

**Emory University Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Jones Room, Woodruff Library**  
**February 28th, 2017**  
**3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Attended :** Juliette Stapanian Apkarian, Madison Bader, Peter Barnes, Henry Bayerle, Carla Berg, Mary Bingham, Deborah Bruner, Hope Bussenius, Paul Byrnes, Noah Cole, Joe Crespino, Lauren Kent-Delany, Erica Duncan, Christine Dunham, Allison Dykes, James B. Hughes, Linda Jackson, Deena Keeler, Jaffar Khan, Matthew Klopman, Benn Konsynski, Melanie Kowalski, Chloe Lalonde, Mark Lamb, David Lynn, Hiram Maxim, Judy Raggi Moore, Ajay Nair, Muhammad Naveed, Mimi Newell, Nichole Powell, Scott Rausch, Fiona Riedl, Jessica Sales, Pamela Scully, Joey Shea, Sidney Stein, Claire E. Sterk, Anand Swaminathan, Lisa Tedesco, Vineet Tiruvadi, Sasha Volokh, Kristin Wendland, Cynthia Wetmore, Dona Yarbrough, Holly York, Lynn Zimmerman, Stuart Zola

**Excused Absences:** Karen Scheib, Vanda Hudson, Jason Schneider, Matthew Early, Max Zoberman, Rena Meza, Jared Greenbaum

**Unexcused Absences:** Mikelyn Batiste, Susan Cruse, Mishaal Gardezi, Kenyatta Greer, Margery McKay, David C. Payne, Kelli Pittman, Marvin Poulson, Astrid Prinz, Gurbani Singh, Laurie Speed, Shontell Stanford, Merete Tschokert, Jerry Lewis

**Ex Officio Absences:** Amy Covington, Marlon Gibson, Lisa Underwood, Christopher Beck

**Ex Officio - University Administration Absences:** Micheal Andrechak, Richard Mendola, Jonathan Lewin

**Guests/Visitors/Correspondents:** Kimber Williams

**I. Senate Meeting Call to Order:** The February Senate meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m.

**II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes:** The January 2017 Senate meeting minutes were approved by the Senate members. The minutes have been posted for review in the Senate Box folder.

### **III. Announcements**

Elections for Senate President-elect and Senate secretary will be held at the March 28 meeting. Nominations and questions may be emailed to Senate President Kristin Wendland. Nominees will be posted before the March meeting, which is the last business meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year.

### **IV. Wheel Reporter Request Senate Discussion**

The Emory Wheel has requested permission to send a student reporter to cover all meetings of the university Senate. Senate members discussed the proposal, including issues of transparency and the freedom to have open discussions. Steve Sencer said his recommendation was that if the Senate chose to have Wheel reporters present, the body should also reserve the right to hold an executive session for voting members and designated guests in order to talk about sensitive issues without the media present.

Senate President-elect Henry Bayerle noted that under Senate bylaws, Wheel reporters now have the right to request attendance at Senate meetings. Wendland said their request is now to have ongoing permission. A motion was made to retain the current practice, whereby The Wheel may ask to attend on a meeting-by-meeting basis. The motion was approved with two abstentions.

### **V. Honorary Degree Nominations' Senate Vote**

Joe Crespino, co-chair of the Honorary Degree Committee, presented a final slate of five candidates to advance to a list of honorary degree nominees. (The names of the candidates were reviewed at last month's meeting and are held

in confidence.) The slate of candidates was approved, with one abstention. The nominees will now be forwarded for consideration to the Emory Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee. If approved, they will go into a pool of approved names from which President Claire E. Sterk may choose for future commencement honors. The Wheel reporter was asked to keep the names off the record.

## **VI. Oxford College Presentation**

Muhammad Naveed, President of the Oxford Student Government Association, offered a presentation outlining recent achievements at Oxford College. Highlights included:

- Passed 160 budgets for fall and spring semester, allocating \$115,522 towards Oxford College clubs
- Welcomed the formation of eight new permanent club charters and two temporary club charters
- Have addressed campus diversity issues through flyers, held an interfaith discussion between religious clubs, and funded the SAC's international culture fair
- Formed an SGA arts committee
- Revamped the Public Safety Committee to include student health
- Endorsed the Oxford Strategic Plan for the upcoming academic year
- Opened a new dining hall

Naveed also outlined future action, including an upcoming public safety panel discussion addressing drug use; discussions with the Sexual Assault Peer Advocates and campus administrators about sexual assault prevention; the construction of a campus arts mural; and spring elections. He also stated that students appreciate steps being taken to smooth the transition experience from Oxford College to Emory's Atlanta campus.

