, the two liaisons will be elected or appointed (whether members of UC or not).

Summers reiterated that it is a good idea to have depth to the information-sharing. That the presiding officer of the Senate talking with the head of the Executive Committee **as well as** reports from senate liaisons would be better than just one or the other.

The Senate tabled the vote on this resolution pending its revision by the Steering Committee.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika Hermanowicz