

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 on Zoom, Benjamin Britton presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Mark Anderson, Adam Barb, Holly Bik, Kelly Black, Benjamin Britton, Joel Caughran, Carmen Comeaux, Fae Dou, Rebecca Gose, Dan Hall, Peter Hoffer, Steve Holland, Allison Howard, Richard Hubbard, Christin Huggins, Joe Kellner, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Ro Martini Paula, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Richard Neupert, Chris Peterson, Laurie Reitsema, Amy Ross, Alexandra Shapiro, Matthew Shipes, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Justine Tinkler, Frans Weiser, Michael White

Proxies: Geng Yuan for Le Guan, Yuri Balashov for Sarah Wright

Members not present: Toyin Alli, Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Maduranga Dassanayake, DeLoris Hesse, Imi Hwangbo, Bernd Schuttler, Anne Summers, Hang Yin

Guests: Dana Bultman, Mario Erasmo, Baruch Halpern, Adam Milewski, Cecilia Herles

Approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting: The minutes were approved without corrections unanimously by voice vote.

President Benjamin Britton's Remarks:

The Senate is looking forward to voting on a new president-elect, secretary and several committee chairs in the April meeting. The executive committee will meet at their earliest convenience to begin work on a slate of nominees for the chairs of committees. Proposed senators must have served as a member of that respective committee for at least one year.

Any senator who is interested in serving as President-Elect or Secretary may self-nominate by emailing Christine Albright.

All committees should add a discussion about this to their next round of meetings, and also send their nominations forward. Thank you in advance for all of your work with this.

A special thank you to Sandy Martin for serving as president-elect this year, and as president next year.

Senate operation reminders:

- Any new proposed agenda items may be sent to Executive Committee Chair Christine Albright
- Items not on the agenda may be added by 2/3 majority Senator vote, and will be added to next meeting's agenda by the Executive Committee
- Committees will forward items to the executive committee when ready to be added to the next agenda

Procedure for discussion –

- Raise hand to be added to the queue
- Visitors will be recognized after there are no Senators waiting to speak,
- People looking to speak a second time will be recognized when there are no new voices waiting to speak – answering a question/making a motion do not count
- Voting begins after discussion ends – only Senators may vote.

Meetings will always end at 5:00 PM at the latest. Thanks to Sherry Gray for everything she does to make these meetings happen

Dean Anna Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport begins by welcoming everyone and thanking the Senators and Senate leadership for their service.

The Dean's faculty advisory council has been formed and launched its first meeting earlier this week. The council is focused on working collaboratively with the Dean and the Dean's Office in strategic priorities, and bringing items of interest from the faculty to Dean's Office. This group is working in the spring semester in 2 areas – advances in innovation in Graduate education, and strengthening in multi-disciplinary collaboration, in research and other areas.

Representatives in the council are:

- Fine Arts – Marni Shindelman, Vivian Appler
- Humanities – Rachel Gabara, Montgomery Wolf
- Life Sciences – Erin Dolan, Patricia Yager
- Physical and Mathematical Sciences – Charlotte Garing, Michael Geller
- Social and Behavioral Sciences - Janet Frick, Amy Ross

In the past week Dean Stenport concluded her meetings with the College's Departments and Institutes. She would like to invite all of the faculty in the college to attend the divisional meetings coming up next week (Jan 29 – Feb 2). These meetings are opportunities to meet with the Provost, Dean, and Associate Deans in conversation, both to hear updates from the Provost and engage in dialogue. Dean Stenport is excited to hear from a group of cognate disciplines and faculty in these meetings.

With the help of the Provost, Franklin College has launched a new set of initiatives for multidisciplinary collaboration. First, this includes seed grants for research, called RIP Grants (Rapid Interdisciplinary Program), as well as the I-CUBED program.

For more information: <https://www.franklin.uga.edu/multidisciplinary-seed-grant-program>

The Deadline for these grants is March 1 which also coincides with the Office of Research deadline for seed grants in the Sciences and Engineering (Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Physical Science)

The College is moving forward with its reputation recognition and positioning project in collaboration with SimpsonScarborough. An advisory group called the "BRAG" team (Brand

Recognition Advisory Group), comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends, will advise the College leadership as this project moves along. There will be opportunities in the next month to contribute via survey and other mechanisms to inform this process of enhanced recognition and reputation strengthening and brand awareness for the Franklin College.

Dean Stenport concludes with an invitation on behalf of the College to events on the College website, encouraging faculty to consult the events page and also submit events for consideration to Alan Flurry (aflurry@uga.edu).

Committee Reports

- Executive: The committee had nothing to report.
- Academic Standards: 4 appeals, denied 2 and approved 2.
- Curriculum: The committee approved 4 new courses, 8 course changes, 10 bulletin changes, 2 General Education Proposals (GRMN 3560 and GRMN 3570), 2 New Minor Proposals (Geology and Religion), 2 Multicultural Proposals (SPAN 4030 and ROML 4030), 1 Environmental Awareness Proposal (ANTH 3090), 1 New Major Proposal (Romance Languages), and 1 Academic Unit and Program Name Change (Women's Studies)
- Faculty Affairs: The committee had nothing to report.
- Planning and Evaluation: The committee had nothing to report.

