

Franklin College Faculty Senate
Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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

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

Proxies: Jonathan Haddad→ Maureen DeNiro

Members not present: Joshua Bynum, Drew Etheridge, Richard Hubbard, Dennis Kyle, Sandy Martin, John Rose,

Guests: Anna Stenport, Adam Goodie, Laurie Reitsema, Michael Usher, Jennifer Walker, Susan Tanner, Julie Stanton

Approval of the minutes of the October 21, 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 thanked the senate leadership and senators for their service.

The dean called faculty's attention to an email message sent by the University on October 27 from Dr. Juanita Hicks, Vice President for HR and Director of University Human Resources, which outlines expectations around any salary actions for fiscal year 2026. All department heads and directors have received this email; if faculty have questions, they are encouraged to contact their head/director..

Dean Stenport then moved into several items related to academic programs. Faculty are currently leading several academic program initiatives. She thanked the faculty for their work reviewing, revising, and updating programs, as well as for considering opportunities for high-enrollment, multidisciplinary programs, certificates, minors, and degree offerings. The new general education curriculum is expected to go into effect in August 2027. There are a couple of areas of the new curriculum that are particularly important to consider—one is the ethics requirement, and the other is the globalization requirement. Dean Stenport encouraged us to think about how our departments and programs can contribute to these requirements and to identify existing or new courses that may fit within the general education curriculum.

The dean's office is continuing to prioritize active, engaged, and intentional outreach with faculty. Dean Stenport is continuing to meet with faculty across different categories to listen and learn. She has already met with first-, second-, and third-year assistant professors and will continue meeting with other faculty groups throughout the year. She noted that she greatly appreciates these opportunities to hear directly from faculty. These meetings are unstructured Q&A sessions, which many faculties find helpful for connecting with the dean and the dean's office. The election for the Faculty Advisory Committee will be launched at the end of November, with results expected to be announced before the end of the semester.

The dean's office is moving forward with the Research Mixer on Thursday, November 20, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Oakland Research Center, and all were invited to attend.

The college will also be launching internal seed funding and support grants, as well as faculty and professional development opportunities (RIP, I-cubed, and RIS), on December 1. Information will be distributed to faculty through department heads. Dean Stenport highlighted a resource available to all UGA faculty, graduate students, postdocs, and staff—the [National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity](#). This resource offers programs related to collaboration, mentorship, and professional development.

Dean Stenport invited everyone to the Old College Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 3. She also encouraged faculty to continue growing philanthropic support. She noted remarkable increases in alumni and philanthropic giving in the past three years, which has supported faculty, graduate students, and research development.

Dean Stenport closed by thanking everyone for their effort, involvement, and continued engagement.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered 7 appeals, five were approved and two denied.

Curriculum: 22 new courses were reviewed; 18 course changes were reviewed.

- 78 Bulletin Changes
- 3 Certificates: Mathematics, Theoretical Mathematics Microbiology, Industrial Bioscience Skills Anthropology, Health Humanities
- 1 Minor: Anthropology, Minor in Forensic Sciences

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for Minor in Forensic Sciences – Laurie Reitsema, Director, Bioarchaeology and Biochemistry Laboratory. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Theoretical Mathematics – Michael Usher, Head, Mathematics. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.

- Proposal for Certificate in Industrial Bioscience Skills – Jennifer Walker, Microbiology
Approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- Proposal for Certificate in Health and Humanities – Susan Tanner, Anthropology. Approved
with a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

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