

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
Oct. 22, 2002
Approved November 21, 2002

1. Call to Order:

Presiding Officer Ed Azoff [Math] called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM in Room 265 of Park Hall.

2. Identification of Proxies and Visitors:

Proxies: Luis Correa-Diaz for Nina Hellerstein [Romance Languages],
Elgene Box for David Leigh [Geography],
Kavita Pandit for Ikubolajeh Logan [Geography],
Reinaldo Roman for Claudio Saunt [History].

Absences: James Anderson [Chemistry], Norris Armstrong [Genetics],
Clanton Black [Biochemistry], Glenn Galau [Botany].

Visitors: None.

Deans: Wyatt Anderson & Hugh Ruppensburg.

Senate Total: 36 Present, 4 Absent.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Senate Meetings:

No minutes were available for approval. Minutes for the April 18, 2002 meeting and the Sept. 17, 2002 meeting are still outstanding. All minutes, once submitted, may be viewed on-line at the Senate's web-site: www.franklin.uga.edu/dstaff/admin.fcSenate.htm . The Senate Secretary reminded Senators to identify themselves when they speak and also requested that committee chairs provide a written copy of committee reports.

4. Comments by the Presiding Officer, Ed Azoff (Math):

a) Non-working links on the Faculty Senate web-page should be remedied soon.

b) Senators should identify themselves when speaking. Also, the preparation of minutes would be expedited if chairs of committees submitted written copies of their reports to the Senate Secretary at the conclusion of each meeting.

c) Senators should encourage their departments (if they haven't already done so) to submit comments soon concerning the proposed new Promotion/Tenure guidelines. These may be sent to Prof. Michael Wells, chairman of the committee. The College is preparing a response and the steering committee will present us a preliminary report later in today's meeting.

d) The Senate is attempting to coordinate better with the University Council, so that we'll know what they are doing and they'll know what we're doing.

5. Comments by Dean Wyatt Anderson:

A) Proposal for uniform AB/BS degree.

The Dean reported that the College was unaware of this proposal until it had advanced fairly far through the University hierarchy. The Dean has spoken to Delmer Dunn (VP for Instruction) about the fact that we weren't consulted, and VP Dunn has promised that the Franklin College Faculty Senate will be able to review this before the proposal advances further. The College is concerned (if this proposal is approved) that other colleges within UGA will be able to offer A.B. and B.S. degrees without enforcing the same requirements which we have, especially those pertaining to foreign languages.

B) Possible Budget Redirections and Ramifications

Budget re-direction proposals are being prepared now, just in case. More will be known after the election. The total annual budget for the College is (or was before cuts) \$77 million. Most of this is tied up in salary. At the moment, there are no plans to eliminate programs or departments. So far, the cut is just a fixed percentage cut for each department; there is no distinction being made between large and small departments. If more cuts are made, the College will consider varying the rates, since small departments, in general, are suffering more than large ones. The UGA Foundation is trying to help, but the economy is bad and state organizations are not allowed to run at deficit. There has been no discussion yet at any level about salary cuts or furloughs. The College has reclaimed 25% of the operating expense of each department and all unspent travel funds. Departments which have already spent their travel allocations are 'lucky'; others are not. The College regrets any inconvenience which this may have caused for those planning travel, but felt that it must act now so as to be prepared if further cuts are announced in Spring. Finally, with respect to hiring, all vacant staff positions have been frozen. Faculty positions which have been authorized may still be advertised, although cancellation in early or late Spring remains a possibility.

6. Committee Reports:

6a) Academic Standards Committee (Chair: Barbara McCaskill; English):

The committee met on Thursday 9/19/02. There were 6 petitions; 1 was approved, 3 were rejected, and 2 tabled. A suggestion was made to the College concerning a revision to the grade appeals process. There was some discussion of the grade inflation concerns expressed at an earlier Senate meeting; the matter is under further review. The next meeting is 11/08/02.

6b) Admissions Committee (Chair: Alisa Luxenberg; Art)

The committee met on August 14, 2002 and October 11, 2002, but not in September. In all, committee members reviewed 24 petitions, approving 23 and denying one. The great majority of petitions are from dismissed students applying for re-admission.

6c) Curriculum Committee (Chair: Juergen Wiegel; Microbiology):

The committee met on Monday, September 23, 2002. It approved the following:

(1) Request to offer PHYS 1010 through the University System of Georgia Independent and Distance Learning at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.

