Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Jan. 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in room 213 of the Miller Learning Center, Mary Bedell presiding.

Members Present: John Achee, Maor Bar-Peled, Mary Bedell, Thomas Biggs, Brian Binder, Josh Bynum, Tom Cerbu, Katie Chapman, Elizabeth Davis, Suzanne Ellenberger, Jorge Escalante, Lisa Fusillo, Chad Howe, Richard Hubbard, Maria Hybinette, Betina Kaplan, Kristin Kundert, Jain Kwon, Ming-Jun Lai, Gary Lautenschlager, Megan Lutz, Reid Messich, Silvia Moreno, Dan Nakano, Rielle Navitski, Don Nelson, Chris Pizzino, Lakshmish Ramaswamy, Jennifer Rice, Mike Roden, Rohan Sikri, Leslie Gordon Simons, Jiyeon So, Steve Soper, Nanette Spina, Phillip Stancil, Piers Stephens, Lianchun Wang.

Proxies: Nancy Manley (for Brian Condie), Dan Rood (for Kevin Jones), Zhangwei Pan (for Qun Zhao).

Members not present: Takahiro Ito, Gary Lautenschlager, SunKoo Yuh.

Approval of the minutes of the Nov. 14, 2017 meeting: Approved without corrections.

President Mary Bedell's Remarks

President Bedell welcomed everyone to the new year. And she reminded everyone of today's special event, a closed session to allow Senators to discuss the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate.

Dean Alan Dorsey's Remarks

Dean Dorsey began by providing a few quick updates. First, The Georgia State Assembly is in session; and Governor Nathan Deal, in his State of the State address, presented his budget for consideration by the Assembly. Second, the press and other media outlets suggest that the State of Georgia will make a significant contribution to the Georgia teachers retirement system to help it remain solvent, a challenge that is facing similar systems all over the country. The State contributions might include salary increases for state employees.

Dean Dorsey then reminded everyone that this is Founders Week. Yesterday, Prof. Marshall Shephard delivered the annual Founders' Day lecture, and tomorrow UGA President Jere Morehead will deliver the State of the University address.

Dean Dorsey next reported on the progress of the Franklin College of Arts & Science's fundraising campaign. He reminded Senators that the University of Georgia is in the midst of its eight-year Commit to Georgia campaign, which will end in 2020. Last year, with two years still to go in the campaign, the College of Arts & Sciences exceeded its target goal of $75 million and now has reached a total of $86.7 million. These funds support myriad projects, student scholarships, support for programs, endowed professorships in the arts and sciences, and more. So far, in our current fiscal year (FY18), Franklin has raised $10.2 million, exceeding the annual

goal set by the University's Office of Development. For this successful fundraising work, Dean Dorsey praised Franklin's fundraising staff as well as the many faculty contributors. 4% of the value of the endowed funds (set up in perpetuity) become spendable income each year. The value of the Franklin College endowment now stands at $94.4 million, up from approximately $50 million in 2012 and in close range of the $100 million mark. This increase is due in part to favorable markets but also to an aggressive approach to fundraising opportunities.

Finally, Dean Dorsey reported on a news item that made him proud: the success of the University of Georgia's Small Satellite Research Laboratory. Dr. Deepak Mishra and Dr. David Cotton have been assisting students in the construction of a small satellite that will go into space in 2018. This student-led project secured funding from NASA DARPA and was one of only two university research programs to receive such recognition, ahead of eight other programs including M.I.T. A range of undergraduates, including students of design and publicity, are involved in the program, and some alumni have stepped forward to help, too.

Committee Reports

Academic Standards Committee. 6 petitions review: 3 approved, 3 denied.

Curriculum Committee. Reviewed 39 new courses. Approved 57 course changes. Approved 1 Bulletin Change (Biological Sciences), 1 General Education Core Course Proposal (ARTS 2600), and 4 Double Dawgs Proposals (in various departments).

Executive Committee. Nothing to report, other than news of today's Special Session.

Committee on Faculty Affairs. Reported on the results of the faculty survey regarding the performance of Dean Dorsey, as part of his 5-year review. To ensure that all faculty had ample opportunity to complete the survey, the completion deadline was extended to Dec. 7, 2017. The response rate was up from six years ago, and the evaluations were generally positive, for example, regarding Dean Dorsey's commitment to diversity and his fairness toward and concern for faculty . Although Dean Dorsey's communication style received a good rating, some of the faculty surveyed asked for an increase in communication. Assorted other positive comments regarded the competitive start-up package offered by Dean Dorsey and his commitment to retaining faculty. Asked in what areas Dean Dorsey could improve, faculty wished for additional resources for travel and graduate student support; a commitment to address the problem of salary compression, increased pay for summer teaching, and more communication. It is expected that the next review of the Dean's performance will take place in five years.

Committee on Planning & Evaluation. Nothing to report.

New Business

The Special Session to discuss the effectiveness of the Franklin Faculty Senate procedures and practices will begin immediately after the regular meeting is adjourned.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Soper
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for History