

**Emory University Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Jones Room, Woodruff Library**  
**January 24th, 2017**  
**3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Attended:** Juliette Stapanian Apkarian, Madison Bader, Peter Barnes, Henry Bayerle, Mary Bingham, Deborah Bruner, Hope Bussenius, Noah Cole, Amy Covington, Joe Crespino, Lauren Kent-Delany, Erica Duncan, Christine Dunham, Allison Dykes, Jared Greenbaum, Carol Kissal, Vanda Hudson, James B. Hughes, Linda Jackson, Deena Keeler, Jaffar Khan, Carol Kissal, Matthew Klopman, Benn Konsynski, Melanie Kowalski, Chloe Lalonde, Mark Lamb, David Lynn, Hiram Maxim, Rena Meza, Judy Raggi Moore, Mimi Newell, David C. Payne, Nichole Powell, Astrid Prinz, Cristine Richardson, Fiona Riedl, Jessica Sales, Jason Schneider, Pamela Scully, Joey Shea, Sidney Stein, Anand Swaminathan, Vineet Tiruvadi, Sasha Volokh, Kristin Wendland, Cynthia Wetmore, Dona Yarbrough, Holly York, Lynn Zimmerman, Max Zoberman, Stuart Zola.

**Excused Absences:** Susan Cruse, Jonathan Lewin, Carla Berg, Lisa Tedesco, Scott Rausch, Laurie Speed.

**Unexcused Absences:** Mikelyn Batiste, Sarah Cook, Mishaal Gardezi, Kenyatta Greer, Kelli Pittman, Marvin Poulson, Karen Scheib, Gurbani Singh, Shontell Stanford, Merete Tschokert.

**Ex Officio Absences:** Christopher Beck, Paul Byrnes, Marlon Gibson, Muhammad Naveed, Lisa Underwood.

**Ex Officio - University Administration Absences:** Micheal Andrechak, Claire E. Sterk, Richard Mendola, Stephen Sencer, Richard Mendola, Ajay Nair

**Guests/Visitors:** Suzanne Onorato, Jim Curran (for Lisa Tedesco), Daniel Rochberg, Kimber Williams

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

**II. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes:** The November 2016 Senate meeting minutes were approved by the Senate members. The minutes have been posted for review in the Senate Box folder.

**III. Announcement of Honorary Degree Nominees**

Joe Crespino, Chair of the Senate Honorary Degree Committee, announced that there are five honorary degree nominees, two women and three men. The names of the nominees are confidential, but Crespino shared brief biographies for each of the candidates. The 2016-2017 Honorary Degrees Committee approved the honorary degree nominations that will be voted on by the university Senate during its February meeting; the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, and the Emory Board of Trustees. If approved they will be added to the pool of honorary degree candidates from which President Sterk may select candidates to receive an honorary degree in any given year.

Gary Hauk provided the Senate with additional information about the pool of honorary degree candidates from which President Sterk is able to select and award honorary degrees. Hauk said President Sterk has selected three candidates from the pool of honorary degree candidates to receive honorary degrees. She has also chosen an additional candidate, named to the Senate but still confidential as of this date, who will be the upcoming graduation commencement speaker. President Sterk will present this candidate, as both the commencement speaker and an honorary degree recipient to the Board of Trustees for their approval, but first she is requesting a Senate endorsement of this candidate.

**Senate Motion:** The Senate voted to endorse President Sterk's selection of the 2017 commencement speaker, who will also be the recipient of an honorary degree.

#### **IV. Emory Student Government Reorganization Presentation**

Student Government Association President, Max Zoberman and Graduate Student Government Association President, Jared Greenbaum addressed the Senate to outline the upcoming SGA-GSGA Referendum. This referendum will be voted on by the university-wide student body beginning on Sunday, 29 January until Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

Bill 50s119 outlines the reorganization of Emory's Student Government Association to create an equitable student government structure to serve the undergraduate and graduate student body populations. The bill will create two equal, autonomous student government associations, one for the undergraduate students and another for the graduate students. In the spirit of "one voice" for Emory's student body, the SGA and GSGA would come together in joint legislative meetings to work on university-wide issues. These legislative meetings would be overseen by the Joint Governance Committee, which would only be a communication body only and has no oversight or power over SGA or GSGA. This Committee would allow the leaders of the executive and legislative branches of SGA and GSGA to meet weekly to discuss issues facing both student bodies. In addition, the passage of Bill 50s119 will enable each governing body to determine the usage of its respective student activity fees, create their own governance, financial, and programming policies.

If the SGA-GSGA Referendum passes on 31 January, the new restructuring will take effect on 1 February 2017.

**Senate Motion:** The Senate voted to endorse the SGA-GSGA Referendum, Bill 50s119 to restructure SGA into two equal and autonomous governing bodies, governed by and for undergraduate and graduate students, respectively

#### **V. Commission on Racial and Social Justice Presentation**

Dona Yarbrough, Chair of the Senate ACCD Committee, provided an update on the Commission of Racial and Social Justice. Yarbrough gave a brief history of events leading up to the creation of the Commission of Racial and Social Justice. The purpose of the Commission of Racial and Social Justice is to develop and advance strategies and tactics that achieve the university's racial and social justice goals, provide counsel and advocacy, and report on progress. In addition, it serves as a final point of accountability for operationalizing diversity and inclusion. Yarbrough said the website [dialogue.emory.edu](http://dialogue.emory.edu) provides a resource to the Emory community about the Commission.

