Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Special Session meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM via Zoom, DeLoris Hesse presiding.

Members Present: Benjamin Britton, Clifton Buck, Tom Cerbu, Brian Condie, Gauri Datta, Inge DiBella, Allison Farley Raffle, Timothy Gupton, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Emily Koh, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Nancee Reeves, Jennifer Rice, Cassia Roth, Bala Sarasvati, Anne Summers, Michael Usher, Alberto Villate-Isaza,

Proxies:

Members not present: Yohannes Abate, Michael Bachmann, Peter Brosius, Maduranga Dassanyake, Vince Du, Richard Hubbard, Caner Kazanci, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Cynthia Suveg, Hang Yin

Guests:

Approval of the minutes of the (November 17, 2020) meeting: postponed to regular meeting in January

President DeLoris Hesse's Remarks:

President Hesse informed the Senate that under the rules in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, a member can speak twice to a motion on the same day, and he or she can take the second turn only after everyone who wishes to speak the first time has spoken. In addition, she informed the Senate that discussion of the first item on the agenda would be limited to 15 minutes.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks: In the interest of time, Dean Dorsey did not wish to make any remarks.

Old Business:

Vote on statement regarding Franklin Senate endorsement of *Beyond Baldwin* racial justice demands.

Dr. Rice presented two options for Senate endorsement (https://www.franklin.uga.edu/sites/default/files/Options%20for%20Senate%20statement%20to%20accompany%20signing%20on%20to%20Racial%20Justice%20Demands.pdf). After a brief discussion, the Senate voted to adopt "Option A" calling for President Morehead, Provost Hu, and Vice Provost Cook to meaningfully engage with the students, leading the effort by hosting and participating in a public town hall with representatives of Beyond Baldwin and the UGA NAACP to discuss these demands and the concrete steps that will be taken by UGA to acknowledge and redress racism on our campus.

Dr. Rice indicated that the Early College Faculty Senate and Staff Representative Group have already endorsed this statement. The Franklin Senate and MFECOE Senate will

jointly sign and deliver this statement to President Morehead, Provost Hu, and Vice Provost Cook.

Presentation on recent Zoombombing event and Resolution for Consideration--Eric Morales- Franceschini, English. Co-sponsors Cassia Roth (Senator), History and Chris Pizzino (Senator), English. Additional statement from Chris Pizzino.

Dr. Morales-Franceschini opened by stressing the severity of the crimes perpetrated; that these were credible death threats and hate crimes; clarified that the effects have been traumatic for the victims; i.e. insomnia, generalized anxiety, loss of appetite, difficulty concentrating, etc.; that there have been as least seven incidents since Spring 2020, but this is not well known or publicized amongst faculty and students; that the victims are not coincidentally women, racial and religious minorities, but especially women of color; that all of the victims were acting in their scholarly or collegiate capacities when the crimes occurred; and that our larger social and political context, not least with FBI-documented rise of white nationalist extremists, calls for clearer and more robust safety protocols, technical assistance, post-traumatic resources, and curricular amendments.

A discussion and question and answer session followed. Senators approved the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to further investigate telemeeting crimes and to make recommendations to the Dean.

Charge to the Franklin Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Telemeeting Crimes - Chris Pizzino (Senator), English

Discussion of the charge was led by Dr. Pizzino with the help of Dr. Morales-Franchescini and Dr. Roth. Discussion began with clarification of the charge's language--particularly the legal meaning of the phrase "terroristic threats" under state law--and with a reminder that the charge's wording functions, in a few places, as a friendly amendment of the discussion items being addressed. Discussion of the charge clarified the direction and purpose of each part and of the way the parts are related, and specified as well the expectation of a short timeline for this committee's work. There were also reminders of the scope of telemeeting crimes and of their significance and ongoing likelihood.

Dean Dorsey clarified that his help and attention would be available for items involving, or making requests of, the Dean's Office.

In the latter part of discussion, there was an appeal for additional members to join senators who had already volunteered (Dr. Britton, Lamar Dodd; Dr. Villate-Isaza, Romance Languages; Dr. Reeves, English). In response to this appeal, Dr. Emily Mouilso (Psychology) and Dr. Vasant Muralidharan (Cellular Biology) volunteered. For all divisions of Franklin College to be represented, a volunteer from Physical and Mathematical Sciences would also be necessary; President Hesse remarked that after consultation with the Executive Committee, a volunteer from this division might be appointed over the break

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
DeLoris Hesse
Franklin College Senate President and Senator for Cellular Biology