

**Franklin College Faculty Senate**  
**Minutes of the meeting on Thursday, February 1, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM via Zoom, Cindy Hahamovitch presiding.

**Members Present:** Adam Barb, Benjamin Britton, Clifton Buck, Liming Cai, Joel Caughran, Pilar Chamorro Fernandez, Brian Condie, Maduranga Dassanyake, Gauri Datta, Inge DiBella, Vince Du, Timothy Gupton, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Joe Kellner, Emily Koh, Kendall Marchman, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Nancee Reeves, Laurie Reitsema, Amy Ross, Bala Sarasvati, Matthew Shipes, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Anne Summers, Cynthia Suveg, Alberto Villate-Isaza, Frans Weiser

**Proxies:** In Kee Kim for Le Guan

**Members not present:** Toyin Alli, Michael Bachmann, Carmen Comeaux, Imi Hwangbo, Caner Kazanci, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Soroya McFarlane, Hang Yin

**Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2021** Minutes from both meetings were unanimously approved as distributed.

**President Cindy Hahamovitch's Remarks:**

- Discussion of GA Senate and House bills and resolutions:
  - SB 109 supports cost of living increase for USG employees
  - HB 116 increases Georgia minimum wage to \$15
  - Appropriations committee is discussing the reduction of the Special Institutional Fee and asks to restore higher education appropriations to pre-2008 recession ration of 75% state funds and 25% tuition and fees
  - SB 377 bans instruction of divisive concepts at K12 and university level
  - SB 888 bans inappropriate instruction on race in public schools, defends academic freedom at university level
  - HB 120 allows DACA students to pay in-state tuition
  - HB 932 allows refugees and visa holder in-state tuition

**Dean Dorsey's Remarks.**

**Dean Candidates**

- First of five candidates is visiting UGA on Thursday
- Kelly Borders Peyton is sending information on behalf of Franklin College regarding meetings available for faculty staff and students to meet with the candidates
- Candidates' information will be released 48 hours prior to their visits
- Everyone is encouraged to provide feedback on candidates; instructions on how to do so will be in the email sent out by Ms. Payton
- **Budget**
  - The governor's proposed budget contains a \$5000 salary increase for all state employees in the amended FY 22 budget.
  - Also, a proposal for a \$5000 cost of living adjustment in FY 23 that would make the FY22 salary increase permanent

- The governor's budget also includes funding that would allow USG institutions to eliminate the Special Institutional Fee., a fee that all students at the University of Georgia pay. Funding would be provided to institutions to offset the loss of revenue from the elimination of the fee
- At this time there is not any additional information about possible merit raises in addition to whatever is provided from the state budget. Dean Dorsey will pass this information along if he hears anything further
- **Questions for Dean Dorsey**
  - Cindy Hahamovitch (History): the \$5,000 that is a one-time bonus payment? They're not talking about raising an increase in the minimum wage there's no proposal to bring up the staff wages.
    - Dean Dorsey: The \$5,000 in the governor's budget again I want to emphasize this, is the governor's proposed budget. That will essentially be a bonus. Once it passes, then USG would be able to implement those increases. What's proposed in the governor's FY23 budget is a \$5,000 permanently increase that essentially makes that bonus permanent.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Executive Committee:** (Leslie Gordon-Simmons, Sociology) we have received some documents from the curriculum committee indicating some questions and concerns about both the mission and role of the Committee, as well as the distribution of labor on the committee. Dr Hahamovitch and I have reached out to Dr. Jane Martin Williams and Dr. Saravati we have a meeting with her on February 18 at which we will be discussing some of these issues and potential responses to the specific queries we received and potential adjustments to the process and workload.
- **Academic Standards:** (Gauri Datta, Statistics ): Four appeals, all approved
- **Curriculum Committee** (Bala Saravati, Dance):
  - 43 new courses
  - 121 course changes
  - 1 Minor Proposal: History
  - 1 Academic Program Name Change: Art
  - 2 Experiential Learning Proposals: ATSC 3990 and FILM 5640/7640
  - 2 Termination of Area of Emphasis: Geography and Romance Languages
  - 7 Double Dawgs: Various Departments
  - 8 General Education: Various departments
- **Faculty Affairs:** (Alberto Villate, Romance Languages)
  - The committee has drafted a resolution in response to the bills introduced in Georgia and other states in case there is a move to limit academic freedom in the classroom
    - Amy Ross (Geography) This is not a problem unique to GA and a reason to go on record, joining resolutions of other universities, so that it can be apparent that this is a widespread intent against our academic freedom
  - The committee will present a proposed COVID policy during the next Senate meeting
  - The committee would like to invite Elizabeth Weeks (co-chair of the working group on faculty evaluation policies) to tell us more about how the process of the post annual review. We request that you send your questions to the committee, and we will compile and organize them into categories
- **Planning and Evaluation:** No new business reported

## **New Business:**

- 1. Proposal for a Minor Program of Study: History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering – Stephen Mihm, Department of History** *A motion to approve this proposal passed unanimously, 33-0-0.*
  - Dr. Mihm: The proposed minor in the History of Science, Medicine, and Engineering aims to give undergraduates a solid foundation in the historical foundations of the so-called “STEM” disciplines that have attracted a growing number of majors in recent years. The impetus for this proposal originated with faculty members in these disciplines who contacted the History Department. Several expressed concern that students majoring in cutting-edge technical fields have insufficient opportunity to develop the kinds of skills associated with historical training: the ability to write effectively and clearly; the capacity to weigh contradictory evidence and draw logical conclusions; and other “critical thinking” skills.
- 2. Academic Program Name Change Proposal in the School of Art – Michael Marshall, School of Art** *A motion to approve this proposal passed unanimously, 33-0-0.*
  - Change from Interdisciplinary Art and Design (A.B.) to Interdisciplinary Art (A.B.)
  - Michael Marshall: This program name change is in response to an accreditation body, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). In a recent re-accreditation review, NASAD indicated that this program title has specific designations beyond the intent of the program, and by NASAD’s definitions, indicated a scope beyond the current content of the program.
- 3. Proposal for Termination of program in the Department of Romance Languages** *A motion to approve this proposal passed unanimously, 33-0-0.*
  - Steven Grossvogel: We are unable to offer on a regular basis the required major courses for Option VI. Furthermore, we have not had any students major with Option VI in many years. For the past two decades, practically all our students in Italian have chosen to major with Option VII, instead of Option VI.
- 4. Proposal for Termination of the following programs in the Department of Geography:**
  - Area of Emphasis in Agro-Food Systems and Food Security under the major in Geography (A.B.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Earth System Science under the major in Geography (B.S.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Environmental Geography under the major in Geography (A.B.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Environmental Geography under the major in Geography (B.S.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Geospatial Analysis and Visualization under the major in Geography (B.S.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Globalization, Politics and Economy under the major in Geography (A.B.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Global Environmental Change under the major in Geography (A.B.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Global Environmental Change under the major in Geography (B.S.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry under the major in Geography (B.S.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Urban and Community Studies under the major in Geography (A.B.)
  - Area of Emphasis in Urban and Community Studies under the major in Geography (B.S.)

5. *A motion to approve this proposal passed unanimously, 33-0-0. abstentions.*

- Amy Ross: These are all programs that we do not support with our current faculty configuration.

**Old Business: None**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

DeLoris Hesse

Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Cellular Biology