## **VII. Emory's Response to President Trump's Executive Order on Travel and Immigration Ban - Senate Discussion**

Philip Wainwright, Vice Provost for International Affairs, said that over the past month much time has been devoted in support of Emory's international students following President Trump's January 27th Executive Order banning travel from seven predominantly Muslim nations. Wainwright stressed that there has been much uncertainty and ambiguity around the order. A court order staying the execution of the order has only added to that uncertainty, leaving students anxious. He said that there are 40-50 Emory students who could be affected by the travel ban, primarily in the Laney Graduate School. About 17 percent of the Emory students are international students.

In response, Wainwright says that International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) staff immediately reached out individually to those who could be affected to offer support and advice. However, the order has also left many people in Emory's larger international community wondering if they have fallen under added scrutiny or if they are at now at risk in traveling to a country targeted by the ban. Fortunately, the original executive order has been put on hold, although there are rumors that a new order will be issued within the week. The order has not only affected students who are already here, but also the "admissions pipeline." Wainwright asked if there will there be consequences abroad for the U.S. becoming more 'immigration hostile,' and he said the enrollment management team is already looking into such practical questions. In addition, he said that Emory is working with the Emory School of Law and a panel of volunteer lawyers to work with students who may need legal counsel.

Rick Huizinga, coordinator of international student life for Emory Campus Life's Office of International Student Life, said he's been talking to international students and praised the immediate response of ISSS. Even a week after the ban, they felt more optimistic. The ban has prompted phone calls from the parents of international students worried about their travel status, and concern from graduate students who are uncertain if they should still attend international conferences as planned. Emory has offered support and resources to international students who may be concerned about leaving the country over the summer months. "Our students are resilient," Huizinga said.

Shinn Ko, director of Emory's ISSS, said updates regarding developments with the executive order are being posted on the ISSS website. The office has reached out to students, finding them to be resilient and strong in the face of uncertainty, she said.

Following discussion, Wendland read a written report from Rollins School of Public Health Dean James Curran in response to President Sterk's Call for Action. Following Trump's executive order, RSPH held a town hall on

February 1, which attracted nearly 175 participants. The school also held a prospective student webinar to address campus climate and make a case for why students should study in Atlanta; 65 students registered. Working through the Provost's office, a request was initiated to bring together campus admission directors; the first meeting was held a few weeks ago, with the help of ISSS.

### **VIII. President Sterk's Senate Call-to-Action**

Wendland reviewed President Claire E. Sterk's Call-to-Action, a document issued to the University Senate Executive Committee on February 20th that charges the Senate to form a working group comprised of faculty, staff and students to:

Propose activities in which the Emory community can engage during this semester that foster community building and community self-care.

Gather information to produce an inclusive assessment of the wide range of views that exist within the community.

The charge generated conversation about the need for guidelines on what kind of political activism is permitted, including questions such as: Are faculty allowed to participate in political marches or wear clothing with the Emory logo/name to such events?

Sterk said that Emory has a long history of grappling with such issues and affirmed that she had strong opinions about responsible social activism. She supports the idea of developing a simple toolkit, a link that provides contact information on all area legislators. "If you really want to change policy, we need to talk to people who set policies," she said.

She also said that she is very proud of Emory's commitment to freedom of speech and open expression. Protest that is "respectful and non-violent" is keeping within the history of Atlanta, she said. A free exchange of ideas is what universities are for, she said. "That's what we are, that's what we do."

To clarify, Senior Vice President and General Counsel Steve Sencer said that when it comes to wearing Emory clothing at a protest march or rally, it's fine to wear something that identifies you as being affiliated with Emory, "but you can't speak on behalf of Emory. Wearing a t-shirt in a march does not make you an agent of Emory."

Wendland called for volunteers to form a working group. Volunteers included: Madison Bader, Joey Shea, Mark Lamb, and Scott Rausch. She encouraged Senate members to circulate the call among colleagues.

### **IX. Faculty Staff Assistance Program, Conflict Resolution Presentation**

Paula Gomes, director of the Faculty Staff Assistance Program (FSAP) gave a presentation on the mission and services of this campus resource, which provides free, confidential services and promotes wellness to nearly 30,000 Emory employees and their immediate families

FSAP staff provide behavioral/mental health services for a wide-range of issues, as well as short-term individual, couple and family counseling. This past year, over 3,200 Emory employees participated in the "Refresh from Stress" emotional wellness campaign.

Other FSAP services include: conflict resolution, leadership consultation, mediation services, and facilitated discussions; conflict coaching, and process groups.

### **X. Interim Provost Remarks**

Interim Provost Stuart Zola addressed news that the Trump Administration seeks to revoke federal guidelines that provide transsexual students access to gender-identified restrooms. In response, the university has issued a statement that affirms support for individual students determining their own perception of their gender and should "use the facility they feel appropriate to them."

**XI. Adjournment:** The February Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.