Yarbrough outlined the progress report for the Racial Justice Initiative for the Senate, and a copy of the report is also available on the Senate's Box folder. She also extended an invitation for working group members, at-large Commission representatives, and staff and alumni representatives to join and participate on Emory's Commission on Racial and Social Justice.

#### **VI. Campus Life Center Presentation**

Hiram Maxim, Co-chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment, addressed the Senate members. He spoke about the Committee's general mission to evaluate the environmental impacts of projects on Emory's campus, and then make action-based recommendations if the Committee deems the project will adversely affect the environment. One of the projects that the Committee is monitoring is the Campus Life Center. The Campus Life Center will provide another example of Emory's commitment to sustainability issues. The goal for the center is to be net-zero energy ready and low-energy use intensity through low emission and energy-saving features, such as geothermal heating and cooling.

Maxim requested the Senate endorse a Committee on the Environment Resolution that there will be a timeline established for the Campus Life Center to achieve net-zero energy by 2022, a goal to achieve LEED Gold status, and the evaluation of options for renewable energy on campus. The detailed Resolution was made available to Senate members a week in advance of the meeting on the Senate's Box folder, and the Senate voted on this full Resolution based on the summary provided by Hiram Maxim.

**Senate Motion:** The Senate voted to endorse the Committee on the Environment's Resolution to establish university timelines to achieve the energy sustainability initiatives of the Campus Life Center.

## **VII. Climate@Emory Initiative Presentation**

Daniel Rochberg, faculty at the Rollins School of Public Health and Chief Strategy Officer for the Climate@Emory Initiative, addressed the Senate concerning the issues surrounding global climate change. Rochberg expressed the need for universities to take the lead on global climate change initiatives, with Emory University introducing the Climate@Emory Initiative.

This Initiative involves three aspects: 1) increase scholarship to deepen the world's understanding of climate science, impacts, and solutions, 2) empower today's students through teaching to become tomorrow's leaders, and 3) advance climate policy and practice at Emory and our local and global communities. These goals of the Initiative align with President Sterk's four Emerging University Priorities concerning global climate change and Emory: strengthening academic excellence, deepening engagement in Atlanta, global health innovation, enhance the impact of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Emory faculty has written 48 climate-related papers since January 2014, and sent student delegations to the UN Climate Change Conference in 2015 and 2016. In addition, the university is involved with the Emory-Nanjing University Partnership on Climate Change and Air Quality.

## **VIII. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Emory Students Update**

The discussion was organized in two parts: 1) updates from various corners of the university about Emory's response to the DACA issue, and 2) reports from Senate representatives after polling their constituents about the Emory as a sanctuary campus petition circulated in late November.

First, Suzanne Onorato, Assistant Vice President for Community, with Campus Life, provided the Senate with an update regarding DACA. Onorato spoke about the petition that was sent to Emory's administration indicating the administration's support for DACA students regardless of their status. Onorato further added several DACA students do not wish the university to make a declarative statement as they are concerned about what it could mean for themselves and their families. To further provide detailed information to the Senate regarding the administration's support and services available to Emory's DACA students, Onorato introduced the following individuals:

### Rita Sheffey – Assistant Dean for Public Service, Emory Law

Dean Sheffey informed the Senate about the three areas in which Emory Law School is supporting DACA students: 1) assisting and providing direct support to DACA and undocumented students and their families, 2) community outreach, and 3) engaging alumni and Law School students in longer-term efforts. Sheffey said they have reached out to alumni who work in the area of immigration and human rights to create a pool of lawyers to obtain support. In addition, two lawyers from those alumni have committed to providing direct advice to students who have specific questions about their visa and/or immigration status.

### Lisa Garvin, Associate Dean of the Chapel and Chaplain, Office of Spiritual and Religious Life

Lisa Garvin spoke about linking the students with the broader religious communities within the Atlanta area should the need arise. Garvin spoke about co-partnering with the Office of Student Success Program and Services Office to provide pastoral support and to connect students with on- and off-campus resources they might need.

### Adrienne Slaughter, Office of Student Success Programs and Services, Campus Life

Adrienne Slaughter said her role was to work directly with students to ensure they are connected to the services they might need. These are both on- and off-campus services. Slaughter said she has reached out to all students who identify themselves as DACA students at Emory to ensure they feel safe and secure on Emory's campus. She confirmed the students feel safe and supported.

### John Leach, Director of Financial Aid

John Leach said the Financial Aid office had received a directive from Interim Provost Zola and Dean Nair on the treatment of undocumented students related to need-based financial aid. He said undocumented students who are admitted to Emory as first-year degree-seeking undergraduate students, and are determined by Emory to have financial need, will be awarded financial aid funds to assist in meeting his or her full demonstrated need. The funding will be Emory institutional funding.

Senate member Juliette Stapanian Apkarian, faculty member from Emory Arts and Sciences, was the first to provide feedback from her constituents. She provided several comments, highlighting how they endorsed the petition to call Emory a sanctuary campus and requested the word “sanctuary” not be dropped from the petition.

**IX. Adjournment:** The January Senate meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.