



Emory University Senate Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

3:00-5:00 p.m. | Convocation Hall 208

**Attendees:** Alicia DeNicola, Grace Goh, Eric Abrams, Luke Anderson, Lot Bercasio, Adam Crisp, Sarah Dobbs, Allison Dykes, Rebecca Ellis, Gregory Fenves, April Flint, Dawn Francis-Chewning, Stacey Gall, Carol Henderson, Lori Jahnke, Del King, Walter Kolis, Benn Konsynski, Michelle Lampl, Shervon Lewis, Lanny Liebeskind, Noah Marchuck, Paul Marthers, Noelle McAfee, Madi Oliver, Erkin Ozel, Cyen Peterkin, Florian Pohl, Jonathan Poole, Siva Prasad Kalimuthu, Susan Ray, Ganesh Satyanarayana, Sam Schmuell, Katrina Shafer, George Shepherd, Anjuleet Tucker, Lisa Underwood, Aditi Vellore, John Wang, Kathryn Wood, Andrew Yang, Holly York, Hiram Maxim, Michael Martin, Chris Beck, Rachel Lebovic, Keiko Price, James Raper, Sara Tanner, Kyle Williams, Jodie Guest, Amy Adelman, Ronald Foust

**Excused Absences:** Kate Yeager, Babak Mahmoudi, Nitika Gupta, Daniele Fallin, Octavian Ioachimescu, Carolyn Keogh, Joy McDougall,

**Unexcused Absences:** Erin Bonning, Amy Chen, Faith Cheplick, Andrea Casson Galliano, Richard Castillo, Faith Cheplick, Lily Dresner, Roberto Franzosi, Kelly Garner Shannon, Lauren Gay, Joy Hearn, Curtis Henry, Nikki Hurtado, Scotty Jenkins, Orion Jones, David Kulp, Margot Merwin, Ilya Nemenman, Modele Ogunniyi, Stephanie Schorsch, Alyssa Stegall

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

Dr. Benn Konsynski moved to approve the consent agenda; Dr. Susan Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

President Fenves briefed the Senate on his recent Charter Week address about the updated One Emory Strategic Plan. There are 4 elements of success: Strong Schools, Destination for Undergraduate Education, A Great Academic Healthcare System, and Investments in Our People, Community, and Future. The 6 new pillars introduced by President Fenves under the new One Emory Framework are: Faculty Eminence; Academic Community of Choice; Innovation through Scholarship and Creative Expression; Thriving Healthcare, Inventing Cures; Our Talented and Committed Workforce; and Emory + Atlanta: Rich History, Shared Future.

President Fenves also gave an update on the Twin Memorials Project, including the timeline of planned and completed work. 26 community engagement sessions were held in Atlanta and Oxford, with more than 225 descendants, students, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and community partners shared their thoughts, ideas, and impressions about the memorials. Currently the taskforce is identifying preferred and alternative sites on both the Atlanta and Oxford Campus for the twin memorials, as well as the themes and design concepts. Next steps for Spring and Fall 2023 is to release a request for proposals to identify architects and relevant artists.

**III. University Planning Report: *Robin Morey, Vice President for Campus Services & Chief Planning Officer; and David Payne, Associate Vice President for Planning and Engagement***

Vice President Morey briefed the Senate on Emory's Tree Master Plan and updates on the Graduate Student Housing Project. Emory has lost 60% of its tree canopy since 2006, and a policy of no net loss of tree canopy has since been put in place. Graduate Student Housing project has begun construction and Phase 1 is set to open Summer 2024.



Associate Vice President Payne presented on the PATH multi-use trail project and the MARTA Clifton Corridor Project. There is an opportunity to collaborate with DeKalb County and the PATH Foundation to extend the PATH network through part of Emory's campus to improve connectivity and support safe walking, running, and cycling away from traffic. These paths are typically 8-ft wide, paved or elevated trails built and maintained by the PATH Foundation. This will also assist sewer maintenance and repair access for DeKalb County. MARTA Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative update: Light Rail is officially taken out of consideration because it is more expensive and takes longer to implement than Bus Rapid Transit.

