

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
August 22, 2002
Approved September 17, 2002

1. Call to Order:

Presiding Officer Ed Azoff [Math] called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM in Room 265 of Park Hall.

2. Identification of Proxies and Visitors:

Proxies: Kevin Lucas for Bonnie Dow [Speech Communication], Amy Ross for David Leigh [Geography].

Absences: Clanton Black [Biochemistry], Reinaldo Roman [History], Robert Rumely [Math], Claudio Saunt [History], Juergen Weigel [Micro-biology].

Visitors: None.

Total: 35 Present, 5 Absent, 0 Visitors.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Senate Meetings:

Minutes from the March 26, 2002 Faculty Senate meeting were distributed for review at this meeting. They will be approved at the September 17, 2002 meeting. Minutes for the April 18, 2002 meeting have not yet been disseminated.

4. Comments by the Presiding Officer, Ed Azoff:

Prof. Azoff [Math] welcomed senators old and new and reviewed some Senate rules and procedures. He noted that the Senate now has its own web-page: www.franklin.uga.edu/dstaff/admin.fcSenate.htm. He suggested that each senator familiarize him/herself with this site, and, at a minimum, read the Bylaws pertaining to the committee, if any, to which s/he has been assigned. He further noted that this body would be able to function more effectively if all of its members were cognizant of its rules. In particular, he reminded those present that they should identify themselves by name and department when speaking at Senate meetings. Finally, he requested that each committee meet briefly at the end of today's meeting to select a committee chair (or co-chairs) for the 2002-03 year.

5. Comments by Dean Wyatt Anderson:

Dean Anderson reviewed the depressing history of budget cuts within the last year. He noted that an original 5% cut made last Fall had resulted in the College releasing 51 vacant lines to the Central Administration, although 24 of these lines were later restored. Since that budget cut,

there have been three smaller cuts, an 0.85% cut absorbed by the Central Administration, a permanent 1% cut, and a maybe-permanent cut of 2%. These latter cuts were financed by the College relinquishing 8 additional lines, so that the net cut in positions over the past year has been $51-24+8=35$.

Since use of surplus funds from vacant positions has been one of the primary funding mechanisms for the College for many years, the loss of these positions, in addition to the academic havoc which might be wrought, could produce severe budgetary consequences. As of now, each department's basic operating expense budget is the same as it was last year, but there is no guarantee that supplemental funds, typically dispersed once or twice per academic year, will be available in 2002-03. In addition, the travel budget has been severely reduced in order to minimize cuts in areas deemed to be more urgent. The Dean expressed optimism because of news reports that the recession may soon end, but tempered this with the observation that the State of Georgia has recently reported that tax revenue is down about 10% compared to what had been collected by this time in 2001.

Dean Anderson then answered some specific questions about the cuts and how they affected individual departments. He reiterated that he believed that operating expenses were now at reasonable levels, and that these funds, were, in fact, more stable than in the past, since none are now funded by salary savings. With respect to the difference in retirements and terminations, Dean Anderson noted that retirement lines officially revert to the University, but, thus far, had generally been returned to the College. Positions lost by termination, however, revert to the College, from which point they are assigned to departments on a need basis. As a result, some departments which escaped relatively unscathed from the above-mentioned cuts might lose future termination positions to other departments which were disproportionately affected earlier. In response to more pointed queries about whether the cuts have affected or will affect instruction, Dean Anderson answered as best he could. He noted that the budget cuts had not affected the number of courses offered and has been a shift in the instructional distribution of the College, so that somewhat fewer students are taught by tenure-track faculty, with a corresponding increase in the number being taught by instructors, GTA's, etc. He also noted that the College had recently been given around \$175,000 by the Central Administration to compensate it for the increased advising load expected to be incurred (by Franklin College) as a result of higher admission standards imposed by Terry College of Business. Overall, while dismayed by the budget cuts, Dean Anderson feels that the College has been treated very fairly by the Central Administration during this process.

