

October 23, 2007 University Senate Meeting  
Minutes

**Attended:** Emily Allen, Peter Barnes, Chris Beck, Patricia Brennan, Kenneth Brigham, Colin Bragg, William Buzbee, Ronald Calabrese, Ken Carter, Steven Culler, Martha Fagan, Peter Hoeyng, Nadine Kaslow, Joyce King, Earl Lewis, Nina Long, Jessica Lowy, Rick Luce, Eleanor Main, Michael Mandl, Richard Mendola, Barret Michalec, Iruka Ndubuizu, Marilyn Pahr, Santa J. Ono, Joyce Piatt, Virginia Plummer, Kaitlin Porter, Cynthia Shaw, Linda Sheldon, Judith Shema, Jacob Shreckengost, Sidney Stein, Ora Strickland, Emily Takieddine, Betsy Tanner, Lisa Tedesco, Douglas Unfug

**Excused:** Akshat Agrawal, Sarah Berga, Daniel Berger, Vincent Carter, Susan Cruse, Matt Engelhardt, Elizabeth Farrar, John Ford, Gary Hauk, Linda King, Una Hutton Newman, Shauna Leven, Zwade Marshall, Mary Messarra-Redman, Shehzad Mian, Jane DiFolco Parker, Holli Semetko, Magda Sossa, David L. Wynes,

**Absent:** Kent Alexander, Kathleen Brennan, Leigh Boghossian, Mary Cahill, Susan Carini, Arlene Chapman, Jennifer Crabb, Allison Dykes, Bob Ethridge, Tom Frank, Jan Gleason, Ozzie Harris, Robert Hascall, Phil Hills, Carol Hogue, Roland Ingram, Charlotte Johnson, Ronnie Jowers, Lauren Kent-Delaney, Jeffrey Koplan, Ray Kotwicki, Dan Macaluso, Rosemary Magee, Bill McBride, Meg McDermott, Ivan Mihailov, Ken Minnemann, Edith Murphree, Lynn Nester, Carol Newsom, Matthew Poliner, Jonathan Prude, Susan Ratliff, Dierdra Reber, Melody Rhine, Salvador Rizzo, Barry Ryan, Vivek Salgaocar, Fred Sanfilippo, Ron Sauder, , Robert Stephenson, Claire Sterk, Maria Town, Kim Urquhart, James Wagner, Sharon Weiss, Bridgette Young

## **I. Greetings and Remarks**

Nadine Kaslow called the meeting to order at 3:18 P.M. Kaslow made several announcements to Senate members:

- On Wednesday, October 24, 2007 representatives of the Student Government Association, Employee Council, University Senate, Faculty Council, and the President's Commissions will be meeting to discuss the possibility of organizing a community service event for this year. Kaslow encouraged Senate members to send her feedback and suggestions.
- Over the last several years Emory Cares, originally an alumni-sponsored event, has become a signal activity connecting Emory to the Atlanta community. More information will be forthcoming next month.
- Kaslow solicited future agenda items from Senate members. Members made the following suggestions:
  - The Senate needs to invite the new athletic director to speak to the Senate.
  - The Senate should invite Ciannet Howett, director of sustainability initiatives at Emory, to update the Senate on the status of these projects.
  - The Senate should also schedule an update report on the report of the work-life task force. Peter Barnes noted that he will be presenting the

task force recommendations to President Wagner on October 24. The next step will be to review these recommendations at the Cabinet level and devise ways to bring these recommendations to the full campus for feedback. Barnes agreed to come with Rosemary Magee to the Senate in February to discuss these recommendations.

- Kaslow also noted that at the November Senate meeting, there will be an update on the situation at Grady Hospital.

## **II. Remarks from Provost Lewis**

Provost Lewis raised for the Senate an important question related to Emory's strategic plan. While the plan is moving forward very well, our communication of what is happening needs to improve. How can Emory improve its communication of what is happening with the strategic plan? Senate members made several suggestions:

- Theme committees responsible for different facets of the plan present brief reports to the Emory community about what is happening approximately twice a year.
- Link Emory's webpage to a strategic plan page, where regular updates can be accessed.
- Schedule a regular email that could be distributed to update the Emory community about what is happening.
- Develop a dynamic powerpoint presentation that clearly presents the general themes of the strategic plan to a broad audience.
- Strategic plan committees put together reports detailing the initial beneficiaries of funding in the strategic plan - there are some local concerns among Emory constituents that resources are not being fairly allocated, and this should be addressed through open communication.
- Clarify and share the metrics that the university is using to measure the success of the plan - how do we measure whether or not the plan is being "successful" and achieving positive goals for Emory's schools?