Questions and comments from the floor:

- 1) Is the graduate student housing meant for existing or new students?
  - a. We are still deciding that, but for now we are planning to offer a certain percentage of rooms to current students before opening it up to incoming first-year students. We will decide based on first-year data to determine needs for Phase 2.
- 2) Are postdocs eligible for the graduate student housing?
  - a. Yes, but the exact allocation is to be determined.
- 3) The management and administering of the housing will be outsourced to a third party, correct?
  - a. Yes, we have partnered with American Campus Communities to operate it by our rules, so we still have a say in how it is run.
- 4) Can graduate students with children live there?
  - a. When we polled the student body, there was only 7% interest from graduate students with families, so there isn't a large demand, but we have several units available for families and they can certainly choose to live there.

**IV. Student Governance Report, Noah Marchuck, SGA President; Andrew Yang, Oxford SGA President; Siva Prasad Kalimuthu, GSGA President**

SGA President Marchuck presented on student concerns collected from a survey of all undergraduates; top concerns include: creating space (breaking down "cis het white male" spaces like the WoodPEC and SAAC fitness center, support for gender and sexual minorities in academic departments, creating dialogue for anti-racism, feminism, and other social movements in class, approaching uncomfortable conduct in academic spaces, and access to and implementation of resources across campus), health and wellbeing (access to mental health and other health resources, tuition insurance), housing (rising costs and increased demand for on-campus housing, dorm utilities and food plans, winter housing, physical accommodations needed), transfer and international student concerns (transfer credits, student orientation, language requirement, cultural barriers to academics and community), transportation and parking (reimbursement for parking, temporary parking on-campus, frequency of shuttles to nearby off-campus housing), and academics (19 credit cap, final exam schedule requests, absence policy, undergraduate teaching opportunities).

Oxford SGA President Yang presented on the achievements and ongoing goals of Oxford SGA. In Fall 2022, great strides were made in environmental sustainability, physical and mental health, and sense of community. In Spring 2023, the goal is to lead campus culture around environmental sustainability, increase quality of life for students, and create a more inclusive campus. Select achievements include establishment of Environmental Sustainability Committee, Bring Your Own Cup Campaign, shifting the focus from Executive function to Legislative function, extended morning gym hours, reinstatement of takeout option, establishment of after-hours café option, reopening of Dooley's Tavern and Fall Formal, support and opportunities for Spring Starts,



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and establishment of affinity spaces. The main concern among Oxford students is that Oxford is diverse but not inclusive, and some specific issues being addressed are event-focused club culture, lack of clear communication, and the Oxford-Atlanta Transition.

GSGA President Kalimuthu presented on GSGA's efforts to create a common graduate student experience at Emory, such as shifting to a bottom-up approach to promote One Emory by scaling up division-led events. This is tremendously successful in forging interdepartmental friendships and stronger ties with divisional student governments. GSGA also became the first student government organization at Emory to adopt a Students Charter: Modelled along the lines of the UK Government's Citizens Charter, GSGA aspires to promote excellence in Student Government Services by clearly defining the objectives, services provided, standards of service, rights and responsibilities of graduate students. GSGA also disclosed their budget and student activity fee (SAF) spending details to promote stronger transparency and accountability and maximize the value of SAF. GSGA has also adopted a resolution to work towards achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on a campus level. SDG squads are being constituted with representatives from GSGA, staff, faculty, alumni, divisional student government, graduate and professional students, and relevant local NGOs. GSGA's "Career First" Initiative focuses on preparing students to tap into new networks beyond established pipelines at graduate divisions and enable career switching. GSGA has also been proactive in communication efforts to dispel myths on mental health and promote CAPS initiatives.

## **V. University Senate Honorary Degree Committee Candidates Vote, *Kathryn Wood, Committee Chair***

The Senate voted to approve the 2023 Honorary Degree Candidates. They will be added to the President's pool of candidates to be nominated at his discretion to the Board of Trustees.

## **VI. Executive Session**

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.