New Business:

Election of Chair of Planning & Evaluation Committee: Candidate: Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Associate Professor and Senator, Department of Linguistics

The election passed from a voice vote with all for and none against.

Proposal for Major in Global Languages and Leadership: Dana Bultman, Professor and Department Head of Romance Languages, and Mario Erasmo, Professor and Department Head of Classics

This proposal was prepared by Mario Erasmo, Brigitte Rossbacher and Dana Bultman with collaboration from Wayne Coppins in Religion and Masaki Mori in Comparative Literature. Professor Bultman explains that this proposed major would be flexible and allow students to gain a high level of proficiency in 1-2 languages and combine them with organizational leadership classes across Franklin and other schools and colleges.

The proposal passes with 30 Yes, 0 No and 0 Abstention votes.

Proposal for Minor in Jewish Studies: Department of Religion - Baruch Halpern, Professor.

Professor Halpern explains that this proposed minor is an extension of Franklin College's area studies program repertoire and has been in development for several years. It is an attempt to service the heritage community and build familiarization of non-heritage course takers and potential minors with a minority population.

This initiative includes support from the Dean's Office, School of Public and International Affairs, the Department of Religion, with collaboration from Wayne Coppins in Religion, Steven Mihm in History, and representatives from English, Comparative Literature, Classics, Linguistics, and Germanic and Slavic studies.

The proposal passes with 32 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstention votes.

Proposals for Minor Programs of Study: Department of Geology - Adam Milewski, Professor and Department Head, and Steve Holland, Professor and Senator

Professor Milewski thanks everyone for this opportunity to talk about this new initiative. Geology is presenting four distinct minors in order to reach different student populations both within their department and the College/University as a whole. This offers students an opportunity for credentialization of skills and knowledge, but also provides a broader marketability for students and graduates aligning them with education and career competencies, making them more marketable in the field.

- Minor in Conservation Paleobiology
 - Students will learn to use most recent fossil records as a baseline to analyze human-induced impacts on the environment. This minor would provide students the principal skillsets for interpreting fossil records for conservation services and also providing experiential learning to apply to environmental problems
 - The proposal passes with 32 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstention votes
- Minor in Environmental Geology
 - Defines the subject as the practical application of Geology in solving environmental problems caused by humans or nature. Students will be taught skills to better solve problems like resource management, water remediation, hazardous waste mitigation, and stewardship.
 - The proposal passes with 32 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstention votes.
- Minor in Geoenergy and Mineral Resources
 - This is a Rapidly developing field as society is becoming more dependent on minerals and the transition of energy. This minor is viewed as an opportunity to teach students the necessary skills within that major. Georgia is currently one of the leading states in critical minerals and energy transition.
 - The proposal passes with 33 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstention votes.

- Minor in Solid Earth Dynamics
 - In this minor, students will explore tectonic systems of the earth and planets within our solar system to better understand interior structure and chemical/physical properties.
 - The proposal passes with 33 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstention votes.

Proposal for Academic Program Name Change: Cecilia Herles, Senior Academic Professional, Institute for Women's Studies – to Women's and Gender Studies

Dr. Herles mentions that this name change better reflects what faculty do in terms of research, teaching, and their growing curriculum. A majority of their classes have 'gender studies' in their title. This coincides with growing trend of using gender as an analytical category. This name change will also help to recruit and retain more students. This proposal did not just come directly from faculty, but also through feedback from academic advisors and student focus groups who all thought they needed name change several years ago. Faculty met in September 2023 to vote, and think this is an important move to recognize the study of gender in different dimensions: social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and scientific. Dr. Herles also mentions the direction of other programs at peer institutions that have "Women and Gender Studies" in their names. There are only a couple of programs in the country that have retained "Women's Studies," UGA being one of the last remaining.

After some discussion, the motion passes with 28 Yes, 0 No, and 4 Abstention votes.

Motion to request at least two in-person meetings each semester: Adam Barb, Professor and Senator, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

Professor Barb brings this motion forward because the senate has had limited opportunities to meet in person since 2020, and would like to consider meeting in person more often. During discussion it was clarified that this is a motion to request more in-person meetings as is possible working with the Dean's Office.

Concerns were presented regarding faculty with care-giving responsibilities – the timing of the meetings would make it difficult to pick up children on time while staying for the entire meeting. Others also confirmed that it is a real challenge when meetings end at 5:00 PM. Senators also expressed interest in meeting people in person rather than just online to make connections. After discussion, it was determined that this vote is a suggestion, and would reflect interest to the executive committee. They would then act accordingly working with the Dean to plan meetings in the future.

The motion passes with 17 Yes, 9 No, and 5 Abstention votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Shipes

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for the Hugh Hodgson School of Music