

Franklin College Senate
Minutes the Meeting of February 15th, 2007

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm in SLC 250

There were 35 attendees including four proxies and one visitor:

William Barstow (Biology), Adrian Burd (Marine Sciences), Haini Cai (Cellular Biology), JP Caillault (Physics and Astronomy), Keith Campbell (Psychology), Stacey Casado (Romance Languages), Charles Cross (Philosophy, proxy for R. Winfield), James A. de Haseth (Chemistry) Lisa Fusillo (Dance), Michael Hahn (Plant Biology), Shane Hamilton (History), Erika Hermanowicz (Classics), Ken Honerkamp (Religion), Elham Izadi (Mathematics), Asen Kirin (Art), John Kunderi-Gibbs (Theatre, proxy for Kristin Kunderi-Gibbs), Gary Lautenschlager (Psychology), Roy Legette (Music), David Lowenthal (Computer Science), Bill McCormick (Statistics), Ron Miller (English), Masaki Mori (Comparative Literature), John Morrow (Visitor, History AAUP), Alberto Patino-Douce (Geology), Vladimir Popik (Chemistry), Dawn Robinson (Sociology and also acting as proxy for Joe Hermanowicz, Sociology), Brigitte Rossbacher (Germanic & Slavic Languages), Adam Sabra (History), Lijiang Shen (Speech Communication), Marshall Shepherd (Geography), Anne Summers (Microbiology), Michael Tiemeyer (BMB), Bram Tucker (Anthropolgy), John Turci-Escobar (Music), Janet Westpheling (Genetics, proxy for John Wares).

2. The **faculty present approved the January 18th minutes** with correction of identification of Sarah Blackwell as being a member of Romance Languages, not English.

3. **Committee reports:** The Committee on Committees is working on a slate for the Awards Committee. Their work is still in progress, and is made more difficult by the fact that there is nothing published identifying the number and names of the divisions of the Franklin College. It would be helpful if the University could make that information available. Admissions, Curriculum and Academic Standards committees reported "business as usual" and Professional Concerns committee reported no activity.

4. **Dean Stokes' remarks:** She thanked the Senate for the feedback she has so far received on the question of eliminating Graduate Faculty status. The common sentiment, as far as the information she has received goes, is that there is no longer a need for application to, and a renewal process for, graduate faculty status. What most people said was that such status should be granted at the time of hiring, and if such a status ever needs to be rescinded, that process should happen at the department level.

There was a question about people who are hired as tenure and tenure-tack teaching faculty. What about these faculty members of the faculty? Dean Stokes responded that there are departments, like chemistry and the biological sciences, where people are hired mainly for teaching purposes and their research is geared toward pedagogy. But this is not a trend across the University, nor does this model work well for many disciplines. She does not see any move away from traditional faculty lines, but it is true, she said, that

the University is scrambling to deal with the numbers of incoming freshmen. There was also a question about areas in which people are appointed solely for research but also take a role in mentoring graduate students. Dean Stokes said that some sort of qualification process such as Graduate Faculty status would be appropriate there.

In response to the request from the Chair of the Committee on Committees at the beginning of the meeting, Dean Stokes said that she would provide a list of how many and what the divisions of the College are.

Dean Stokes reported that the College Budget meeting was on Monday, the 12th of February. She was asked to present three budgets: 0 (zero) change, a 2 (two) percent decrease and a 2 (two) percent increase. She has been told that the college will receive 99 percent of its current budget, which translates to a cut of \$850,000. And while she says there are no guarantees, she does not actually expect to see that loss. She said that at the Budget meeting she described Franklin College as the “bread and butter” of the University. Of the top colleges for production of credit hours, Franklin comes in at number one with over 475,000. The next highest is Terry college, with approximately 106,122, the College of Education is third with approximately 98,853 and so on. She also discussed the tens of million dollars of external grants that the Franklin College brought in. Several departments, including Biochemistry, Microbiology, Psychology and Sociology, each brought in several millions of dollars. Many more brought in smaller, but significant sums. English, for example, brought in more than one half of a million dollars.

The College is currently recruiting some faculty, and Dean Stokes has asked for retirement lines back. The College is cultivating donors to build endowments for chaired professorships. As for raises, she is hearing that it will be 3 percent. 3.6 million dollars is necessary to correct the current salary inversion in the College.

