

ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002 ACADEMIC YEAR
UNIVERSITY SENATE
and
FACULTY COUNCIL

The essential function of the Senate and the Faculty Council is to provide a continuing dialog among the faculty, staff, students, and administration. At the kick-off luncheon, August 30, 2001, President William Chace challenged both the Senate and the Faculty Council to take a more active role in faculty governance. The President of the Senate, Frank Vandall, responded by adopting as his theme for the year: Accepting the Challenge (to increase faculty governance). John Boli had laid the foundation for expanded faculty governance during his administration three years earlier.

The Senate and Faculty Council were led by an Executive Committee consisting of the President, Frank Vandall; the President Elect, William Branch; the Past President, Claire Sterk; the Secretary, Cathy Phillips; the President of the Employee Council, Bill McBride; and the Student Government President, Anna Manasco. Extensive administrative assistance was provided by Donna Troka, Malinda Owensby, and Radine Robinson.

The academic year began tumultuously. The first meeting of the Faculty Council had to be cancelled because it was scheduled for September 11th, the day the New York World Trade Center Towers were attacked. Many at Emory had relatives or friends who worked at the Twin Towers.

The cutback in benefits announced by the University administration created a furor. The announcement was followed by several town hall meetings before angry and disappointed standing-room-only crowds of faculty and staff. These were in turn followed by heated debate and discussion before the Senate and the Faculty Council during the spring semester 2002. Several times the meetings ran over by 30 to 45 minutes. In the end, the benefit cutbacks were

less than anticipated. The benefits cutback issue served to energize the University and make clear the central role of the Senate in the ongoing and important University dialog.

Prior to September 2001, the Provost and the President had announced a restructuring of the administration of the graduate school and the college. Interim Provost Woody Hunter was appointed by the President to chair a special committee that would resolve the issues raised by the announced restructuring. These issues were discussed in the Faculty Council during several meetings.

Bill McBride, President of the Employee Council, brought before the Senate a motion to severely restrict smoking outside entrances to University buildings. This issue was hotly debated before the Senate. The staff objected to entering buildings through clouds of toxic tobacco smoke, but the students and others objected to possible infringements on their smoking. In the end a compromise motion was passed by the Senate, and President Chace named a special committee to implement restrictions on smoking outside entrances to many University buildings.

During Claire Sterk's administration, the list of donees for EmoryGives was expanded beyond the United Way in order to give faculty, staff, and administration more choices. Emory substantially exceeded its goal for EmoryGives during 2001-2002.

In order to "accept the challenge" to increase faculty governance, President Frank Vandall proposed two committees. The Budget Advisory Committee was developed in order to assist the faculty and staff to better understand the details and interrelated nature of the University budget process. George Benston accepted the position of chair of the committee and conducted research, developed an extensive report, and made several insightful presentations to both the Senate and the Faculty Council. His work made clear that much needs to be done before the full scope of the budget process can be fully comprehended.

The Tenure Policy Committee was the second committee put forward by President Vandall. The chair of the Committee, John Bugge, made a report to the Faculty Council during the spring that embraced the traditional and well-accepted notions of academic tenure.

As Claire Sterk's administration had emphasized the nature and importance of research, President Vandall chose to remind the university of the core task of teaching. This was done by means of a presentation to the Faculty Council by Patrick Allitt on his new book dealing with teaching. A lively discussion followed.

Much of the Emeritus College concept, initiated during Claire Sterk's administration, is in place and functioning.

The Faculty Hearing Committee, enacted several years ago by the Faculty Council and chaired during 2001-2002 by Polly Price and then Jim Hughes, has not had a case brought before them for the second year.

During the summer of 2002 members of the Senate Executive Committee, chaired by William Branch, has met with the Board of Trustees chair Ben Johnson, President Chace, and several members of the College Executive Committee to explore paths for increasing communication among all divisions of the University, including the Board of Trustees.

More detailed discussions of the issues mentioned in this report may be found in the Senate and Faculty Council minutes, as well as in the *Campus Report* and *The Wheel*.

Frank J. Vandall
Senate Past President
2001-2002