University Senate Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2017  
3:15 – 5:00 PM  
Jones Room, Woodruff Library


Unexcused Absences: Mikelyn Batiste, Josh Gilbert, Erika James, Moses Kim, Matthew Klopman, Shervon Lewis, Tomi Ojeniyi, Michael Silver, Anand Swaminathan.

Ex Officio Absences: Ben Palmer, Ronald Foust, Lisa Underwood, Marlon Gibson, Joe Crespino, James B. Hughes, Lisa Loveall.

Ex Officio - University Administration Absences: Claire E. Sterk, Dwight A. McBride, Stephen Sencer, Ajay Nair, Vincent Dollard, Michael Andrechak, Allison Dykes.

Guests/Visitors/Correspondents: Kimber Williams, Peter Barnes, David C. Payne.

A Senate Meeting Call to Order – The November Senate meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m.

B Approval of October 2017 Minutes—The October 2017 Senate meeting minutes were approved by the Senate members. After the approval of the October 2017 meeting minutes, Senate members approved a motion to allow Jalyn Radziminski of SPEAR to speak about the development of the Incarceration Hardship Fund at the end of the November 2017 Senate meeting if time allows.

C Annexation Update—David Payne provided a review and an update of Emory’s Annexation into the City of Atlanta. Payne went over the timeline of and reason for the annexation filing, the five other entities that joined the filing, and the resolution of
DeKalb county’s objection to the filing. Payne also provided a map to show the areas to be annexed into the City of Atlanta. Payne explained that if the Atlanta City Council approves the annexation in December, it would be effective January 1, 2018. Payne concluded his presentation by answering questions posed by Senate members.

D Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – Cameron Taylor and Jessica Davis—Cameron Taylor, VP of Government and Community Affairs, and Jessica Davis, Director of Federal Affairs, Office of Government and Community Affairs (OGCA), provided an overview of their office, its goals and mission. They explained the proposed tax bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and how it may impact higher education and the overall Emory University community. Taylor briefly went over what OGCA has been doing to ensure that the University is impacted as little as possible if the bill is passed. United States Senators and Representatives have received letters and phone calls from President Sterk, Emory Trustees, graduate students, representatives from private and independent causes, and the University Faculty Council. Taylor and Davis assured the University Senate that the United States Senate is listening and that Emory University is engaged in this process. Taylor and Davis also asked for assistance from the University Senate and answered members’ questions.

President Henry Bayerle talked about the letters that were drafted to Senators Isakson and Perdue and the 14 Georgia members of the United States House of Representatives. University Senate members approved two motions, one for the letters to be sent to the Senators and Representatives and a second for the letters to be submitted by Bayerle on behalf of the Emory University Senate and its members. Bayerle then entertained questions from the members.

E Strategic Planning Update – Ashley Teal and Annie Koo—Teal opened with introductions of herself and colleagues from Business Practice Improvement. She provided insight on Emory’s Strategic Planning objectives and effort by listing the 10 core principles. After displaying a graphic of the process’s four guiding themes to Senate members, Teal and Koo (external consultant) led an interactive exercise that allowed Senate members to submit feedback on the three questions intended to tie into the four themes and further guide the planning process. Teal and Koo answered questions from the University Senate. Updates to the Strategic Plan may be found on the Provost’s website: http://provost.emory.edu/strategies

F Approval of Athletics and Recreation Committee Mission Statement Change—Paul Byrnes and Hope Bussenius provided a summary of their committee’s review of its Mission Statement and objectives. As a result, changes were made to the Mission Statement. A motion was approved to change the Athletics and Recreation Committee’s Mission Statement to read:
The Athletics and Recreation Committee of the University Senate represents the interests of the Emory community including students, faculty, staff and members of the Woodruff Physical Education Center and the Student Activity and Academic Center. The committee acts in an advisory role providing assistance with related policies to the Director of Athletics, Director of Recreation and Wellness, and the Senior Vice President of Campus Life. The committee recognizes the enormous demand for programs and facilities and seeks to balance competing needs to obtain the optimal use of resources in a safe and inclusive manner. Members of the committee serve as liaisons and, as such, should disseminate information to their units and represent the interests of the Emory community.

G Prevention of Sexual Violence – Jessica Sales and Wanda Swan—Sales provided an overview of the Committee’s origin and its work. Using feedback gathered from the Campus Climate Survey, a Mission Statement was crafted to direct the Committee’s work. The Prevention of Sexual Violence Mission Statement reads:

To assist the University in the implementation of a public health approach to preventing sexual violence on campus in order to create an Emory community where all members “learn, work, play, and love” without experiencing or fearing sexual assault or violence.

The Campus Climate Survey also allowed the committee to formulate eight recommendations to Emory University that would help undergird their mission to prevent sexual violence on campus. Sales provided data on the occurrence of reported sexual harassment incidents among Emory undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff.

Wanda Swan, Director of the Respect Program at Emory University, went over the program’s responsibilities on campus and the services that are provided to the University’s students. She also provided a summary of the program’s action items for 2018. Sales and Swan answered questions and received feedback from Senate members.

H Incarceration Hardship Fund – Jalyn Radziminski, SPEAR (Students for Prison Education & Resistance) Radziminski provided a resource for members to learn more about SPEAR and the goal and mission of the Incarceration Hardship Fund. University Senate members were asked to help SPEAR in seeking institutional support to help create and sustain the Incarceration Hardship Fund. Members interested in helping with this initiative should email Ms. Radziminski at Jalyn.radziminski@emory.edu.

I Adjournment – The November Senate meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.