Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Special Session meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. via Zoom videoconference call, DeLoris Hesse presiding.

Members Present: Abate, Yohannes; Bachmann, Michael; Britton, Benjamin; Brosius, Peter; Cerbu, Tom; Chapman, Katie; Datta, Gauri; Fusillo, Lisa; Gupton, Timothy; Hahamovitch, Cindy; Hesse, DeLoris; Holland, Steve; Hubbard, Richard; Kaplan, Betina; Kazanci, Caner; Kundert, Kristin; Lautenschlager, Gary; Lee-Schoenfeld, Vera; Luxenberg, Alisa; Marchman, Kendall; McFarlane, Soroya; Moreno, Silvia; Mouilso, Emily; Peterson, Chris; Pickett, Jordan; Pizzino, Chris; Rasheed, Khaled; Reeves, Nancee; Roth, Cassia; Sikri, Rohan; Summers, Anne; Usher, Michael

Proxies: Amy Ross for Jennifer Rice

Members not present: Binder, Bryan; Bynum, Josh; Condie, Brian; Ellenberger, Suzanne; Farley Raffle, Alison; Kushner, Sidney; Liu, Tianming; Simons, Leslie Gordon; Yin, Hang

Guests: Numerous visitors attended the meeting.

President-Elect DeLoris Hesse Remarks:

Please change your screen name to reflect your meeting role as: <u>Senator, Proxy, or Visitor</u>

Brief reminders regarding meeting logistics

- Today is a discussion meeting. Meeting end time is 12:15pm.
- Senators are given priority to ask questions first, then visitors will have time to speak.
- To ask a question or make a comment, type a **"?"** in the chat.
- Senators and Proxies: Questions and comments limited to **<u>2 minutes</u>** per speaker.
- Visitors: Questions and comments limited to **<u>1 minute</u>** per speaker.
- Dr. Frick will call on you to speak. Hold down space bar while talking to unmute.
- Senators may be asked to respond to an informal poll. If so, use the "raise hand" function to signify your response. PLEASE DO NOT vote if you are not a Senator.

Recap

- A petition for a special session of the Franklin Senate was signed by 228 Franklin faculty and sent to Dean Dorsey on Friday, June 26, 2020; that meeting was held on July 15.

- Separately, the Senate of the Mary Frances Early College of Education adopted and sent a Resolution to Dean Spangler on July 2.
- On July 15, Franklin Senators discussed an initial proposed Resolution. Sponsors of the Resolution made amendments to reflect this discussion and incorporated language from the MFECOE resolution.
- On July 27, a revised Resolution was presented and unanimously adopted by the Franklin Faculty Senate. A motion to approve co-sponsorship by the MFECOE was also unanimously approved.

This Joint Resolution represents consensus between two faculty governance bodies, and reflects a range of concerns about USG's plans, requirements, and policies for campus operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Aug 4, President Morehead and Chancellor Wrigley sent Dr. Rice and Dr. Mojock their responses to the Joint Resolution.

> "It is unclear to me where either college-level senate derives the authority to demand changes to University-wide policy and operations or to dictate actions that apply to the entire University System of Georgia."

In response, DeLoris Hesse drew the attention of the senate to Article X, Section 5 of the University Statutes which clearly states that "University Faculty Members have the right to criticize and seek alteration of both academic and non-academic University policies…."

The faculty of the Franklin and Early Colleges are world-renown experts in their respective fields with many different duties. One duty that we all share is our responsibility to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all students, staff, and faculty, and to demand changes when their health and well-being is endangered.

If the role of those experts in the shared governance of UGA is unclear, then we wish to engage in discussions with the President's Office regarding how it can be clarified and improved, with the goal of the safety and betterment of our University, and of our community.

Dean Dorsey Remarks:

Dean Dorsey addressed the Senate. In his remarks, he stressed his willingness to address many of the issues raised by the resolution within Franklin College. Furthermore, he assured the faculty that President Morehead is working tirelessly toward a solution that is beneficial to all students, staff, and faculty. He asked that the Franklin Senate work with President Morehead toward a common goal.

Item 1: Discussion of next steps and response to the Senate Resolution regarding USG's plans for campus operations during COVID-19

Opening points raised by Pizzino:
*Question of pushing forward to a vote—what percentage of committed Senators is advisable?
*Meaning of a vote of no confidence: not binding on the USG, simply a public expression of lack of faith in USG leadership
*Slight alteration of current phrasing advisable—instead of the technical "vote of no confidence," alternates such as "The Senate hereby declares its lack of confidence" or "The Senate hereby states that it has no confidence" etc.
*Precedent: previous Senate vote against President Adams.
*Potential ways to expand the item:
1.) Give specific reasons for the vote
2.) Make clear the policy changes that need to happen (refer to previous resolutions?)
3.) Specify the vote will be rescinded when these changes occur
4.) Clarify that Senators will answer to their constituents in Franklin when deciding to rescind the vote
*Short-term purpose of this action: possible substantive change to USG policy at start of term.
*Question: what is the most effective target of this action? (Pizzino's suggestion: the Chancellor and the Regents, as those most responsible for current policies in need of change)
*Long-term purpose of this action: to continue to normalize the Senate's role in publicly expressing faculty concerns, and in linking those concerns to concrete matters of policy.
*Possible further input post-meeting: could be sent by email and/or, if permissible, through a google doc

Points raised by Senators in discussion:
*Possible inclusion of President Morehead in wording of item
*Policy concern: lack of reliable risk assessment for academic buildings with older/unrenovated HVAC systems
*Policy concern: effectiveness of vote—will public critique change the Regents' policies?
*Policy concern: inadequate testing and contact tracing
*Policy concern: continued lack of benchmarks for closing

An informal poll was conducted among the senators about support for a vote of no confidence. 18 senators register their support for such an action, 2 against, and several senators abstaining. Pizzino asked senators to email him directly if they had additional thoughts on the matter.

Closing Comments:

Hesse indicated that plans for a follow-up meeting regarding the discussion today would be made among the Executive Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Rice
Franklin College Senate President