There were questions about how productivity of faculty is calculated, including the number of faculty that generate those hours. Stokes’ response was that Provost Mace is concerned that the College is not first for hours per faculty. We are ranked 3rd or 4th. The problem with that is that there are big differences among the departments in terms of credit hours, grant dollars, teaching loads, etc.

Another question was asked about student / faculty ratio. That is also a measure of productivity and success. The Taskforce is focused on quality, Stokes responded, and Jere Morehead is aware of this aspect of evaluation. Credit hours, she said, are the downside of quantifying what it is we do.

Another question: are we getting travel money next year? Dean Stokes said she still does not know about this year. But the 15 percent of departmental operating funds that were withheld at the beginning of the year have been returned, along with additional funds, and she told the heads to put it toward what it was their departments needed most. As for next year, there may be travel funds, but it is too soon to say. Dean Stokes said she was aware that the University could not afford **not** to give travel funds to faculty.

5. Old Business: Regarding the October 2006 Senate resolution on ORP offered by Keith Campbell, Psychology, there is already a proposal in front of the Board of Regents to separate ORP (Optional Retirement Plan) from TRS (Teachers Retirement System). The question was whether the Senate should rescind our earlier resolution or leave it on the table indefinitely. Dean Stokes reminded the Senate that if TRS attempts to block separation, it would be a good idea to have this resolution at hand.

Keith Campbell, after some discussion regarding Roberts Rules of Order, made a motion that the Senate resolution be simultaneously rescinded in its current state of requiring a vote on action and re-instated but left inactive until the Senate has information about what the Board of Regents decide as well as the response by TRS. The motion was seconded and the Senate voted unanimously to do so.

The other point of old business is the Senate liaison with the University Council. Anne Summers (Microbiology) reminded the Senate that University Council meetings as well as the meeting of the Executive Committee were open to the public and that Susan Mattern would welcome any interested parties. Summers referred to a current Steering Committee proposal to have two Senate members with the formal duty to attend University Council meetings and regularly inform the Senate as to what University Council is voting on.

The questions then were: should we form an actual committee whose members would act as the liaisons? Should we change the by-laws? Bill Barstow (Plant Biology), a University Council member, noted that essential University Council business is done in committee, so attending the meeting of the University Council itself would be ineffective. He also suggested that if we are to have liaisons, they should be at meetings of the Executive committee. They set the agenda, and that is where things happen.

The debate then centered on how and if the Senate wanted to formalize the relationship and the duties of the liaison. Otherwise, Anne Summers stated, the contact may not last. Assoc. Dean Hugh Ruppensburg noted that this is not a by-laws issue. The Senate seemed to be inclined that if this relationship were formalized, then it should be one of the duties of the President of the Senate to be in close communication with the head of the Executive Committee of University Council. It was thought best to send this back to the Steering Committee for amendment before a voting on it.

6. New Business: Bram Tucker of Anthropology spoke of the granting of Emeritus Status. He stated that currently in Franklin College, when someone asks for emeritus status, it goes before a faculty vote. This could be problematic as the junior faculty has the right to vote on this matter. We are one of the few universities to do this; most of our peer institutions do not vote on emeritus status. At other universities, it is either automatic or a decision of the department head. It was mentioned that emeritus status gives its holder permission to take a computer home and maintain library privileges. It is an honorary status.

Hugh Ruppensburg said that the matter of voting on emeritus status is not in the by-laws; when departments call him about such a matter, he recommends that the departments vote, but if the senate wants to recommend that that the college not do this, that is fine. Dean Stokes then said that the vote is a matter of practice rather than policy. We do tell people to take a vote, she said, but when we receive the subsequent letter from the heads, some of these report the vote tallies and some do not. There are many differences in what schools do. There are differences in what colleges in the University and even departments in the college do. We do not have a policy. Dr. Tucker and the rest of the Senate were content to leave it that way.

John Morrow (a visitor from History) exhorted all the senate members to join the local chapter of the AAUP, which had been dormant until two years ago. He gave the national web address (www.aaup.org). Morrow discussed the suggested policy of criminal background checks for all University faculty and staff.

As for the recommendation of the Faculty Senate regarding the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences proposed program in Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics, it was decided to postpone a vote since we had not had a report on the basis for the decision from the Curriculum Committee. Proxy Jan Westpheling (Genetics) expressed concern about the extent of involvement of Franklin College faculty.

The senate meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Hermanowicz