Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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

Members Present: Yuri Balashov, Sara Blankenship, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Megan DeMarche, Drew Etheridge, Joseph Fu, Le Guan, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Austin Heil, Allison Howard, James Howard, Christian Klimczak, Dennis Kyle, 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: Jason Aryeh → Rebecca Gose

Members not present: Fei Dou

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Ellyn Evans, Joe Peragine, Belinda Stillion Southard, Derrick Lemons, Ingie Hovland, April Brown, Neil Lyall

Approval of the minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

President Carmen Comeaux's Remarks:

Carmen Comeaux began the meeting.

Dean Stenport's Remarks:

Dean Stenport began by thanking senators and the senate leadership for their efforts, while wishing everyone a Happy New Year and a happy start to the spring semester. She reminded everyone to stay safe and be prepared as needed for upcoming winter weather related events.

Dean Stenport began with compliance updates. Franklin College of Arts and Sciences had at the beginning of the semester achieved a syllabus and CV upload compliance rate of about 91% of its approximately 4,500 course sections, Recent data indicate that the rate is slightly higher. She reminded faculty to be aware that for spring and summer registration, syllabi and CVs must be uploaded at least one week prior to registration, which is currently expected to be the last week of March.

Dean Stenport emphasized the importance of submitting travel authorization requests in advance for business related travel. She noted that there have been a few recent incidents in which travel authorizations were not filed prior to professional travel. In such cases, reimbursement is not permitted.

Dean Stenport expressed her appreciation for the growing number of academic program updates, and new multidisciplinary, innovative developments across the college. She thanked faculty for their continued efforts in this area.

Dean Stenport shared some good news in terms of some recent faculty recruitments. Our new vice president for research Dr. David B. Berkowitz will be a faculty member in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences with an appointment in the department of Chemistry. We have also concluded two major Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Professorship searches, one for Dr. Francisco Lime in the Department of Chemistry and another for Dr. Guawei Wei in the joint appointment between Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Mathematics. She thanked all faculty who were involved in these searches.

Recruiting and retaining the top faculty is at the top of priority list always for the dean's office. She gave a shout out to the faculty who have been involved in securing endowed professorships, working with the Development and Alumni Relations team. Endowed professorships are among the most effective ways to recruit and retain outstanding faculty. She also noted that the university has recently allocated matching funds through the University of Georgia Foundation for this purpose. Faculty with questions were encouraged to contact their department head or Meredith Metcalf, Senior Director of Development.

The college's new experiential learning initiative to instill entrepreneurial confidence and support the launch of real startups called Franklin CREATE! is about to launch in Spring semester. Eight faculty ambassadors from all five divisions have been selected who will be working with colleagues and in their divisions on launching the program. More information will follow in January and February.

Dean Stenport mentioned that she received a request from the Career Center to encourage all faculty to share words with their students about the upcoming career fairs on February 4 and 5.

Dean Stenport walked through some exciting some events and deadlines.

The first one is that an exciting event organized by the AI institute and the department of Dance coming up on January 29. The second one is college funded research support and faculty professional development programs are due on January 30. Those are called the Franklin RIPs, RIS, and iCubed. Email information was sent around December 1. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Marshall Shepherd. The third one is there will be two events on February 19: one is the conversation with the dean's office at 2 PM in the Physics Building, and a Franklin Research Mixer from 5-7 pm with the topic on arts, labs, technology. The provost will also meet the Franklin faculty on Thursday, March 5 at 10 AM in the auditorium in the Lamar Dodd School of Arts. Dean Stenport encouraged all faculty to take the opportunity to engage directly with our new provost. There will be an opportunity for Q & A as well.

Dean Stenport closed by thanking everyone for giving her time to share the updates and wished everyone a great start to the spring semester.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered 9 appeals, eight were approved and one denied. The other appeals currently in process.

Curriculum: 14 new courses were reviewed; 27 course changes were reviewed.

- 43 Bulletin Changes

• 1 Certificate: Religion: Undergraduate Certificate in Religion and Politics: 36 Approved, None Opposed, None Abstention

• 1 Academic Program Name Change - Art: Sculpture to Sculpture & Technology

• 2 Minors: Communication Studies: Communication, Leadership, and Advocacy: 36 Approved, None Opposed, None Abstention. Communication in Healthcare: 36 Approved, Two Opposed, None Abstention.

• 3 Areas of Emphasis- Music MM: Music Therapy with Equivalency (non-advanced standing; Music Therapy with Equivalency (non-advanced standing with thesis); Music Therapy Advanced Standing with Thesis. All unanimously approved.

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for an Academic Program Name Change – Joe Peragine, Director, Lamar Dodd School of Art, 29 Approved, 1 opposed and 2 Abstention
- Proposal for Certificate Program in Religion and Politics – Derrick Lemons and Ingie Hovland, Religion
- Proposal for Minor in Communication, Leadership, and Advocacy – Belinda Stillion Southard, Communication Studies
- Proposal for Minor in Communication in Healthcare – Belinda Stillion Southard, Communication Studies
- Discuss the public syllabus and CV posting policy – Joseph Fu, Mathematics
- Discuss the status of Legion Pool – Amy Ross, Geography

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

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