

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The meeting was held via zoom at 3:40 PM, Carmen Comeaux presiding.

Members Present: Yuri Balashov, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Richard Hubbard, Pablo Lapegna, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Andres Matlock, Amna Qayyum, Lindsey Reynolds, Daniel Rood, John Ross, Vincent Starai, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Yang Yang

Proxies: None

Members not present: Jason Aryeh, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Megan Demarche, Fei Dou, Le Guan, Christian Klimczak, Dennis Kyle, Amy Ross, David Saltz, Inseok Song, Demi Thomloudis, Michael White

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Paula Lemons, Patricia Richards, Kris Petti, Leslie Morrow

Approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Carmen Comeaux's Remarks:

Carmen Comeaux began the meeting.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport thanked senate for its service and the opportunity to provide brief some remarks. She acknowledged two long standing Franklin staff members who retired. Alan Flurry, Director of Communications, and Kelly Peyton, who served the college for 30 years as an executive assistant and the manager of the Dean's office. Reminder to pitch research stories and other notes of recognition Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Susan Ambrosetti and Sr. Director of Communications and Content Strategy, Kay Torrence.

Dean Stenport began by recognizing Franklin faculty achievements. She thanked Franklin faculty who recently participated in the University of Georgia Active Learning Summit. The Dean's office is pleased to award several internal Franklin seed grants: the rapid interdisciplinary proposal team awards, the faculty research intensification system awards, and for the i-cubed teaching awards. The dean recognized that a significant portion of funding for these awards come from philanthropy. She thanked all the faculty who are actively thinking about ways in which philanthropy and alumni relations can augment the impact of research, teaching, and service for the college.

Franklin had two awardees named as presidential seed grant recipients, Gabriel Cooperman in geography and Jin Chi in chemistry in a very competitive competition. She also extended her

sincere note of recognition to Professor of Marine Sciences, Dr. Mandy Jo, on her recent election into the National Academy of Engineering.

The dean relayed that the vice president of research office competition for annual seed grant funding for Sciences and Engineering, broadly construed, is open until March 1. For faculty in the arts and humanities, the Wilson center is the home for internal awards in those disciplines with a with a different.

Dean Stenport mentioned additional guidance from the Campus Curriculum Committee and Subcommittee of the General education has been received with respect to the new General Education curriculum. Information will be shared through department heads and directors. The college continues to encourage the development of courses in Ethical Reasoning and Global Issues and Their Solutions. Senior Associate Dean Paula Lemons is closely working with the curriculum subcommittee and the office of instruction to move these proposals forward in a steady manner. The college will be implementing a different system to handle academic program management and course proposals. She extended a note of gratitude to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee for the work they are doing in reviewing these courses and academic program considerations and also provided a gentle reminder to be as timely as possible in the review, so as not to hold up the process for faculty colleagues who are revising existing courses and submitting new ones.

Dean Stenport reported that the college had a very high degree of compliance with the University of Georgia and USG syllabus uploading requirement, at nearly 96% for spring semester. Syllabi and CV are expected to be uploaded before registration begins for summer and fall, which is early April.

The dean also reminded faculty that all UGA employees traveling on university business must submit a travel authorization, in a timely manner, before departing. Compliance with this policy is absolutely necessary in order to be reimbursed.

Dean invited the faculty community to several upcoming events: February 19, a Conversation and Cookies get together in the Physics building from 2 to 3 pm. The first research mixer of the semester is the same day at 5 pm at Hendershots cafe on Prince Avenue. Provost Ben Ayres will be meeting with the Franklin Faculty on March 5 at 10 AM in the Lamar Dodd School's auditorium.

Dean Stenport closed by thanking everyone for giving her time to share the updates and recognition of the work that the Faculty Senate does on behalf of shared governance.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered 4 appeals, three were approved and one denied.

Curriculum: 22 new courses were approved; 83 course changes were approved. They also approved a Certificate in Women and Gender Studies. A Graduate Certificate in Gender-Informed Professional Practice, which we will vote on today in our major business.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Gender-Informed Professional Practice – Dr. Patricia Richards t, 22 Approved, none opposed and None Abstention
- Dr. Joe Fu raised a concern about the USG policy for uploading public syllabi and CVs. Dr. Fu has communicated with the president of Georgia Tech’s AAUP and strongly urged all faculty to become members of the AAUP. He also mentioned that if he is required to upload a syllabus and CV, he will upload the documents but reserve the right to change the syllabus depending on the needs of the class. Concerns were expressed about the clunkiness of the system. Dean Stenport mentioned the feedback has been brought to the office of instructions around the system. Mention was made that the UGA syllabus policy appears to have some language that is different than the USG’s language. Senate president Carmen Comeaux and Dr. Fu will work on the points of concerns raised and will return to the matter in a future meeting. Senior Associate Dean Paula Lemon will contact the Office of Instruction for further clarity. There was no final decision about what action to recommend regarding the policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Monsur Chowdhury
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for Statistics