## **III. Senate Agenda Items**

The September minutes of the University Senate and the Honorary degree committee roster were approved as distributed.

Emily Allen, president of the Student Government Association, presented a new initiative being sponsored by the SGA. From October 30 to November 1 the SGA, in partnership with the American Heart Association, will be piloting a new plan for mass CPR training, the largest CPR training initiative in U.S. history. Atlanta is one of the worst cities in the United States for a person to suffer cardiac arrest. The one hour training module will be free and is open to Emory alumni, staff, faculty, and students. Allen encouraged Senate members to participate in and support the initiative. One Senate member queried about whether the training program will be hosted at Oxford. Allen replied that although there is not a training night scheduled at the Oxford campus the SGA is making arrangements to provide shuttle service for Oxford students, faculty, and staff who want to participate.

#### **IV. Retreat and Agenda Setting—Questions and Responses**

Kaslow invited Senate members to participate in the Senate retreat. The principle goal of the retreat is for Senate members to help set a positive agenda for the 2007-2008 University Senate. Senate members each received a large piece of paper. Senate members interviewed one another in dyads, focusing on three guiding questions:

- 1) How can we make the Senate a more vital group in the university?
- 2) What would you like to see the Senate do this year?
- 3) What roles are you interested in undertaking on this Senate?

Senate members interviewed one another about each question, writing answers on their pieces of paper. After an extensive period of interviewing and posting of responses on the white pages around the room, Kaslow invited members to meet in small groups around tables, discuss their answers to the questions, and to select 2-3 ideas to share with the Senate. Several themes emerged from this activity:

- Several groups noted that there is a lack of clarity about the Senate's role at Emory and what authority the Senate has to enact policy or set a positive agenda. Kaslow and others commented that while historically the Senate has served primarily as an advisory group that the administration has expressed openness to rethinking the Senate's role. Kaslow also reminded Senate members that "advisory" does not mean "passive." A number of Senate members encouraged the Senate to pursue a more active advisory role.
- One group noted that numerous constituencies at Emory are unfamiliar with who their representative is on the Senate and what role the Senate plays. The Senate should consider developing an advertising campaign or some other mechanism that can clarify for Emory constituents who their representative is and how they can communicate with their representative. Furthermore, the work of the Senate is currently underreported at Emory. Kaslow is pursuing contact with the Emory Wheel about expanding coverage of Senate meetings. Some members suggested using the all-Emory listserv more frequently to communicate important Senate information. A quick report of the Senate meetings would also help Senate representatives communicate the Senate's work to their constituents.
- One group suggested the idea of developing an orientation program for new Senate members to clarify the role that they play and the responsibilities that attend their position in the Senate. Sid Stein, Martha Fagan, and Monica Donohue agreed to assist with this project.
- The Senate needs to identify issues that remain outstanding from year to year, clarifying long-term projects that will carry over from one Senate to the next.
- One group suggested that the Senate consider moving toward a more concrete, project-oriented focus to its work.
- Another group suggested that the Senate consider ways of better integrating students, faculty, and staff in the Senate's work.

The retreat concluded with a discussion of key initiatives for 2007-2008. The key initiatives that Senate groups raised were:

- 1) Creating a shadowing program that would allow individuals to learn more about the university from the perspective of other constituent groups.
- 2) Exploring ways to address environmental and energy-saving concerns.
- 3) Developing and intellectual/cultural event that could enhance the intellectual climate at the university.
- 4) Working to create an Emory service project as a way of encouraging volunteerism at Emory.
- 5) Addressing transportation issues at Emory.
- 6) Focusing attention on ongoing benefits issues at Emory.
- 7) Focusing attention on Emory's webpage.

Senate members received three dots and used these to vote on the key initiatives. Voting tallies were as follows:

Energy saving and environment—25 votes

Transportation: 20 votes

Cultural Series/Intellectual Series: 19 votes

Service Project: 10 votes

Benefits: 9 votes

Shadowing Program: 8 votes

Website: 4 votes

The Senate agreed to make Energy saving and the environment a key focus of its work for the 2007-2008 year. To this end, Kaslow agreed to contact Ciannet Howett and to invite her to speak about the sustainability initiative at the November Senate meeting.

The Senate meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.