Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Special Session on Tuesday, 23 April 2019

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM in room 248 of the Miller Learning Center, Chad Howe presiding.

Members Present: Yohannes Abate, Mary Bedell, Thomas Biggs, Brian Binder, Peter Brosius, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Katie Chapman, Elizabeth Davis, Alison Farley, Lisa Fusillo, DeLoris Hesse, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Betina Kaplan, Kristin Kundert, Ming-Jun Lai, Gary Lautenschlager, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Megan Lutz, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Emily Mouilso, Chris Peterson, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Jennifer Rice, Cassia Roth, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Jiyeon So, Michael Usher, Hang Yin

Proxies: Wenjian "Vince" Du for Suzanne Ellenberger, Cindy Hahamovitch for Steve Soper

Members not present: Brian Condie, Jorge Escalante, Steve Holland, Silvia Moreno, Joe Norman, Qun Zhao

Guests: Chris Dowd, Janet Westpheling, Ted Gragson, Kim Waters, Ashlyn Webb, Martin Kagel, Jacob Weger, Spencer Donovan, Walker DePuy, Joe Lannina, Bonnie Lavine, Ken Lavine, Akela Reason, Bryant Barnes

President Chad Howe's Remarks

- Senate President Howe opened the meeting with a description of the anticipated format:
  - The first item on the agenda would be limited to 10 minutes
  - The floor would be opened to Senators to ask questions and offer feedback
  - Time permitting, the floor would be opened to visitors to ask additional questions
  - The meeting was scheduled to end at 4:15p
- A letter from UGA President Morehead had been sent to Dean Dorsey and distributed to the ad hoc committee prior to today's meeting
- Senate President Howe closed his remarks with a thank you to the committee for their work on the Baldwin Hall issue over this last year

Special Orders of Business

- Draft statement from the Franklin College Faculty Senate regarding actions taken against Franklin College Students – Jennifer Rice, Geography and Executive Committee Chair
  - The draft statement is provided at the Franklin College website: http://franklin.uga.edu/sites/default/files/Senate%20Statement%20-%20April%2023%202019.pdf
  - The Executive Committee drafted the statement in response to the discussion during the 16 April 2019 Faculty Senate meeting. The Committee drafted the statement to be general, to be in support of all students and not a specific student or instance, as well as to address concerns of faculty governance and expertise.
  - The statement was accepted without changes: 21 in favor, 6 opposed, 6 abstaining.

- Discussion on the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall – Chris Pizzino, English
    - The report submitted to Senators prior to the special meeting can be found here http://franklin.uga.edu/sites/default/files/Faculty%20Senate%20ad%20hoc%20committee%20report%204-17-19.pdf
    - UGA President Morehead's letter to Dean Dorsey, in response to the Ad Hoc Committee's report is here: http://franklin.uga.edu/sites/default/files/Response%20from%20President%20Morehead%20to%20the%20Ad%20Hoc%20Committee%20Report%20on%20Baldwin%20Hall.pdf
    - The updated report, which now incorporates e-mails related to the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) (Appendix XIV): http://franklin.uga.edu/sites/default/files/Final%20Report%20from%20the%20Ad%20Hoc%20Committee%20on%20Baldwin%20Hall%20--%20Amended%20and%20Accepted%20by%20the%20Senate%20on%20April%2023%2C%202019.pdf - the amendment accepted unanimously.
    - Dr. Pizzino first thanked Dr. Jennifer Rice (chair of the Executive Committee) and Senate President Chad Howe for their support; he thanked the Senators for their patience throughout the process and for reading the submitted report with care; he thanked all of the UGA and Athens community members who spoke with the committee and came with knowledge to share; he thanked all of those who spoke with the committee at some risk to themselves; he thanked the committee members for their time and effort for the interviews and work in compiling the report; he closed with a thank you to his spouse.
    - Pertaining to the committee's efforts, there are three items to consider. These items were introduced initially, and votes were called after a detailed perusal of the committee's major findings.
        1. Accept the report, which was clarified to mean that a "yea" vote is not agreement with the findings, but rather agreeing that the committee did its job. Passed 32-0-1.
        2. To keep the committee solvent, so that if any further information or data come to light the Senate has an appropriate mechanism by which to compile it. Passed unanimously.
        3. To affirm that any further changes to the report must be approved by the Senate; i.e., that no one person or committee be the gatekeeper. Passed unanimously.
    - The report has several major recommendations for the administration:
        - A call for an apology to the descendent local community within Athens
        - A call for improved community consultation, in line with professional best practices in archaeology and anthropology, particularly with regard to genetic studies and the graves still remaining
        - An apology to Dr. Laurie Reitsema
        - Engaging with the question of slavery at UGA, potentially through membership with Universities Studying Slavery (USS: https://slavery.virginia.edu/universities-studying-slavery/)

- Dr. Pizzino presented a timeline, corresponding to that inside the report, of the Baldwin Hall issue, beginning with the discovery of the graves, and culminating with where we currently are.
- Additional e-mails from the Office of the State Archaeologist were introduced during the meeting which shed further light on the timeline of the reburial decision-making.
- Dr. Pizzino described meaningful community consultation as a public process involving multiple stakeholders (e.g., UGA as the landholder and the descendent community in Athens and the surrounding area), naturally allowing community representative emerge, while letting priorities emerge and at the same time sharing decision-making power among entities. The committee's report questions whether this process was utilized at any stage.
- There was a question as to whether the committee followed up on accusations of faculty intimidation; the committee stands by its report.
- Universities are trusted to know their own land, and that is why a survey was not conducted prior to groundbreaking, permitting the accidental discovery in the first place.
- Positive outcomes: Office of University Architects "have participated in the formation of a more comprehensive historic preservation plan for the University" (Report, p. 40) , which take into account archaeological resources, and new construction at the University since is already taking this priorities into consideration, including "[requiring] consultation with an independent archaeologist concerning every proposed area of construction-related ground disturbance." (Report, pp. 40-41)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Lutz
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Statistics