Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2025

The meeting was held in person at 3:40 PM 350 of the Miller Learning Center, Carmen Comeaux presiding.

Members Present: Jason Aryeh, Yuri Balashov, Timothy Bolger, Joshua Bousquette, Joshua Bynum, Monsur Chowdhury, Carmen Comeaux, Heide Crawford, Megan DeMarche, Drew Etheridge, Brian Haas, Jonathan Haddad, Allison Howard, James Howard, Richard Hubbard, Christian Klimczak, Pablo Lapegna, Nicolás Lucero, Sandy Martin, Andres Matlock, Amna Qayyum, Lindsey Reynolds, Daniel Rood, John Rose, Amy Ross, David Saltz, Inseok Song, Vincent Starai, Jennifer Stull, Andrea Sweigart, Sachiko Terui, Demi Thomloudis, Lisa Townsley, Bram Tucker, Frans Weiser, Michael White

Proxies: Fei Du→Wei Niu, Austin Heil→ Christof Meile, Dennis Kyle→ Tatiane Russo-Tait, Andrea Sweigart l→ Tessa Andrews, Yang Yang→ Liang Liu

Members not present: Sara Blankenship, Joseph Fu, Le Guan

Guests: Anna Stenport, Frederick Maier, Daniela Di lorio, Kris Petti, Neil Lyall

Approval of the minutes of the August 19, 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.

Dean started with good news: **Franklin College is authorized to conduct nearly 50 faculty searches beginning in August 2026**, mostly for tenure-track positions, with some non-tenure-track roles as well. The Dean expressed appreciation for the strong support received from the President and Vice President for Instruction.

Dean Stenport noted that **H-1B visa restrictions are not effective for those already residing in the United States.**

Dean reported that **undergraduate headcount is down 4.1% for Fall 2025**, continuing a steady decline. The Dean's Office will continue to assess trends and work with academic program directors to increase enrollment. **New undergraduate enrollment** is down **6.1%**, and **graduate enrollment** is down **4.2%**, with the largest decrease among master's students due to visa issues affecting international students. Efforts are underway to increase domestic graduate enrollment.

Dean Stenport mentioned **ongoing uncertainty in federal funding** (e.g., NSF, NIH). A clearer picture is expected by February 2026, and department heads and directors have been informed.

The college have launched two task forces for the year 25-26 to look specifically at how we are coordinating and serving our students in the division of biological sciences which is the largest undergraduate program. There is a task force led by Karen that will report in the end of January. There is also a task force in Language. This task force is led by Chad Howe from linguistics to strengthen the language education environment. There will be a report for that work in November.

Franklin College achieved **a record number of Study Away and Study Abroad enrollments for Summer 2026**, and the Dean thanked faculty for developing these programs.

The new **General Education Core Curriculum** will launch in **Fall 2027** and will include significant changes. A new **Ethical Decision-Making** requirement will be introduced, requiring the development of many new courses. **Paula Lemons** is leading efforts to support the creation of ethics-related courses, which may also apply to other disciplines. There will also be a new **Global** category.

Remarks on faculty education. Faculty development support service called the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCEFD). UGA has a paid subscription. Encourage all faculty to involve in it and get benefit from it.

Faculty Advisory Committee elections will be announced soon, selecting ten faculty members representing five divisions.

Dean and Associate dean have asked the department to provide a brief update on some of their academic innovation work that they have been doing in the department. Dean's office will schedule various meetings with faculty categories, sharing feedback and ideas.

The Dean's Office will host **"cookie conversations"** on **Monday, November 17 at 2:00 PM** and a **holiday open house on December 1.**

Dean's office will call for proposal for philanthropically supported research development that started in the college. These are both funding grants for multidisciplinary team-based projects and individual faculty professional development awards. Those calls will be launched December 1. They'll be due early in the spring. Invite everyone to join in on Spotlight on the Arts.

The Franklin college has received a three-million-dollar award from the Marcus Foundation, specifically to design and explain it to learn from students in the Franklin College who are interested in enhancing their entrepreneurial mindset.

As of January in 2026, all **course syllabi must be uploaded by January 5** to ensure 100% compliance. More information about that will come soon. For 2026 enrollment, this information should be available by the time of registration.

Committee Reports:

Executive: Nothing to report.

Academic Standards: Considered 6 appeals, four were approved and two denied.

Curriculum: 69 new courses were reviewed; 98 course changes were reviewed.

- 1 Bulletin Change: School of Computing

- 1 Gen Ed Requirement: Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

- 4 FCAS Requirements: Institute for Women's and Gender Studies (2), Dept. of Germanic & Slavic Studies, Dept. of English

- 2 Certificates: Institute for Artificial Intelligence; Institute for Women's and Gender Studies

- 1 Area of Emphasis: Comparative Literature & Intercultural Studies

- 1 Minor: Marine Sciences (Scientific Diving)

- 1 Music Therapy Area of Emphasis entrance revision

Faculty Affairs: Nothing to report.

Planning and Evaluation: Nothing to report.

New Business

- Proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence - Languages, Minds, and Machines – Fred Maier, Associate Director for Academic Programs, Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- Proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Gender and Health– Cecilia Herles, Assistant Director, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- Proposal for Minor in Scientific Diving – Daniela Di Iorio, Head, Marine Sciences. Approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- Proposal for an Area of Emphasis in Society and Culture – Frans Weiser, Head, Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies. 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