

Franklin College Senate  
Minutes the Meeting of March 20, 2007

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

There were 28 attendees including five proxies (three people did not sign in): Michelle Ballif (English), William Barstow (Biology), Sarah Blackwell (Romance Languages), Adrian Burd (Marine Sciences), Haini Cai (Cellular Biology), Keith Campbell (Psychology), Lisa Fusillo (Dance), Michael Hahn (Plant Biology), Shane Hamilton (History), Erika Hermanowicz (Classics) as well as acting as proxy for Asen Kirin (Art), Joe Hermanowicz (Sociology), Timothy Hoover (Microbiology, proxy for Anne Summers), Kristin Kunderi-Gibbs (Theatre), Gary Lautenschlager (Psychology), Roy Legette (Music), David Lowenthal (Computer Science), Ron Miller (English), Dawn Robinson (Sociology), Mike Roden (Geology, proxy for Sally Walker), Brigitte Rossbacher (Germanic & Slavic Languages), Adam Sabra (History), Marshall Shepherd (Geography), Bram Tucker (Anthropology), John Turci-Escobar (Music), Janet Westpheling (Genetics, proxy for John Wares), Sarah Wright (Philosophy, proxy for Richard Winfield).

Sarah Blackwell of Romance Languages was the presiding officer for this meeting:

2. The faculty present unanimously approved the minutes for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

3. Remarks by presiding officer: There are several senators finishing their three year session on the College Faculty Senate. Blackwell circulated which departments need to elect new senators. Those new names must be submitted by the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

Blackwell announced that, at the request of Anne Summers (Microbiology), item 4 on New Business agenda (External Degree in Microbiology to be offered on the Griffin campus) would be tabled. T. Hoover (Microbiology) announced that the department had discussed and voted on the matter, and that the department is in favor of moving ahead with this program. It was requested that this item be placed back on the agenda, and it was.

4. Dean Stokes' remarks: She said that the College was wrapping up faculty recruiting, which this time around involved a large number of partner issues. There are still a number of unknowns as she prepares for the scheduling of budget meetings. A salary increase for faculty is anticipated to be about 3%. The highest priorities for the University are salaries, the Pharmacy School, and potential collaboration with the Medical College of Georgia. The delay in getting this budget information is in part due to the fact that the legislature is in session longer than usual, and the Board of Regents will decide only after the legislature is in recess. We do not know how much the Board of Regents will increase tuition.

Dean Stokes said that she is serving on the Task Force for the Vice President for Research. The goal is to talk about what the institution needs to improve the research

atmosphere on campus. We currently have a task force in action on graduate education at the University of Georgia. David Lee has wanted to have these for quite some time. Stokes anticipates that the research task force will take a year to make findings and prepare the report.

As for new things the College is doing, it now has college-wide staff awards. We value the staff and the vital role they play. In the past, the departments have been instrumental in recognizing excellent staff, but the College needs to start doing this as well.

The College is also beginning a conversation about graduate education in the Franklin College. Associate Deans are meeting with graduate coordinators to talk about what they need. The question is: what can the College do to improve graduate life? Dean Stokes's office plans to gather information from graduate coordinators and students.

**5. Committee reports: Committee on Committees.** Lisa Fusillo (Dance) announced that the committee completed its slate of nominees for the awards committee (Sandy Beaver, Michael Award, and the Sandy Beaver Special Award). Last year, there was some concern about diversity of the slate, and the committee reports that it worked very hard this year to provide a diverse group. Everyone on the slate has agreed to serve. The Senate approved the slate with a unanimous vote.

**Steering Committee:** Sarah Blackwell announced that she and Anne Summers revised, for the third time, the proposal for the creation of a liaison between the Faculty Senate and the University Council. The presiding officer of the Senate is the official liaison as is written in the by-laws of the Senate.

**6. Old Business:** College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences proposed major in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics. This vote was deferred in the last senate meeting as the Department of Genetics wanted to take a closer look at the proposal. The Department of Genetics liked it and voted to support it. The Senate took a vote and the proposed major passed with a unanimous vote.

**7. New Business.** The Senate voted on several proposals already approved by the Franklin College Curriculum Committee:

- a. Establishment of the Center for Integrative Conservation Research: passed with a unanimous vote.
- b. Minor in African Languages and Literatures: passed with a unanimous vote.
- c. Doctor of Philosophy in Religion: passed with a unanimous vote.
- d. New Area of Emphasis in French – French Studies and proposal for new Minor in French Studies: passed with a unanimous vote.
- e. External Degree in Microbiology to be offered on the Griffin Campus
- f. External Degree in Biology to be offered on the Griffin Campus

It was announced by representatives from Biology and Microbiology that the Departments are in favor of items e and f. There are still some unknowns, such as hiring, budget, etc., but we need to vote on it before we begin to answer those questions.

The Senate voted on items e and f and they passed unanimously.

On the agenda, under New Business, Marshall Shepherd from Geography was planning to speak about concerns about staffing in Sponsored Programs/ OVPR, but he announced that it was not necessary to discuss this matter at this time.

Haini Cai (Cellular Biology) presented the argument as articulated by members of her department that Franklin College modify its grading policy to allow a C- grade (1.7) to count as a C (2.0) for major graduation. The proposal ran as follows: Students in the Franklin College must earn a grade of "C" or better in major required courses; the qualifying grade of "C" included marks of 'C-', 'C' and 'C+'.

Members of the Senate doubted this body's ability, if it were to pass the proposal, to change what is university policy. In any event, the proposal was rejected with vigor. The vote taken was one of "opinion" and the idea of the proposal to render a 'C-' a qualifying grade to count for major graduation was rejected. 26: no, 2: abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika Hermanowicz  
Classics