Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 3:47 PM via Zoom, Carmen Comeaux presiding.

Members Present: Jason Aryeh, Yuri Balashov, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Megan DeMarche, Fei Dou, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Richard Hubbard, Christian Klimczak, Pablo Lapegna, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Andres Matlock, Amna Qayyum, Lindsey Reynolds, Daniel Rood, Amy Ross, David Saltz, Inseok Song, Vincent Starai, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Demi Thomloudis, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Michael White, Yang Yang

Proxies: None

Members not present: Dennis Kyle, John Rose

Guests: Adam Goodie, Anna Stenport Paula Lemons, Neil Lyall, Akela Reason, Joe Peragrine, Rebecca Gose, Sherry Gray, April Brown, Abigail Johnson

Approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Carmen Comeaux's Remarks:

Sandy Martin began the meeting due to technical difficulties with Carmen Comeaux's Zoom connection.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport thanked the senate leadership and senators for their service.

All faculty should have received a memo from the Vice President of Instruction, Marisa Pagnattaro, and the Provost, Ben Ayers, with important reminders to use the eLC gradebook and to ensure grades are reported consistently and on time. In addition, it is a requirement at the University of Georgia and a policy of USG to post course syllabi online. There is a syllabus repository at syllabus.uga.edu. In time for Fall registration, all syllabi will be required to be posted in advance of registration.

All faculty should be aware that there will be a new Spring schedule that is more dispersed. In 2026 there will be a record number of study away and study abroad courses in Franklin. Interested faculty can contact Associate Dean Stephen Mihm.

The general education curriculum is a new core curriculum that will go into effect August 2026. More information will be available later in the fall.

The college had a very strong year in alumni and development relations, including $16.5 million in philanthropic support. This includes five new endowed professorships, support for undergraduate scholarships, graduate scholarships, and other faculty support.

Research in Franklin has continued to be very strong. The college's sponsored project expenditures grew by 18% from fiscal year 23 to fiscal year 25. The total research expenditures in fiscal year 25 reached $180 million. That is a 3% increase from fiscal year 24.

All faculty, students, and UGA representatives that travel on official business must have a travel authority on file before traveling. If travel occurs without an authorization, this will limit your coverage if something happens and make it near impossible to receive travel reimbursements. Travel reimbursement requests must be submitted withing 60 days of return. Please direct questions to department heads or Steph Rosso in the Dean's office.

The college is dedicating a portion of the next department heads and directors meeting for a conversation about generative AI. Faculty have expressed interest in more robust engagement how AI might change our lives as educators and scholars. This could also be a priority area for the Faculty Senate this year.

The college is hosting an open house on Monday Aug. 25 from 4-5 in the Dodd Atrium. This is open to everyone, including graduate students.

On Sep. 11 11:00 am in the Chapel, the college, with support of the Provost Office Signature Series, is hosting Chancellor Gary May of UC Davis to give a presentation about the horizons ahead for land grant, public-serving institutions.

On Sep. 23 3:00 pm, there will be a cookies and conversation event in the Geology/Geography building.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered seven appeals, six were approved and one denied.

Curriculum: Two new courses were reviewed; one course change was reviewed. One program termination proposal (BFA Dance) was reviewed, one new program proposal (MA in Museum Studies) was reviewed, and one academic unit name change proposal (Art) was reviewed.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Elections for AY 2025-2026: Senate Secretary: Monsur Chowdhury, Statistics, Executive Committee Chair: Andrea Sweugart, Genetics; Proposed members of Senate Committees. All were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Proposal for program name change: Joseph Peragrine, Director, Lamar Dodd School of Art. Not present at meeting.

Proposal for termination of BFA in Dance: Rebecca Gose, Head, Department of Dance. Approved with a voice vote. There was one opposed.

New Program Proposal for Museum Studies M.A. degree: Akela Reason, Director, Museum Studies. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.

In-person addition of agenda item to discuss a Franklin College nondiscrimination, anti-harassment policy that includes many protected classes recently removed from USG policy: raised by Joseph Fu, Mathematics. There was not a 2/3 majority vote to add this to the agenda. This will be added to a future agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

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