

**Emory University Senate Meeting Summary**  
**Jones Room, Woodruff Library**  
**September 27th, 2016**  
**3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**University Senate President's Welcome and Senate Orientation**

Senate President Kristin Wendland welcomed the 2016-2017 Senate to the first Senate meeting of the academic year. She presented an overview and orientation detailing the University Senate structure and reviewed the online resources including the new Senate website. Wendland's goal for this academic year is to increase communication not only between Senate members and the Senate committees, but also to Senate constituents.

**Executive Vice President of Emory Health Affairs Presentation**

EVP for Emory Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathan S. Lewin addressed the Senate regarding the aspirations for Woodruff Health Sciences Center at Emory. Lewin summarized his background and training; spoke about the importance of the Emory Healthcare Pledge; outlined the five-year aspirations for the Woodruff Health Sciences; and addressed the three fundamental efforts he focused upon during his first eight months at Emory Healthcare, which include creating strategic clarity, building an effective architecture, and creating constructive culture.

**Senate Committee Selection Timeline**

Committee Chair for the Campus Life Committee and Director for Residence Life, Scott Rausch addressed the Senate concerning a possible change in the timeline for the Senate committee selection process from the end of spring semester to the beginning of the semester. This would alleviate difficulties committee chairs face with the committee member selection process. Senate members discussed various scenarios for the call-for-committee applications, and the Senate indicated later in January would be preferable. Rausch will lead the discussion again at the next Senate meeting to propose a new timeline and a bylaw change.

Christine Ristaino addressed the Senate on behalf of the Senate Diversity Committee. She explained how Senate Diversity Committee transition team had been created as a result of the plan to sunset the Senate Diversity Committee. Ristaino outlined the reasons why the Diversity Committee was dissolving and merging with other Senate committees. First, the Advisory Council on Community and Diversity (ACCD) was approved as a new standing University Senate Committee in March 2016; second, there is continued leadership and member turnover within the Senate Diversity Committee; third, the structure of the Senate Diversity Committee lacks a process that clearly links it to other structures within the university that are also performing diversity work; and finally the Senate Diversity Committee goals are now being accomplished throughout the institution through new committees and processes that are in place.

She listed several Diversity Committee accomplishments and explained how all interested Senate Diversity Committee members had been absorbed into the ACCD Committee.

***Motion: Christine Ristaino made a motion to sunset the Senate Diversity Committee, and the motion was passed by present, voting Senate members.***

**Emory University President Remarks**

President Claire Sterk addressed the Senate, and she shared some initial reflections about her first month as Emory’s new president. Many of these stemmed from the binder she received from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John Morgan, which contained a compilation of all the feedback he received from the Presidential Search Listening Sessions. Sterk indicated several themes that emerged about what stakeholders were looking for in a new president. They wanted someone who could bring a new perspective to Emory, as well as to be a disrupter. She also outlined several of Emory’s strengths, including how its location in Atlanta can increase potential to have a global impact, and Emory’s reputation in academic excellence, in its academic health center, and its excellent employment culture. Sterk elaborated on several of Emory’s characteristics, including collaboration, interdisciplinary mission, a strong, diverse student body, and a strong culture of mentorship and leadership development programs. President Sterk said the academic mission of the institution would be faculty, programs, and students.