(2) Proposed bulletin revisions for the Area F requirements for Classical Culture, Greek, and Latin.

(3) Proposed bulletin revisions for the German minor requirement.

The committee approved 41 courses from 7 different departments. 26 of these approvals concerned modifications to existing courses, while 15 created new courses. These involved 34 undergraduate courses, 4 split-level undergrad/grad courses, and 3 graduate courses.

Finally, the committee forwarded two items to the Faculty Senate for voting under New Business: a proposal for a Master of Public Health and a statement concerning the proposed draft policy for establishing general undergraduate degrees at UGA. The committee favored the former, but was opposed to the latter. The motions and votes thereof are under New Business.

6d) Planning Committee (Chair: Glenn Galau; Botany):

There was no report presented from this committee.

6e) Professional Concerns (Chair: Robert Rumely; Math):

The Professional Concerns Committee met on Tue. 10/15/02. The following matters were discussed:

A) Parking Questions

A committee representative met with the Parking Task Force, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month. (Any department may send a representative to these meetings.) With respect to the problem of faculty with two working locations, the Task Force noted that departmental permits are available for \$50/year, and these may be shared. Parking Services feels that this solution should help faculty who work in two locations (assuming that at least one of the two departments is willing to pay for this!).

B) Discussion of Faculty Lines (with Dean's Office)

A representative of the committee met with the Dean to obtain some information about how faculty lines are composed. The overall impression is that our administration is not out of line compared to similar institutions. The committee feels that the administration should work to protect departmental faculty lines.

C) Lack of Child-Care Facilities on Campus

The committee is still investigating this long-standing complaint.

D) Additional pay for 4-hour courses

Most courses under the semester system are 3-hour courses, but a few are 2-hour or 4-hour courses. Different departments handle credit for teaching such courses in different ways. The committee is still investigating this matter and may report by November.

6f) Steering Committee: (Chair: Nancy Felson; Classics):

The Steering Committee met on Tue. Oct. 8, 2002 to discuss several topics. They asked the Dean and/or Presiding Officer to present to the faculty Dean Fletcher's proposal of allowing units outside of Franklin College of Arts & Sciences to use 'A.B.' and 'B.S.' designations for their degrees. This matter, also discussed by the Curriculum Committee, is on today's agenda under New Business.

The committee also asked a member (Randy Hammond, Psychology) to attend the October 9th general faculty meeting on the issue of proposed changes in the University's Promotion and Tenure policies. Professor Hammond's summary of that meeting follows:

The major motivation for revising the current guidelines, which are apparently specified in the Sea Foam book, was that the guidelines were being applied inconsistently across colleges within the university. For example, faculty from large departments might be reviewed by an advisory committee, that would report to the departmental vote, which would then be forwarded to a college committee, and then to a University committee. In contrast, faculty from some smaller departments seemed to be only evaluated by the college and University committees. There were a few other problems with the current guidelines. For example, it was perceived that there was too much administrative

input. For example, the Dean appointed the college committee and administrators both appoint and often serve on appeals committees. This latter point was apparently a very big issue for the committee. It seems that the faculty and administration are at odds. The administration wants MORE input and the faculty want the administration to have less input.

The new guidelines suggest the following three-level structure:

First-level: This consists of a small committee, usually appointed by the department head, that would be responsible for advising the candidate. This committee would then report back to the department. This level also makes decisions regarding the solicitation of external letters. This initial consideration is similar to how it is currently done.

Second-level: This level seems to represent a convolution of the current departmental and college committees. Basically, it is composed of a minimum of 11 faculty members (their rank being appropriate to the rank being considered), at least two of whom are from outside the candidate's department. This committee evaluates the candidate based on criteria that are defined by the department according to budgetary definitions (e.g., whether they are budgeted for research or teaching only).

Third-level: This level, which approximates the current university counsel, simply evaluates whether the promotion and tenure committee (2nd level) followed the correct procedures, irrespective of their decision. In other words, they judge whether the P&T committee evaluated the candidate based on the criteria defined by the department. Since it is irrespective of the decision, it forms an automatic appeal system. Individuals basically have to appeal because review is automatic. Two-thirds majority are needed to reverse the 2nd level decision.