Next, the Dean spoke briefly about the College's involvement in the courses being offered at the Gwinnett Center. He noted that the first major being offered through the Gwinnett Center is Pre-Med, and that the second is an Arts & Sciences degree in Humanities. Finally, the Dean

stated that he was just as confused by the new parking system as any faculty member and knew nothing other than what he has read in the newspaper about this matter.

6. Committee Reports:

6a) Committee on Committees:

Chair Elissa Henken [English] reported that the committee had met on July 3, 2002 and had set membership lists for the Senate's standing committees. These proposed committee assignments were revised slightly between July 3 and August 22 to reflect a change in the Genetics Department's senator. The revised list was distributed and approved by voice vote. Most, but not all, senators have been assigned to one of the six standing committees, in accordance with Senate policy. In addition, the Senate, by voice vote, approved the Committee's recommendation that Jaxk Reeves [Statistics] serve as the Senate Secretary for 2002-03. Finally, Prof. Henken noted that the Committee has begun discussion of formation of the Awards Committee.

6b) Academic Standards Committee:

Outgoing Chair David Leigh [Geography] reported that the committee had met three times during the summer: May 6, June 5, and August 1. In total, the committee reviewed 29 student petitions. Six petitions were approved, 19 petitions were denied, and four were tabled for further information. The committee has chosen Barbara McCaskill [English] (Fall) and Randolph Clarke [Philosophy] (Spring) to serve as co-chairs for 2002-03.

6c) Admissions Committee:

Outgoing Chair Mark Cooney [Sociology] reported that the committee had met twice during the summer: May 14 and June 6. In total, the committee reviewed 13 student petitions, approving 12 and denying one. Results from August and September meetings will be reported in September. The committee has selected Alisa Luxenberg [Art] as its co-chair for Fall 2002. Another co-chair will be selected for Spring 2003.

6d) Curriculum Committee:

The committee met on July 3, 2002. 44 new courses were approved and four other curricular matters were examined. Among these were the continuation of the policy of allowing Ecology courses to count as Biological courses and of allowing Political Science courses to count as Social Science courses, with respect to Franklin College requirements. Revisions in the Italian BA program were also approved, as was designation of the AB in Economics as a 'High Demand Status' major. A proposal from Studio Art concerning ARTS 2005 was returned to the department for further study.

The Curriculum Committee has selected Nina Hellerstein [Romance Languages] as its chair for 2002-03.

6e) Planning Committee:

The Planning Committee made no plans over the summer, but has selected Glenn Galau [Botany] as committee chair for 2002-03.

6f) Professional Concerns:

The Professional Concerns Committee did not meet during the summer, but has selected Robert Rumely [Math] as committee chair for 2002-03.

6g) Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee did not meet over the summer, but has selected Nancy Felson [Classics] as committee chair for 2002-03. The committee reminded senators that items for inclusion on future Senate agendas should be submitted to the Steering Committee at least two weeks prior to the scheduled Senate meeting.

7) Old Business:

There was no old business.

8) New Business:

Since there was no official new business, Presiding Officer Azoff suggested that members of the Senate rise individually, introduce themselves by name and department, and, if desired, make a brief statement concerning issues which they felt were important for the Senate to consider during the 2002-03 academic year. This led to many different matters being introduced. Those which were mentioned by several different faculty were: academic standards/grade inflation, possibilities of conversion to a "+/-" grading system, and faculty governance. Other issues which were mentioned included: streamlining of curricula, streamlining of elections, lengthening times between classes from the current 15 minutes, drop/withdrawal/incomplete policies, concerns about over-reliance on non-tenure-track instructional faculty, concerns about the teacher evaluation (by students) process, and concerns about lack of ethnic diversity among undergraduate students.

10) Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will occur Tue. 9/17/02 at 3:30 PM in Room 104 of Connor Hall. Agenda items are due to the Steering Committee by Tue. 9/03/02.

11) Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Submitted by Jaxk Reeves, Statistics