



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

University Senate

University Senate
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
3:00 P.M.
Room 208 Convocation Hall

MINUTES

Voting Members Present (36): George Shepherd (President), Noelle McAfee (President Elect), Walter Kolis (Secretary), Abigail Dubsinski, Francis Albright, Monica Thieu, April Edward, April Flint, Paul Marthers, Michael Martin, David Borthwick, Ilya Nemenman, Lisa Underwood, Kurt Warncke, Sean Meighoo, Sasha Volokh, Jehu Hanciles, Benn Konsynski, Jessica Wells, Eric Lonsdorf, Harold Simon, Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Jeffrey Lichtman, Pranay Mamileti, Sohan Bellam, Harleigh Markowitz, Ameer Alnasser, Kosi Achara, Max Nguyen, Chris Palazzolo, Andrea Casson Galiano, David Kulp, Janet DeForest, Timothy Ray, VonYetta Hunter, Richard Freer

Voting Members Absent (22): Kenan Bajraktarevic, Shervon Lewis, Liz Carlino, Chris Blake, Roy Simpson, Michael Owens, Anna Espinosa, Stacey Gall, Michelle Lampl, Roberto Franzosi, Jodie Guest, Florian Pohl, Kajal Patel, Andrew Sherrill, Babak Mahmoudi, Fateemaa Sohani, Morgan Villar, Tehreem Hussain, Mustapha Oloko-Oba, Terez Whately-White, Tiffany Boller, Carlos Northern

University Administration Present (3): Brad Slutsky, Lanny Liebeskind, Kevin Moody

University Administration Absent (10): Gregory Fenves, Ravi Bellamkonda, Chris Augustini, Ravi Thadhani, Allison Dyes, Susan Bonifield, Deborah Bruner, Enku Gelaye, Joshua Newton, John Ellis

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

Invited Visitors Present (10): Anjulet Tucker, Jonathon Poole, Luke Anderson, Justin Abraham, Pearl Dowe, Carol Henderson, David Clark, Kristina Odejimi, Keiko Price, James Raper, Lynell Cadray

The regular meeting of the University Senate was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in room 208 of Convocation Hall, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

George Shepherd welcomed members, visitors, and guests.

The minutes of the October 22 2024 University Senate meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

The following slate of new committee members were approved by unanimous consent.

- Campus Development: Matthew Baker, Faculty, Emory College of Arts and Sciences
- Campus Development: Ikran Ismail, Undergraduate Student, Emory College of Arts and Sciences,
- Campus Development: Nasha Khan, Graduate Student, School of Medicine
- Campus Development: Weihua Zhang, Faculty, School of Medicine
- Campus Life: Kim Copenhaver, Faculty, Emory Libraries
- Environment: Anissa Patel, Undergraduate Student, Emory College of Arts & Sciences

- Open Expression: Max Nguyen, Graduate Student, School of Medicine
- Open Expression: Sohan Bellam, Undergraduate Student, Emory College of Arts & Sciences
- Mekeshua North, Staff, Campus Life
- Jennifer Cason, Staff, Laney Graduate School
- Transportation and Parking: Kathryn Dionne, Staff, Campus Life

George Shepherd introduced Kevin Moody, Emory University's new Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

George Shepherd welcomed Lynell Cadray, University Ombuds and Senior Advisory to the President to assist with facilitation of a listening session for the Provost Search. George Shepherd led a facilitated discussion with members of the University Senate to share their priorities. Members were reminded to share the established website for the Provost search and provide their input.

Ameer Alnasser provided a report on behalf of the Oxford College Student Government Association and shared updates from their committees focusing on health & wellness, student living, technology & transportation, arts & academics, diversity, equity & inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Alnasser further reported upcoming priorities including school spirit, evening classes, and lockers on campus.

Francis Albright provided a report on behalf of the Graduate Student Government Association and shared updates on their priorities of housing & security, transportation, health & wellness, and collaborative engagement.

Abigail Dubinski & Pranay Mamileti provided a report on behalf of the Student Government Association and shared updates on their priorities of operational excellence, health equity, transportation, communication, and empowerment. Dubinski further reported that the Student Government Association has a new website, sga.emory.edu.

Michael Martin provided a report on behalf of the Environment committee. Martin reported the committee is working on management spaces for natural spaces on campus, organizing their committee materials and resources on OneDrive, and revisiting and reviewing net zero energy usage in the Emory Student Center. Martin further reported that the committee's January meeting will focus on Emory University's sustainability visioning process.

Paul Marthers reported on behalf of the Campus Life committee. Marthers reported the committee focused on retention and persistence of undergraduate students, the status of dining on campus with renovations to Cox Hall, and supporting "underserved" and "hidden" students at Emory. Marthers further reported the committee will receive updates on from the Dean of Campus Life at Oxford college and focus on the Goizueta Business school student experience.

Lisa Underwood reported on behalf of the Transportation and Parking committee. Underwood reported that the committee met last week and completed an activity identifying and discussing challenges for pedestrians on campus in support of an ongoing effort to enhance pedestrian safety. Underwood further reported the committee is continuing to support efforts for mobility master planning and recently met with the Environment committee members who will be joining these efforts.

April Flint reported on behalf of the Athletics and Recreation committee. Flint reported a continuation of a goal from the Spring to evaluate the purpose, mission, and makeup of the committee and encourage more people who utilize the facilities and programs to join the committee. Flint reported the committee would meet later in the week.

Ilya Nemenman reported on behalf of the Open Expression committee and shared a resolution to *Accept*

the CFOE Report “Review of Respect for Open Expression Policy August 2024 Addendum” and Recommend Addendum Revisions. Nemenman answered questions from members about the proposed resolution.

A motion was made to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, Emory University has a Respect for Open Expression Policy (Policy 8.14), which establishes the University’s commitment to fostering an environment that promotes the free exchange of ideas, open debate, and expressive rights for all members of the community, while balancing these rights with the need to maintain order and respect on campus; and

Whereas, on August 27, 2024, Emory University’s Office of the President introduced an Addendum to the Respect for Open Expression Policy without prior consultation with the University Senate or the Committee for Open Expression (CFOE), which imposed new prohibitions on certain forms of protest and expression, including overnight outdoor camping, encampments, building occupations, and protests between midnight and 7:00 a.m.; and

Whereas, the CFOE conducted a thorough review of the Addendum, analyzing its consistency with the broader Respect for Open Expression Policy, its alignment with First Amendment principles, its clarity, and its impact on the Open Expression climate at Emory; and

Whereas, the CFOE report found that while the Addendum does not contradict the language of the broader policy, it lacks clear definitions and imposes restrictions that may unduly burden the expressive rights of community members, potentially chilling speech on campus; and

Whereas, the CFOE has recommended revisions to the Addendum to include more precise definitions and to adopt less restrictive restrictions, including a content-neutral management system for university property that allows for multi-day and overnight expressive events, modeled on best practices from peer institutions; and

Be it Resolved, that the Emory University Senate accepts the recommendations of the Committee for Open Expression report and urges the University to revise the August 2024 Addendum to the Respect for Open Expression Policy in line with these recommendations; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Senate recommends the introduction of a more flexible, content-neutral university property management system, which would allow for overnight and multi-day expressive events while ensuring safety and minimizing disruption; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Emory University Senate requests that the University administration consults the Senate in future revisions of this and other important policies, to ensure both legitimacy and the creation of better policies.

The motion to adopt the resolution carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Submitted, Walter Kolis, Secretary