

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM in 248 Miller Learning Center, Sandy Martin presiding.

Members Present: Christine Albright, Mark Anderson, Kelly Black, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bynum, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Megan DeMarche, Drew Etheridge, Le Guan, Peter Hoffer, Allison Howard, Christin Huggins, Christian Klimczak, Dennis Kyle, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Lindsey Reynolds, John Rose, Amy Ross, David Saltz, Bernd Schuttler, Alexandra Shapiro, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Demi Thomloudis, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Sarah Wright, Yang Yang, Hang Yin

Proxies: Suzanne Ellenberger for Sara Blakenship, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld for Joshua Bousquette, Gagan Agrawal for Fei Dou, Elizabeth Stitch for Rebecca Gose,

Members not present: Brian Haas, Austin Heil, Richard Hubbard, Pablo Lapegna, Rodrigo Martini Paula, Daniel Rood, Anne Summers,

Guests/Visitors: Gagan Agrawal, Mario Erasmo, Charlotte Garing, Dan Hall, Steve Holland, James Lauderdale, Neil Layall, Paula Lemons, Jennifer McDowell, Hawkins Pontes, Khaled Rasheed, Jennifer Rice, T.N. Sriram

Approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2024 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Sandy Martin's Remarks:

After determining there was a quorum, President Martin thanked everyone for their service and expressed happiness we were able to meet in person.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport expressed excitement to see lots of academic program innovation in action on today's agenda. Senior Associate Dean Paula Lemons is leading the new office of academic innovation and the program changes that are on the agenda represent an incredible collaborative set of efforts over the past several months.

There are opportunities for more faculty to be engaged with Franklin College's study abroad programs. This is open to all areas of Franklin, including faculty in the sciences. A working group of Franklin Faculty will be organized by Associate Dean Steven Mihm for those interested in learning more about what it means to lead a study abroad program in Franklin.

The Faculty Advisory committee is holding elections right now to serve on the Faculty Advisory committee. Nominations are due on October 17th. The faculty advisory committee is advising the Dean and the Dean's office on a number of initiatives. All members of the Faculty Senate were encouraged to put names forward for consideration.

There are seed grants in support of research and multidisciplinary instruction forthcoming from the Dean's office in December. The Parent's Leadership Council has a funding opportunity that supports advancing student engagement and success. Any faculty member is eligible to apply.

Aubrey Miller in the Franklin Development Office is the key contact. The deadline to apply is Oct. 31.

There are two upcoming community collaboration events that are organized by the college on Oct. 29 and Oct. 31. Information has been shared via email.

The Faculty Advisory Council will be sponsoring a number of research mixers in AY 24-25. The next mixer will be on Nov. 14 at 5:00 pm at an off-campus location. Health, gender, and equity is the first topic. More information has been shared via email. Please feel free to contact Associate Dean Marshall Shepherd for more information.

Everyone is encouraged to attend a presentation by Dr. Greg Lavender on Nov. 5 and Nov. 6. Greg is the Chief Technical Officer and Executive Vice President of Intel and a Franklin College alum. His interests span the arts and sciences, from computing to classics.

All faculty are invited to attend an upcoming Precision One Health Symposium on Nov. 7, 8:30 to 6:00 pm.

There is an upcoming discussion in the University Council about appointment guidelines for unit heads. Everyone is encouraged to review the proposed changes that outlines who can serve in this important role.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered three appeals, all were approved.

Curriculum: Reviewed two new courses, 76 course changes, three new major proposals, a couple of certificate proposals, and a new area of emphasis.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Will be meeting later this month to discuss the parliamentary issue. There is something to bring forward to the Faculty Senate soon.

New Business:

Proposal for an Online Program: M.S. in Data Science: T.N. Sriram Professor in Statistics presented the proposal to the Senate, explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 34 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Applied Data Science: T.N. Sriram Professor in Statistics presented the proposal to the Senate and explained the reasoning behind it and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 36 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Proposal for an Academic Program: B.S. in Neuroscience: James Lauderdale, Department Head of Cellular Biology, and Jennifer McDowell, Interim Department Head of Psychology presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 35 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Proposal for an Online Program: M.S. in Geology: Charlotte Garing, Assistant Professor in Geology and Steve Holland, Professor in Geology presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 35 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Environmental Geology: Charlotte Garing, Assistant Professor in Geology and Steve Holland, Professor in Geology presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 31 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.

Proposal for a Certificate in Climate Change Geographies: Jennier Rice, Professor in Geography presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 36 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Proposal for a Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Methods: Khaled Rasheed, Director of the Institute for Artificial Intelligence presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 33 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain.

Proposal to change the entrance and status requirements for a B.S. in Computer Science: Gagan Agrawal, Director of the School of Computing presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 34 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain.

Proposal to deactivate the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Classical Languages: Mario Erasmo, Department Head of Classics presented the proposal to the Senate explained the reasoning behind it, and fielded questions. The proposal passed – 35 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike White
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Genetics