

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences
November 20, 2003
Approved: January 13, 2004

1. Call to Order:

Presiding officer Nancy Felson [Classics] called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM in Room 248 of the Student Learning Center.

2. Identification of Proxies and Visitors:

Proxies: William Finlay for Tom McNulty [Sociology], David Leigh for Andrew Grundstein [Geography], Kimberly Shipman for Steve Miller [Psychology], Ben Ehlers for Reinaldo Roman [History]

Absences: John Lee [Biochem], Barry Palevitz [Plant Biology], K.K. Mon [Physics/Astro], Mitchell Rothstein [Math], Marly K. Eidsness [Chemistry], Gary Love [Physics/Astro], Glenn Wallis [Religion]

Visitors: Katie Reetz [Red&Black], Lee Shearer [Banner-Herald]

Total: 35 Present, 7 Absent.

3. Approval of Minutes of previous Senate Meetings:

The Senate voted unanimously to approve the minutes from 9/16/2003 and 10/21/2003.

4. Comments by the Presiding Officer, Nancy Felson:

Nancy Felson opened by noting that the questions for Provost Mace (see the minutes from 10/21) were now completed. She also reported on a breakfast that she had attended approximately a week before with President Michael Adams, along with a diverse group of faculty and a few administrators, including Provost Arnett Mace. This breakfast was part of an initiative from the President's office to begin developing more collegial relations with faculty. Issues such as faculty governance and the inadequacy of the current top-down style of managing a university, faculty morale and its relation to the current lack of faculty input, were discussed, along with ways that the President could be proactive, rather than reactive, in the newspapers, and how he could get the controversy behind him.

Nancy Felson, in response to emails directed to her from concerned faculty across the college, asked whether the Senate might consider making a formal statement regarding the current controversy surrounding President Adams. Several of those who contacted her felt that silence also expressed an opinion and that it would be better to formulate an active response. To this end, she placed consideration of this matter under New Business.

5. Comments by Dean Wyatt Anderson:

Dean Anderson began by noting that some changes had occurred since Associate Dean Ruppertsberg reported on the budget at the last Senate meeting, including, most significantly, the return of some funding. These will now be available to departments for travel money, operating expenses, renovations, and equipment.

In response to a question by Marjanne Gooze [Germanic/Slavic], Dean Anderson said that he did not have information regarding the composition of a committee that will be charged with interviewing candidates for the new Dean. This process needs to begin soon in order to complete the search and hiring of the new Dean before Fall, 2004. Nancy Felson [Classics] remarked that Provost Mace said that he would contact her soon regarding the composition of that committee, based on nominees from the Senate's Committee on Committees (see 6g, below).

6. Committee Reports:

6a) Academic Standards Committee:

The Committee met on October 28, 2003 and reviewed a total of fourteen student petitions. Twelve were approved, two denied. Regarding the revised Foreign Language substitution list, the Committee has contacted the appropriate Department Heads and, once they have received all responses, the issue will again be placed on the agenda.

6b) Admissions Committee: no report

6c) Curriculum Committee:

Marjanne Gooze [Germanic and Slavic], chair, reported that the Committee met on Nov. 10, 2003 and approved the following:

1. CMLT3000, Masterpieces of the Indian Tradition may be used in fulfillment of the College literature requirement.
2. A proposal to change minor and major requirements in Chemistry
3. A proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Mathematics Education
- 4.

6d) Professional Concerns Committee: no report

6e) Planning Committee:

Elois Ann Berlin [Anthropology], chair, reported that the Planning Committee came up with this preliminary list of concerns:

1. Continuing growth in enrollment without growth in faculty
2. Continuing growth in administration while faculty are not being replaced

3. Potential unequal distribution of increased work load among faculty in different Colleges and Schools
4. Faculty governance issues
5. Transition to the new Dean
6. short-term closing of dorms during holiday break, posing a hardship for some students who have no place to go or who need to continue research.

The Committee recommends that there be greater transparency in planning and implementation of issues that have significant impact on faculty and their role in the University, and the Dean present formal reports explaining their decision-making process periodically and during monthly Faculty Senate meetings. It should then be the charge of Senators to disseminate such information.

The Committee recommends that the Senate form a transition committee to help pave the way for the new Dean, and to advise the new Dean about faculty concerns.

The Committee proposes that the University reevaluate the policy for closing dorms or offer alternative housing during short-term breaks.

6f) Steering Committee: no report

6g). Committee on Committees:

Randy Clarke, chair, reported that the Committee on Committees met on October 27, 2003 to formulate a list of nominees for the Dean's Search Committee, as requested by Provost Arnett Mace. Nancy Felson, as Presiding Officer, was present. The Committee selected three faculty members from each of the College's five divisions, four graduate students, two undergraduates, and three members of the staff, drawing from those individuals nominated by Senators. A principles of diversity in fields, gender, race, and rank, informed the choices, following the instructions from the Provost,. The Presiding Officer delivered the list to Provost Mace on October 31, 2003.

7. Action Items.

1. Proposal for revision of foreign language substitutions
2. Proposal for a graduate certificate in Mathematics Education, to allow graduate students in mathematics to teach at the primary and secondary levels of education.

Both proposals passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

The questions for Provost Mace have been formulated and are available on the web at http://www.franklin.uga.edu/fac_staff/govern/mace.pdf.

9. New Business

The Planning Committee was delegated the task (by unanimous vote) of providing some pro-active, forward looking proposals to strengthen faculty governance, elevate faculty morale, and to guide Senate interactions with the President over the coming months. The Senate decided, after some discussion, not to charge that committee with looking into the controversy concerning the presidency of Michael Adams, which was an investigative task.

The Senate then discussed how to begin the process of determining whether the faculty would like to express an opinion, or whether the faculty would like for the Senate to express an opinion, regarding the presidency of Michael Adams as well as the current controversy involving the Foundation and the Board of Regents. At issue was the fear that silence on our part would also express an opinion by default. The Senate decided by a strong majority vote (18 of 25) to formulate a reaction from the Senate, but to include in our reaction the sentiments of our respective departments.

Nancy Felson was charged with the task of formulating a questionnaire, in consultation with the Steering Committee and other interested parties in the Senate. She urged all Senators to read through the Deloitte and Touche Audit and the President's and Regents response in order to be well-informed on these issues in the future.

10. Announcements:

Call for Agenda Items for the January 13, 2004 Meeting (due to the Steering committee

The December 9, 2003 meeting with Provost Mace will be held at 3:30 in 248 SLC. by January 8, 2004).

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Submitted by B. Randy Hammond, Psychology.