

Minutes of Emory University Senate
Accepting the Challenge
January 29, 2002
Jones Room, Woodruff Library

In attendance:

Juan del Aguila, Edward Ball, Mary Barnes, Huiman Barnhart, Chris Bly, William Branch, Euler Bropleh, William Chace, Stuart Cherry, Raquel Cogell, Ray DuVarney, Drexel Earle, Jason Glushakow, Jim Grimsley, Paula H. Bechtler, Alex Hall, Steven Hochman, Harriet King, Susie Lackey, Bill McBride, Shehzad Mian, Judy Raggi Moore, Joyce Murray, Malinda Owensby, Ruth Pagell, Cathy Phillips, Grace Prakalapakorn, Bridget Riordan, Michael Rogers, Dan Sellen, Don Shure, John Snarey, Sidney Stein, Steve Strange, Mike Terrazas, Donna Troka, Frank Vandall

Excused:

Cheryl Bowie, William Casarella, Deb Floyd, Don Harris, Howard Hunter, Susan Lee, Kim Loudermilk, Anna Manasco, Luigi Marzilli, Charles Moran, Russell Richey, Brenda Seiton, Jed Selkowitz, Claire Sterk

Absent:

Kent Alexander, Clark Andelin, Thomas Arthur, David Blake, Joshua Bornstein, Susan Cook-Prince, Richard Doner, Steve Ellwood, Robert Ethridge, John Ford, William Fox, Susan Frost, Jan Gleason, Joan Gotwals, Gary Hauk, Matthew Hicks, Frank Huff, Debbie Ilchak, Michael Johns, Charlotte Johnson, Mark Jordan, Ronnie Jowers, Sarah Langley, Kathy McKee, Alice Miller, Matthew Mitchell, Monique Nugent, Robert Pennington, Leslie Real, Maria Romani, Charles Shanor, Ashley Smith, Frank Stout, John Temple, Nelson Totah, Kim Turner

Guests:

Angie Berlin, Don Brunn

I. Welcome and Call to Order

University Senate President Frank Vandall called the first meeting of 2002 to order at 3:20 p.m. He announced that Paula Haggard-Beckler will chair the Committee on Safety and Security until June 2002.

The minutes of November 27, 2001 were amended and approved.

II. Don Brunn, Chief Operating Officer, Emory Clinic

Mr. Brunn updated the Senate on issues facing The Clinic, and addressed the problems with Clinic billing and collections. A study completed last fall found 268 distinct problems associated with The Clinic's billing process.

After prioritizing these problems nine teams were created to focus on problem solving and solutions. The top priority for these efforts is to improve the billing procedure for the patients and The Clinic. Teams have completed a new format for patient billing; reduction of errors in registration of patients; creation of a business unit responsible for verification and precertification of insurance; improving coding and charge capture.

A number of important issues are facing Clinic operations, including decrease in Medicare reimbursement for physicians and a significant increase in malpractice premiums for physicians.

III. Bill McBride, President of Employee Council, Smoke Free Entrances

Bill McBride presented a final draft of the *New University Smoking Policy* to the Senate members. After lengthy discussion among members a motion was passed to accept the policy as revised.

Initial discussion posed concern about the wording in the first sentence of the second paragraph "a main entrance." It was felt among members that a single smoke-free entrance to a building would not suffice. Therefore, it was agreed to by members, and accepted by Mr. McBride, that "a main entrance" would be changed to "main entrances," this forced the addition of "at least" in the last paragraph.

Luigi Marzilli was concerned that designating a main entrance to buildings would be an impossible task. He moved that we follow the CDC's lead which disallows smoking within twenty feet of all entrances to all buildings. The motion did not pass.

Judy Raggi-Moore was concerned that designating a single building entrance was not broad enough and that certain areas of beauty, such as the fountain in front of Woodruff Library, should also be designated as smoke-free in the resolution. Judy's motion was passed.

The issue of enforceability was raised by several members. There was a concern that the more entrances designated as smoke-free the more difficult to enforce. However, it was felt among most members that peer pressure would be sufficient to curtail noncompliance.

William Branch presented a motion to study the feasibility of designating specific areas for smoking. The motion passed.

Motion as amended:

Whereas the Employee Council has studied and considered the need for, the possible options to, and the impact of a University-wide policy regarding smoking at public building entrances and in open spaces;

Be it resolved; that President Chace require of the appropriate person / committee / task force, the task of designating "main entrances" to each public building (not including residence halls, fraternity house, sorority lodges). And to further require the appropriate person / committee / task force to establish a designated distance from which smokers will be required to refrain from smoking and, to consider the feasibility of establishing an area in which smoking would be permitted. This resolution applies to areas of beauty on campus such as the fountain and the area in front of Woodruff Library containing the statue.

The purpose of this resolution is to allow at least one entrance to each public building on campus where nonsmokers can enter and exit without limiting their ability to breathe fresh air and to protect areas of beauty on campus.

IV. Remarks from President Chace

President Chace updated the Senate on the EmoryGives 2001 Campaign. He thanked Michelle Smith for her strong leadership and the galvanization of the Emory community. Ms. Smith thanked president Chace and reported the success of the campaign. She stated that EmoryGives surpassed the 2001 goal of \$415,000 by approximately \$32,000. The United Way received \$281,000; Community Health Charities of Georgia received \$60,000; Earth Shares of

Georgia received \$50,000; Georgia Shares received \$39,000; Georgia Black United Fund received \$13,400; and the United Fund of Covington-Newton County received \$5,000. Also, \$2,500 was donated to support the September 11th Fund. There were about 1345 donors.

President Chace reported on the serious matter of Fringe Benefits. Loss in the University's endowment is substantial. With rapidly increasing costs in healthcare, loss of Emory revenue, and the recession the country is currently experiencing, cuts must be made somewhere. President Chace stated that he is concerned not only about the dramatic slowdown in funding, but also the trust of Emory employees. He hopes that such trust remains intact and that Emory stays competitive with other peer institutions by defining benefits that attract desirable employees.

President Chace reminded the senate that no concrete decisions have been made about Fringe Benefits but that economic condition would prompt some kind of cutback by the end of the spring semester.

President Chace asked Harriett King, Senior Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, about the search for a Director for the Michael C. Carlos Museum. Ms. King said that they have narrowed the search to five candidates and that visits would begin in about two weeks.

V. Hearing no other business, University Senate President Frank Vandall adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Phillips
Secretary of the University Senate