



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

University Senate

University Senate
Tuesday April 22, 2025
3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Convocation Hall

MINUTES

Voting Members Present (41): George Shepherd (President), Noëlle McAfee (President Elect), Walter Kolis (Secretary), Tyler Martinez, Monica Thieu, April Edward, Shervon Lewis, Liz Carlino, Paul Marthers, Michael Martin, Roy Simpson, Michael Owens, David Borthwick, Ilya Nemenman, Anna Espinosa, Lisa Underwood, Stacey Gall, Kurt Warncke, Sean Meighoo, Roberto Franzosi, Sasha Volokh, Jehu Hanciles, Benn Kosynski, Jodie Guest, Jessica Wells, Eric Lonsdorf, Harold Simon, Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Kajal Patel, Andrew Sherrill, Jeffrey Lichtman, Sohan Ballam, Harleigh Markowitz, Ameer Alnasser, Kosi Achara, Chris Palazzo, Andrea Casson Galiano, David Kulp, Janet DeForest, Mustapha Oloko-Oba, Richard Freer

Voting Members Absent (17): Francis Albright, Kenan Bajraktarevic, April Flint, Christopher Blake, Michelle Lampl, Florian Pohl, Babak Mahmoudi, Pranay Mamileti, Max Nguyen, Fateemaa Sohani, Morgan Villar, Tehreem Hussain, Terez Whately-White, Tiffany Boller, Carlos Northern, Timothy Ray, VonYetta Hunter

University Administration Present (3): Gregory Fenves, Lanny Liebeskind, Brad Slutsky

University Administration Absent (9): Chris Augustini, Ravi Thadhani, Allison Dykes, Susan Bonifield, Deborah Bruner, Enku Gelaye, Joshua Newton, John Ellis, Kevin Moody

Non-Voting Administrative Support Present (1): Lisa Parker

Invited Visitors Present (10): Danielle Miller, Anjulet Tucker, Luke Anderson, Justin Abraham, Pearl Dowe, Carol Henderson, David Payne, Ciannat Howett, David Clark, Kristina Odejimi

The regular meeting of the University Senate was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in Convocation Hall, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

George Shepherd welcomed members, visitors, and guests and offered opening remarks reflecting on the active work, engagement, and collaboration of the Senate to help Emory become better over the past year.

The minutes from the March 25, 2025 University Senate meeting were approved without objection.

Michael Martin reported on behalf of the Environment Committee. Michael Martin reported the committee met in April, heard an update on the Graduate Housing project's planned LEED certification, and a proposal from a group of students from Druid Hills High School about collecting trash in South Fork Peachtree Creek. Martin further reported that in May the committee expected a presentation from Campus Services regarding greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy with Georgia Power. Martin reported the committee would continue discussion related to waste management and greenhouse gas emissions next year.

Paul Marthers reported on behalf of the Campus Life Committee. Marthers reported the committee had its final meeting on April 21st and heard a presentation from SILT related to student organizations, as well as a staff member with Goizueta Business School about student life for its students. Marthers further reported their term as chair was concluding.

David Borthwick reported on behalf of the Libraries and Museum Committee. Borthwick reported the committee continues to discuss ongoing negotiations with Elsevier related to publishing contracts for journals and provide the Emory Libraries feedback. Borthwick further reported that the library sent a survey in early April soliciting feedback and urged members to complete the survey to provide feedback on which research and journals are critical to retain access. Borthwick answered questions from members and added that the Health Sciences Library is deeply involved, and that Emory Libraries was attempting to create a more customized list to better manage funding.

Ilya Nemenman reported on behalf of the Open Expression Committee. Nemenman reported the committee has a resolution for discussion and have additional cases they have begun working on. Nemenman further reported their term as chair was concluding.

Chris Palazzo, Professional Librarian member, motioned to adopt a resolution to establish a standing committee on Budget Priorities. Palazzo answered questions from members. The motion was as follows:

Draft Resolution

Proposed Resolution for the Emory University Senate: Establishment of the Standing Committee on Budget Priorities

Whereas, the Emory University Senate is responsible for advising and engaging in matters that affect the academic mission and shared governance of the University; and

Whereas, decisions about university budgets and financial planning significantly impact Emory's core academic functions—teaching, research, and service—as well as the working conditions of faculty, staff, and students; and

Whereas, meaningful faculty involvement in budgetary decisions is an essential component of shared governance, in line with the principles of the 1966 AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities; and

Whereas, Emory currently lacks a formal standing structure through which the university community can systematically engage in the review of budget priorities and financial planning processes at the university-wide level;

Be it Resolved, that the Emory University Senate hereby establishes a new Standing Committee on Budget Priorities, charged with the following mission:

Mission and Charge: "The Budget and Planning Committee engages with relevant administrative offices to ensure that budget priorities for the University are aligned with academic values and faculty and staff interests. It shall make recommendations and provide input into budgetary and financial decisions and the determination of priorities among academic and other programs having financial implications. The committee should strive to communicate to administrators the questions and concerns of university constituents regarding allocation and budgets."

Be it Further Resolved, that the Committee shall be composed of up to nine members, five of which should be faculty. Committee membership shall strive for broad representation across Emory's schools, including the Woodruff Health Sciences Center schools.

