Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM in room 214 of the Miller Learning Center, Shelby Funk presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Analisa Arroyo, Maor Bar-Peled, Mary Bedell, Renato Castelao, Trina Cyterski, Shanta Dhar, Inge DiBella, Christopher Eaket, Shelby Funk, Lisa Fusillo, Kim Gilbert, Adam Goodie, Richard Gordon, Uwe Happek, Chad Howe, Nicholas Morrissey, Lan Mu, Dan Nakano, Virginia Nazarea, Robert Phillips, Patricia Richards, Michael Roden, Daniel Rood, Chloe Wigston Smith, T.N. Sriram, Jon Swindler, Zachary Wood, Sarah Wright, and Angela Yao.

Proxies: Jorge Escalante (proxy for Diana Downs), Connie Frigo (proxy for Josh Bynum), and Amy Pollard (proxy for Reid Messich).

Members not present: Budak Arpinar, Josh Bynum, Husseina Dinani, Fred Dolezal, Diana Downs, Natarajan Kannan, Jim Lauderdale, Derrick Lemons, Reid Messich, Mitch Rothstein, Inseok Song, and Karim Traore.

Visitors: Steve Berry

Approval of the minutes of the 21 October 2014 meeting: Approved unanimously without corrections.

President Shelby Funk's Remarks

- President Funk reminded everyone that visitors who came to the meeting of the senate on 21 October were unable to address the senate because of the lengthy discussion about travel funding. She has since received an email from Associate Dean Ruppersburg recommending time allocations for discussion items to ensure that visitors are able to speak.

- The opportunity to comment on how withdrawals are processed by Athena has been lost, and the item is now before the University Council.

- Jonathan Hardy of the Franklin College Office of Information Technology will come again in January to discuss the implementation of LANdesk. At that point, he will offer a live demonstration, and the new Executive Director of that office will have been hired.

- The meeting in January will be held in room 304 of the Forestry Building.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks

- Dean Dorsey offered two updates on hiring initiatives. First, a new Director for Student Academic Services has been hired. Dr. Diane Miller, who formerly served in the Grady College, starts in that position on December 15th. Second, the search for a new Executive Director of Information Technology has been somewhat delayed because of reformatting of the position. Four candidates have been interviewed, and the fifth will be interviewed this week. A decision for that position should be made soon.

- There will be another round of Online Learning Fellows this year. The College has partnered with the Vice President for Online Instruction to develop this program. Dr. Keith Bailey, the new Director of Online Learning, wants to develop cohorts of five faculty members. Franklin College will support two cohorts to develop online courses. Fellows will teach in the summer and receive a stipend.

  In response to a question from a senator, Dean Dorsey explained that there has been a decline in summer enrollments and an increase in online enrollments. This initiative is intended in part to protect summer enrollments. There is no information about learning outcomes in online courses yet.

  Another senator reported that he had been teaching online courses for two years and that the online courses were not as rigorous as the in-person classes.

  Another senator pointed out that students who are on study-abroad programs can take online courses while studying abroad.

  Another senator reported that he has taught the same course online and in-person and that the grades on the same exams have been quite similar.

  In response to a question from a senator about faculty eligibility, Dean Dorsey suggested that an email be sent to Associate Dean Kutal for specific details.

- Dean Dorsey announced that there will be a new Franklin College Outstanding Teaching Award and that information about that will be sent out soon to Department Heads. The award will come with funding for professional development. The award is funded by a gift from Ted and Caroline Ridlehuber.

- UGA is moving towards requiring experiential education, which is learning through action or experience. Many students are no doubt already meeting this through undergraduate research, study abroad, or internships, for example, but there will be a greater push for such learning in the future. At some point, the Curriculum Committee will be engaged to determine what this requirement will look like in the Franklin College.

  In response to a question about how this requirement will affect faculty mentoring and teaching assignments, Dean Dorsey reported that the effect on mentoring and teaching assignments is not clear at this point.

  In response to another question about how this requirement will affect class budgets, Dean Dorsey reported that one possible model might be the First Year Odyssey stipend but that it is unclear at this point how class budgets will be affected. Certainly resources and needs will be considered.

  In response to another question about whether Reacting to the Past classes would count towards this requirement, Dean Dorsey reported that someone had brought this issue up at the Heads' meeting and that it is certainly a possibility.

Committee Reports:

- Academic Standards Committee: example--Received 6 petitions, approved 3, denied 3.

- Curriculum Committee: Approved 14 new courses, approved 38 course changes, and approved 1 proposal for the Interdisciplinary Certificate in the Digital Humanities.

- Executive Committee: No new business reported.

- Committee on Faculty Affairs: No new business reported.

- Committee on Planning & Evaluation: The committee has collected data and will have a report at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Dr. Steve Berry of the Department of History presented and answered questions about the proposal for an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Digital Humanities.

  The proposal was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- No old business was discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Albright
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Classics