

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, September 17th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in room 250 of the Miller Learning Center, Jennifer Rice presiding.

Members Present: Yohannes Abate, Brian Binder, Peter Brosius, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Katie Chapman, Brian Condie, Gauri Datta, Allison Farley Raffle, Timothy Gupton, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Richard Hubbard, Betina Kaplan, Caner Kazanci, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Gary Lautenschlager, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Megan Lutz, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Nancee Reeves, Jennifer Rice, Cassia Roth, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Anne Summers, Michael Usher

Proxies: Sara Blankenship for Suzanne Ellenberger, Rebecca Gose for Lisa Fusillo, Karl Lechtreck for Silvia Moreno

Members not present: Michael Bachmann, Joe Norman, Hang Yin

Guests: Christina Lasek-White, Cynthia Turner Camp, Savannah Jensen, Adam Parker, Susan Rosenbaum, Nate Kreuter, Tammi Childs

Approval of the minutes from the August 20th, 2019 meeting: Approved unanimously with no corrections.

President Jennifer Rice's Remarks

- The responsibilities of the Faculty Senate and Senate committees will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- There were no other specific remarks.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks

- The first University Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25th at 3:30 p.m. in the Tate Theater at the Tate Center.
 - Two curriculum proposals will be discussed:
 - A new undergraduate certificate in Musical Theater Performance
 - A new major in Ocean Science
 - The Strategic Planning Committee will discuss the 2020 – 2025 strategic plan.
 - Academic units will develop strategic plans that align with the university's plan.
- Fifty faculty members are being reviewed for tenure and promotion.
 - The work concludes this week, and the faculty members will be notified shortly thereafter.
- Proposals to the Office of Research to study the History of Slavery at the University of Georgia, 1785 – 1865 are due on Monday, September 30th.
 - An email from David Lee, the Vice President for Research, contains the details.
- It was reported with great sadness that Chuck Kotal has passed away.
 - He began his work in the Chemistry department in 1973 and was the Department Head for seven years.
 - He was the Associate Dean for 14 years.
 - He was a founding director for the office of STEM.

- He was one of 300 professors that was voted “Best Professor in the United States” by the Princeton Review in 2012.
- A service will be held on October 4th at 4:00 p.m. in Room 400 of the Chemistry building.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: no report
- Curriculum Committee: no report
- Committee on Academic Standards: six proposals approved, six denied
- Faculty Affairs: no report
- Planning and Evaluation: no report

New Business:

- New members for the Awards Committee were unanimously approved and thanked for their service:
 - Rachel Gabara (Romance Languages)
 - David Zerkel (Hugh Hodgson School of Music)
- A change to the Curriculum Committee was unanimously approved without further discussion:
 - Cassia Roth (History) is replacing Vera Lee-Schoenfeld.
- Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall – continuing discussion – Dr. Chris Pizzino (English Department):
 - The committee would like to clarify the will of the Senate about a possible response to two separate letters that were written by President Morehead and university administrators about the Baldwin Hall report.
 - The three resolutions outlined in the August 20th meeting were discussed before a vote that will occur during the October 15th meeting:
 - Resolution 1: Need for University apology to descendant community in Baldwin Hall matter.
 - Experts have determined that a descendant community is more than biologically defined and that anyone with a substantive cultural, social, or historical link has a right to consultation about movement and reburial of remains (specific scholarly sources were cited).
 - Emphasis was placed on the fact that the right to consultation may not be a legal matter; however, the University did not follow best practices regarding the treatment of remains.
 - Decisions about reburial were made before the descendant community was publicly identified, and research plans were announced before descendant community members were asked if they would like further research conducted.
 - An apology could be considered necessary because the University did not acknowledge the existence of a descendant community or the rights of such a community.
 - Should reparations be added to this resolution? – This would depend on what the descendant community wants; it isn’t up to the committee or the University to decide.
 - There was some discomfort with an apology that has no associated action items. The committee can add action items if it is the will of the Senate and will take suggestions.

- Should a discussion with descendant community leaders be included with Res. 1? – We can't call for this because the University has never acknowledged the rights of the descendant community; therefore, there can't be a discussion of leaders.
- Are there models the University can follow to address any wrongs? – Yes, and we are behind other universities in this matter. Virginia Commonwealth University has a good model with attainable solutions. They acknowledged the descendant community and established multiple opportunities for community input before making any key decisions. The core group of descendant community members that emerged through consultation also checked-in with the larger community regularly.
- Tom Gresham with the Southeastern Archaeology Services oversaw the reinternment of the remains and felt the need to call Fred Smith, Sr. to apologize for the reburial process; he specifically wanted to the committee to know that he felt this apology was appropriate
- Resolution 2: Need for University consultation with the descendant community going forward in Baldwin Hall matter.
 - Consulting the descendant community about reburial and genetic analysis was encouraged by multiple individuals involved in this process, including the State Archaeologist (confirmed by Tom Gresham), Tom Gresham, Laurie Reitsema, various other professors in Anthropology, and Deborah Bolnick, who is supervising the genetic analysis
 - Substitutes for this, such as private conversation, are not consultation as defined by experts won't repair the damage to the descendant community and also won't repair the damage to the University's reputation.
 - According to Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) surveys, there could be as many as 30+ graves remaining.
 - President Morehead said that the University's response is appropriate because it went beyond requirements set by the law; however, the law requires almost nothing, so this doesn't mean the University followed best practices. He also thinks that there are personal agendas that aren't appropriate, but it is not up to the University to judge members of the descendant community, who are entitled to personal agendas.
 - This resolution is consistent with the University's land-grant mission, which we fulfill globally but not locally.
 - Should discussion of previous wrongs be added to Res. 2? – No; we shouldn't move on this without consulting the descendant community.
 - Who would manage public consultation? – An outside firm would be hired as a neutral third-party so there would not be a conflict of interest. This is considered one of the best practices.
 - Does "consultation" mean only one? – Multiple sessions are appropriate, and the language can be amended to clarify this.
 - The language in Res. 2 should be extremely specific because there is a disconnect between University officials, experts, the Baldwin Hall committee, and the descendant community.

- At this point, Jennifer suggested that we move to letter 2, which was on the agenda with the resolutions. It was decided to discuss Resolution 3 and move letter 2 to the agenda for October 15th.
 - Resolution 3: Necessity of University apology for public targeting of a faculty member.
 - The committee considers it unacceptable for the University to speak out against a faculty member, so Media and Communications should apologize to Dr. Laurie Reitsema.
 - Letter 1 suggests that Dr. Reitsema could not have been targeted by the University because she was awarded tenure and honored by the University, but the committee strongly suggests that this is false logic that the Senate must discard as it could be used to justify abuse of vulnerable individuals.
 - Several senators were questioning the “unless faculty are in the wrong” language included in Res. 3. Constraint language is needed in case a faculty member or expert speaks with malice. The Senate would like the language revised for clarity after reviewing UGA’s academic freedom policies.
 - There was a suggestion to rephrase Res. 3 positively, stating what should be done instead of what shouldn’t be done. Dr. Reitsema vetted the language of Res. 3, but it can be amended or changed with the will of the Senate.

Old Business: None was reported.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Blankenship
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Proxy for Chemistry