• *The Faculty Counselor to the Board of Trustees Finance Committee shall be a member of the Committee, regularly reporting (as possible) relevant actions by the Board to the committee.* • *The committee shall include an additional one ex officio representative from the Office of Budget and Administration, appointed jointly by the Executive Vice President for Business and Administration and by the Provost.* • *Members shall be appointed or elected in accordance with Senate procedures for standing committees. This committee will serve as an ongoing mechanism for the university community engagement and oversight in financial matters, ensuring transparency, shared governance, and alignment of resources with Emory's academic values and strategic goals*

Noëlle McAfee motioned to amend the resolution by striking everything following the paragraph with the mission statement. The motion carried. The amended resolution was as follows:

Whereas, the Emory University Senate is responsible for advising and engaging in matters that affect the academic mission and shared governance of the University; and

Whereas, decisions about university budgets and financial planning significantly impact Emory's core academic functions—teaching, research, and service—as well as the working conditions of faculty, staff, and students; and

Whereas, meaningful faculty involvement in budgetary decisions is an essential component of shared governance, in line with the principles of the 1966 AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities; and

Whereas, Emory currently lacks a formal standing structure through which the university community can systematically engage in the review of budget priorities and financial planning processes at the university-wide level;

Be it Resolved, that the Emory University Senate hereby establishes a new Standing Committee on Budget Priorities, charged with the following mission:

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The motion to amend the resolution carried without objection.

The amended motion to adopt the resolution to create a standing budget priorities committee carried without objection.

Ilya Nemenman motioned to adopt resolution on behalf of the Open Expression Committee and answered questions from members. The resolution was as follows:

Proposed Resolution for the Emory University Senate:

Protecting Open Expression in The School of Medicine

Whereas, Emory University's Open Expression Policy (Policy 8.14) guarantees the protection of free expression rights for all members of the community; and

Whereas, the University Senate's Committee for Open Expression (CFOE) is entrusted by Policy 8.14 with the responsibility to investigate, mediate, and resolve conflicts related to open expression, including potential violations of these rights; and

Whereas, the CFOE investigated the case of Ms. Umaymah Mohammad, an MD/PhD student, who was suspended from the School of Medicine (SOM) following a conduct code hearing based on her interview with Democracy Now!; and

Whereas, the SOM administration, specifically Dean Eley and Dean Wong, declined to cooperate with the CFOE investigation, despite the expectations of collaboration outlined in Policy 8.14; and

Whereas, the CFOE found that the content of Ms. Mohammad's interview was protected under the Policy 8.14 and recommended that the conduct code case against her be dismissed; and

Whereas, the CFOE further found that the SOM administration violated Policy 8.14 by failing to substantially consider open expression protections during its conduct process; and

Whereas, the CFOE concluded that current SOM conduct codes are not in compliance with Policy 8.14 but could be revised to align with both the Policy and accreditation requirements; and

Whereas, the SOM administration has not responded to the CFOE's findings and has failed to engage meaningfully in discussions about how open expression protections intersect with medical education;

Be it Resolved that the Emory University Senate:

1. Calls on the SOM to repeat the conduct hearing involving Ms. Umaymah Mohammad with appropriate recognition of her rights under the Open Expression Policy.
2. Calls on Deans Wong and Eley to commit to working in good faith with the University Senate and its standing committees, including the Committee for Open Expression, and to ensure that open expression protections are incorporated into all future investigations and hearings, in accordance with Policy 8.14.
3. Calls on the SOM to revise its student conduct and related policies

The motion to adopt the resolution carried.

Noëlle McAfee motioned to adopt a resolution to create a nominations committee and answered questions from members. The resolution was as follows:

Proposal to create a University Senate Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is responsible for soliciting volunteers from the Senate constituent groups to run for University Senate offices and serve on its various committees. In particular, the Nominations Committee

- *coordinates with current officers and committee chairs to identify needs and future openings;*
- *works with the Senate Secretary to create a ballot for annual elections for University Senate officers;*
- *passes along to chairs of other Senate committees names of people willing to serve on committees. (Chairs of committees make final determination of committee rosters which are in turn voted on by the full University Senate.)*

The motion to adopt the resolution to create a standing nominations committee carried without objection.

Roy Simpson presented on behalf of the Fringe Benefits Committee. Simpson reported that the committee was bringing forward not as much a resolution as seeking direction for the Fringe Benefits Committee from prior work. Simpson provided a brief overview of the work under the previous chair, Dr. Chen, focusing on

childcare and solicited feedback from members regarding its status. Members discussed future reports and resolutions from any committees should include action items. Following discussion, Simpson reported the committee will provide additional action item requests to the Senate this Summer.

Jodie Guest motioned to adopt a resolution regarding communication of tuition and fees to schools. Guest answered questions from members and discussed the additional need for greater coordination with schools. The motion was as follows.

Information about tuition and fees to be communicated with schools as soon as possible to support a more robust admissions process

The motion to adopt the resolution carried without objection.

President George Sheperd provided brief closing remarks, provided a token of appreciation to Emory University President Gregory Fennes, and thank yous to Senate leadership, the program coordinators, members, committee chairs, and all others.

Noëlle McAfee, Jodie Guest, and April Flint were installed as Emory University Senate President, President-Elect, and Secretary, respectively.

Noëlle McAfee provided brief remarks looking forward to the upcoming year. A picture of the current year's membership was taken.

The Senate entered executive session at 4:07pm.

Submitted, Walter Kolis, Secretary