



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

University Senate

University Senate
Tuesday, October 22, 2024
3:00 P.M.
Room 208 Convocation Hall

MINUTES

Voting Members Present (44): George Shepherd (President), Noelle McAfee (President Elect), Walter Kolis (Secretary), Abigail Dubsinski, Monica Thieu, Liz Carlino, April Flint, Chris Blake, Michael Martin, Michael Owens, David Borthwick, Ilya Nemenman, Anna Espinosa, Lisa Underwood, Stacey Gall, Kurt Warncke, Sean Meighoo, Roberto Franzosi, Sasha Volokh, Jehu Hanciles, Benn Konsynski, Jodie Guest, Florian Pohl, Jessica Wells, Harold Simon, Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Kajal Patel, Andrew Sherrill, Babak Mahmoudi, Jeffrey Lichtman, Pranay Mamileti, Sohan Bellam, Harleigh Markowitz, Ameer Alnasser, Max Nguyen, Chris Palazzollo, Andrea Casson Galiano, Janet DeForest, Mustapha Oloko-Oba, Terez Whately-White, Carlos Northern, Timothy Ray, VonYetta Hunter, Richard Freer,

Voting Members Absent (13): Francis Albright, Kieran Rafferty (acting Oxford SGA President), April Edward, Shervon Lewis, Paul Marthers, Roy Simpson, Michelle Lampl, Kosi Achara, Fateemaa Sohani, Murphy Sullivan, Tehreem Hussain, David Kulp, Tiffany Boller

University Administration Present (3): Ravi Bellamkonda, Brad Slutsky, Susan Bonifield

University Administration Absent (9): Gregory Fenves, Chris Augustini, Ravi Thadhani, Deborah Bruner, Enku Gelaye, Joshua Newton, Lanny Liebeskind, John Ellis, Allison Dykes

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

Invited Visitors Present (9): Spencer Friedland, Jack Rutherford, Danielle Miller, Anjulet Tucker, Jonathon Poole, Luke Anderson, Carol Henderson, Del King, David Payne

The regular meeting of the University Senate was held on Tuesday, October 22, 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 announced that any Emory student, faculty, staff or alumni will be allowed to register as a non-speaking guest for any meeting of the University Senate as long as room remains” George reported that a form has been created that will be managed by the program coordinator to register.

George Shepherd introduced guest speaker, Ravi Bellamkonda, Emory University Provost, who provided remarks regarding accomplishments over the past year, the role of the Provost’s office, the importance of strong schools, new initiatives, and providing resources for each school. Bellamkonda further reported updates to streamlining processes and the critical importance of strengthening the unrestricted endowments of individual schools, particularly for student scholarships. Bellamkonda further reported that Emory should continue to focus on the student experience and share the features of the institution.

Following remarks, Bellamkonda answered questions from members.

George Shepherd introduced guest speaker, Luke Anderson, Emory University Vice President for Communications and Marketing, who provided remarks regarding methods available for the University Senate and Emory University governance groups to communicate with their constituents. Anderson further reported his support and the support of the communications and marketing team to deliver messages to constituents. Anderson further provided updates about the currently existing channels, highlighting the Emory Report, to reach the Emory enterprise and recent partnerships with the University Senate and its committees. Following remarks, Anderson answered questions from members.

Chris Blake provided a report on behalf of the Campus Development Committee. Blake reported the committee is focused on the Cox Hall dining renovations and will have a presentation by Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives at their next meeting.

Michael Martin provided a report on behalf of the Environment Committee. Martin reported that the committee met to organize their subcommittees, and will also meet with Emory's Office of Sustainability at their next meeting.

Michael Owens provided a report on behalf of the Honorary Degrees Committee. Owens thanked Luke Anderson for the office's support to promote the nominations process and reported it has been very public. Owens further reported that nominations will continue being accepted through November 1st and the committee will meet on November 12th to begin their deliberations.

Lisa Underwood provided a report on behalf of the Transportation and Parking Committee. Underwood reported that the committee previously reported its initiatives as a focus on pedestrian safety and campus mobility planning, will host its first meeting Monday October 28th and that it has assigned a member of the Environment Committee to each subcommittee as well as support from EPD. The committee will begin populating subcommittees with members next week.

David Borthwick provided a report on behalf of the Libraries and Museum Committee. Borthwick reported that the committee held its first meeting virtually, and the primary topic was the exciting acquisition of the Cochrane collection by the museum. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for November 15th and the major topic is expected to be the library's open access publication funds to support students and postdocs, including how funds are distributed and where they come from.

George Shepherd introduced Noëlle McAfee who moved the following resolution:

"Article II, section 1 of the Emory University Senate bylaws states that the functions of the University Senate, as stated in the Bylaws of the University, include considering and making recommendations concerning any matter of general University interest. Shortly after the termination of protests this past spring, the president and the administration alerted the University that they would have an independent and external review of all events and decisions on and after April 25, 2024. In order to carry out its prerogative stated in the Bylaws, the University Senate requests that the Emory University administration release to the Senate the full report from the Jones Day law firm regarding the events of April 25, 2024. We move that this report be released to the University Senate by November 15, 2024"

The motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Ilya Nemenman motioned to amend the motion by inserting "redacted as needed" between "the full report...from the Jones Day law firm". The motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Sasha Volokh motioned to amend the amendment by inserting ", with no redactions except as necessary to

preserve privacy or confidentiality,” between “the full report...from the Jones Day law firm”. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion. The motion to amend the amendment to the resolution carried.

The amended resolution, following debate, carried.

“Article II, section 1 of the Emory University Senate bylaws states that the functions of the University Senate, as stated in the Bylaws of the University, include considering and making recommendations concerning any matter of general University interest. Shortly after the termination of protests this past spring, the president and the administration alerted the University that they would have an independent and external review of all events and decisions on and after April 25, 2024. In order to carry out its prerogative stated in the Bylaws, the University Senate requests that the Emory University administration release to the Senate the full report, with no redactions except as necessary to preserve privacy or confidentiality, from the Jones Day law firm regarding the events of April 25, 2024. We move that this report be released to the University Senate by November 15, 2024”

Ilya Nemenman reported on behalf of the Open Expression Committee. Nemenman reported that the committee was still seeking additional members. Nemenman reported about the committee’s reports and recommendations that were provided to University Senate members in the agenda packet related to alleged open expression violations in Fall 2023 related to defacement of fliers and, separately, a school of medicine student’s open expression. Nemenman reported that the School of Medicine would be coordinating with the Open Expression Committee. Nemenman further reported that the committee would soon be finalizing 2 reports related to incidents in early September related to flyers and incidents around October 7th. Nemenman reminded members that all Open Expression Committee reports are available on the University Senate website. Nemenman further reported to all members that the committee has released a report about the addendum to the open expression policy, and the investigation centered on if the changes aligned with the University’s commitment to open expression and whether they are reasonable and enforceable in a content neutral manner. Following the report, Nemenman answered questions from members.

George Sheperd provided brief updates about the open expression subcommittee and that the subcommittee was addressing broad structural issues, including what the standard should be and the mechanism for enforcing the standard.

George Shepherd thanked the committee for the reports and announced that to allow more time for members to fully review the report, discussion and potential vote on proposed resolutions would continue at a future meeting in December.

Jodie Guest moved to approve the minutes of the September 24th, 2024 meeting. The motion carried.

George Shepherd announced the University Senate would enter executive session with all voting members of the University Senate at 4:40pm.

Submitted, Walter Kolis, Secretary