



Emory University Senate Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

3:00-5:00 p.m. | ZOOM

**Attendees:** Alicia DeNicola, Grace Goh, Eric Abrams, Luke Anderson, Ravi Bellamkonda, Lot Bercasio, Richard Castillo, Adam Crisp, Sarah Dobbs, Pearl Dowe, Lily Dresner, Rebecca Ellis, Daniele Fallin, Gregory Fenves, April Flint, Dawn Francis-Chewning, Roberto Franzosi, Stacey Gall, Lauren Gay, Minnie Glymph, Jodie Guest, Nitika Gupta, Carol Henderson, Nikki Hurtado, Octavian Ioachimescu, Lori Jahnke, Scotty Jenkins, Michael Martin, Carolyn Keogh, Del King, Walter Kolis, Benn Konsynski, Michelle Lampl, Shervon Lewis, Lanny Liebeskind, Babak Mahmoudi, Noah Marchuck, Noelle McAfee, Joy McDougall, Richard Mendola, Modele Ogunniyi, Madi Oliver, Erkin Ozel, Cyen Peterkin, Jonathan Poole, Siva Prasad Kalimuthu, Susan Ray, Bridget Riordan, Ganesh Satyanarayana, Sam Schmucl, Katrina Shafer, George Shepherd, Cameron Taylor, Lisa Underwood, John Wang, Kathryn Wood, Andrew Yang, Kate Yeager, Holly York, Anjulet Tucker, Betty Willis, Danielle Miller, David Payne, Kimber Williams, Keiko Price, Kendra Price, James Raper, David Clark, Cathy Telfer

**Unexcused Absences:** Erin Bonning, Amy Chen, Faith Cheplick, Kelly Garner Shannon, Joy Hearn, Curtis Henry, Orion Jones, Margot Merwin, Ilya Nemenman, Florian Pohl, Stephanie Schorsch, Alyssa Stegall, Aditi Vellore,

**I. Welcome and Approval of Consent Agenda, Alicia DeNicola, University Senate President**

Dawn Francis-Chewning moved to approve the consent agenda; Benn Konsynski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**II. President's Update, Greg Fenves, Emory University President**

President Fenves welcomed everyone back for Spring semester and updated the Senate on the One Emory Strategic Framework, notably the inclusion of staff and the healthcare enterprise in the plan, as well as the updated tagline of Ambition & Heart. He will be speaking in more detail about this on Feb 7 in a university-wide address. President Fenves welcomed the new Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Dr. Ravi Thadhani. He also spoke a little about his recent visit with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

**III. Governance Structure, Katrina Shafer, Employee Council President, Dawn Francis-Chewning, Employee Council Immediate Past-President, and Shervon Lewis, Employee Council President-Elect**

Katrina, Dawn, and Shervon presented on the structure, membership, and function of the Employee Council ([video here](#)). Of note is the list of officers: besides the President, President-elect, and the Immediate Past President, the Employee Council also has a Secretary, Secretary-elect, Treasurer, Historian, Parliamentarian, Hardship Fund Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator. The Employee Council is working on changing their name to the Staff Council to better reflect their membership. They are also working on a website update as well as a review of their bylaws and mission statement development.

**IV. Campus Life Committee, Bridget Guernsey Riordan, Committee Chair**

Bridget announced that she will be retiring and stepping down from the Campus Life Committee. She reported on the mission, structure, and membership of the committee. There is an ongoing project to partner with TableTalk to have a community-wide gathering on the Quad this Spring. The goal is to bring community members together to promote interactions and community spirit through various table topics and build relationships through shared interests and diverse opinions. Students want to know faculty, staff, and



administrators as people beyond their professional roles. The TableTalk project has received a grant from the Campus Life Do Good Fund for free refreshments for the event. The committee also voted to support a multiuse trail with the PATH Foundation.

## **V. Committee on the Environment, *Carrie Keogh, Committee Chair***

Carrie reported on the membership, key collaborators, and mission of the Committee on the Environment. There are 2 subcommittees: Built Environment and Energy Subcommittee (Hiram Maxim), Forest Management Subcommittee (Michael Martin, Nick Chang). Both subcommittees gave brief reports on their current topics. The Forest Management Subcommittee is working on: 1) Finalizing Land Use Classification and process for making future changes to land use; 2) Following up on Dekalb County sewer relining project and associated impacts to Lullwater and Hahn woods; 3) COE feedback on upcoming proposal for new development in Lullwater/Han/Wesley Woods Preserves; 4) Updating the Forest Management Plan. Key discussions to have include allocating resources to protect campus natural areas, hiring a dedicated forest manager or allocating time of existing personnel, and establishing a practice of shared recordkeeping to weather changes in institutional leadership.

The Built Environment and Energy Subcommittee is working on: 1) Grad Housing project sustainability features; 2) Following up on 2017 University Senate Resolution on net-zero energy goal for Emory Student Center. Key takeaways are that it would take an estimate of billions of dollars to bring Emory's building inventory to net-zero energy use, or a net-zero energy equivalent. For clarification, the University has not committed to net-zero energy use, but to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, which is measured differently. There is no process currently taking place to make sure current projects (e.g., Grad student housing, Briarcliff development) are constructed with the net-zero goal in mind—these projects will make it harder to meet the University's commitments to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. There is a gap between Emory's aspirations and its operations. How does the University plan to operationalize and implement its climate commitments?

Questions and comments from the floor:

1. When the Senate passes a resolution, is there any kind of partnership with university administration to make sure it is implemented?
  - a. We are an advisory board, so any resolution is in an advisory capacity. We don't know whose desk this particular resolution ended up on. As an advisory body, our impact on decisions have been in flux depending on timing of requested input. The goal of net zero came too late to be implemented in the plans for ESC building.
  - b. Access to archives is pretty critical, it matters who is in the room at the right time. Future resolutions should be tagged with responding entities as well as a horizon for response/update.
  - c. What process can we implement to prevent this from happening again? How should we ensure follow up to Senate resolutions?
  - d. Shared governance means more than just presence in meetings, so let's talk about process. The Office of the President has reached out to discuss implementing process about tracking Senate Resolutions.
  - e. Juggling needs of students vs. energy goals, short vs. long term goals and allocation of resources. We don't exist in a bubble, and we need to work with community partners to reach goals.
  - f. Create a committee to examine what peer institutions are doing?



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**VI. Honorary Degree Committee, Kathryn Wood, Committee Chair**

Dr. Wood presented on the 2023 Honorary Degree selection process and candidates under consideration.

**VII. Executive Session**

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.