The biggest concern that I have heard expressed is that this structure would mean that the promotion and tenure of faculty from small departments would be disproportionately influenced by faculty outside of those departments. Although the outside reviewers are picked and can be fired by faculty from those small departments. This concern is balanced by the concern that too much power rests in the hands of too few faculty in small departments. For example, in a department with only one full professor, that faculty member would decide on the promotion of every associate in that department.

There was considerable discussion of Prof. Hammond's summary. Some concerns and comments which were offered were the following:

(1) This proposal dilutes the power of small departments, especially for Associate-->Full promotions. It could easily happen that a majority of such a committee, under the proposed guidelines, would be composed of members not in the affected department.

(2) This proposal concentrates too much power at the departmental level and cheapens promotion/tenure.

(3) This procedure doesn't appear to be used at any other major university. Do we really want to be that different from others?

(4) The initial advisory committee appears to have an awful lot of power. When is this committee set up, and who determines its membership?

(5) This procedure will lead to committee overload.

(6) The College plans to object to the proposed changes which dilute the power which small departments have to determine their own promotion and tenure decisions. The College will also object to the removal of the College/Head review under the new proposal.

(7) The Math Department's Executive Committee has spent a fair amount of time examining this proposal. If anyone is interested in a copy of their report, contact Presiding Officer Ed Azoff.

Ultimately, it was decided that this matter should be investigated by a Faculty Senate Committee. Rather than burdening the Professional Concerns Committee with another duty, it was agreed that the Committee on Committees would appoint an ad hoc Committee on Promotion/Tenure Guidelines.

6g) Committee on Committees: (Chair: Elissa Henken; English)

The Committee has nominated a slate of candidates for membership on the ad hoc Awards Committee. This will be voted upon as New Business in today's meeting. The committee will also form an ad hoc Committee on Promotion/Tenure Guidelines to examine the matter discussed today by the Steering Committee.

7) Old Business:

7a) Is electronic disbursement of Senate information satisfactory?

[Answer: yes, but many senators would still like to receive paper copies of agendas prior to Senate meetings.]

7b) All old Senate minutes for the past 10 years should now be posted at www.franklin.uga.edu/dstaff/admin.fcSenate.htm .

8) New Business:

The following three action items were voted upon after discussion during the Committee Reports portion of the meeting:

8a) [From Curriculum Committee]. Approval of Proposal for a Master of Public Health degree. Motion approved without dissent.

8b) [From Curriculum Committee]. The Curriculum Committee proposed the following motion:

"The Faculty Senate Curriculum College is opposed to the recent proposal which would make the B.S. and A.B. degrees general undergraduate degrees, to be administered by many different schools and colleges within the University of Georgia. The Franklin College of Arts & Sciences should continue to be the only division of the University with authority to administer these degrees and to set their requirements. Moreover, no change should be made to this policy without prior consultation with the Committee and Franklin College."

Some discussion of this motion ensued. Associate Dean Ruppensburg noted that he has had two conversations with the University Curriculum Committee on this matter and that they are waiting for our response. He (Dean Ruppensburg) felt that we should submit a motion today, rather than waiting until the November Senate meeting. Others felt that Dean Wyatt Anderson's statement: "The Franklin College A.B. and B.S. degrees contain many requirements, especially language requirements, that are not part of those in other schools/colleges. We should not presume to tell other schools/colleges how to structure their degrees, and vice-versa." should also be included in the motion. Eventually, the following motion was approved without dissent: "The Franklin College Senate approves the Curriculum Committee, on behalf of the Senate, to forward to the University Curriculum Committee and Provost a statement opposing the granting of B.S. or A.B. degrees by units outside the Franklin College. Such statement should include supporting language expressing the sentiments included in the Dean's statement above."

8c) [From Committee on Committees]. The Committee presented a slate of candidates for the ad hoc Awards Committee, with instructions that one candidate should be elected from each of the five divisions. Those elected by majority vote (secret ballots) were:

Biological Sciences - Charles H. Keith, Cellular Biology
Fine Arts - Richard Neupert, Drama
Language and Literature - Naomi Norman, Classics
Physical Sciences - Loris Magnani, Physics & Astronomy
Social Sciences - Miranda Pollard, History

9) Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will occur Thu. 11/21/02 at 3:30 PM in Room 265 of Park Hall. Agenda items are due to the Steering Committee by Tue. 11/07/02. The Spring Semester Senate meetings will all be held in the Main Library.

10) Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Submitted by Jaxk Reeves, Statistics