I. Call to Order
Emory University Faculty Council Chair Kristin Wendland called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

II. Approval of University Faculty Council Minutes
The October 2016 meeting minutes have been posted for review in the University Faculty Council (UFC) Box folder.

UFC motion: Wendland requested to hear a motion to approve October 2016 meeting minutes. Judy Raggi Moore made the motion, and David Lynn seconded it. The motion passed with no oppositions.

III. 2017 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Announcement
Wendland announced the 2017 Distinguished Faculty Lecture will be delivered by Professor Rafi Ahmed of Department of Microbiology and Immunology on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in Winship Ballroom (Dobbs University Center). A flyer for the lecture will be made after receiving the exact title from the lecturer, distributed to the UFC members, and emailed to all Emory faculty.

IV. UFC Title VII and Title IX Working Group Update – Pamela Scully
This small working group, including Pamela Scully, Adriane Ivey, Karen Scheib, Angela Amar, Anand Swaminathan, Anna Leo and Jason Schneider, was formed in the October 2016 UFC meeting, based on the concerns of UFC members around the potential impairments of academic freedom in the classroom and the relationship between faculty and students under Title IX and Title VII policies. Representing this group, Pamela Scully addressed the UFC regarding the progress they have made so far and their future plans. Scully said they all have read the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) report on The History, Uses, and Abuses of Title IX, and she listed recommendations of the report upon which the members generally agree. Two of these recommendations are 1) university policies should not require all faculty as reporters under Title IX, and 2) they should separate speech and conduct in Title VII. The group will meet in December 2016 to put the pieces of work they have accomplished together.
V. Research Administration Services (RAS) Task Force Update – Deborah (Deb) Bruner (for Tamara Caspary)

In the September 2016 UFC meeting, the UFC endorsed the recent RAS Task Force report. The RAS Task Force was charged to continue to work through Fall 2016 semester to facilitate the implementation of the report's recommendations, and to explore whether such on-going implementation could be absorbed into the work of the UFC by expanding a current standing committee's mission. Representing the RAS Task Force, Bruner provided UFC members with an update of their progress. She said there has been no response from the Director of RAS since the report has been disseminated, but the group did meet with Interim Provost Zola in October 2016, and Zola assured them the report is being discussed at the level of university administration. Bruner also reported the task force has been working with Vice Provost Lanny Liebeskind to explore ways to establish an ongoing mechanism for continuous faculty engagement about these issues. Wendland added that, based on her meeting yesterday with Interim Vice President for Business and Administration Peter Barnes, she thinks the university administration is currently considering the report’s recommendations and the potential ways to utilize those recommendations. Finally, Interim Provost Zola added the university administration has already worked through four out of six pieces of their planned course of action for responding to the RAS Task Force Report, and he hopes to bring the outcome to the January 2017 UFC meeting.

VI. Faculty Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution Task Force Update – Kristy Martyn

Representing this task force, Martyn provided a brief overview of the history of the Faculty Peer Mediation Committee. It was formed in 2015 under the financial supported of the Provost’s Office. As of July, 2016, the financial support by the Provost’s Office is not ongoing, and the Committee Chair Edmund Becker resigned on August 31, 2016. In the October 2016 UFC meeting, the UFC passed a motion to form a task force charged with assessing the need for faculty peer mediation by obtaining real data. The task force, including Kristy Martyn, Ken Anderson, Ned Becker, Nick Colovos, James Elliott, Elizabeth Goodstein, Michael Kuhar and Jan Pratt, has met and reviewed past UFC meeting minutes since 1995. It found evidence for the need for services, but not much for real action mediations. They checked 24 peer institutions including Georgia Tech, Harvard, and Stanford and found that all of them have Ombuds and Mediation services. Martyn said 42 Emory University faculty members have already completed a 28-hour training for being able to serve in such a service. She listed the current issues under discussion in the Task Force as publicizing mediation services, staffing of the mediation program, skill set (e.g., conflict coaching), the lack of a program assistant, and the lack of coordination with faculty staff assistance program (FSAP) and other groups. The Task Force is scheduled to meet with Interim Provost Zola about next steps in December 2016.

VII. Pre-Texts: an encounter with engaged and collaborative pedagogy – Vialla Hartfield-Méndez and Pamela Scully (Center for Faculty Development and Excellence)

UFC motion: Wendland said that this was originally intended to be a UFC closed session for elected and appointed faculty, committee chairs and liaisons, and faculty counselors only. After reconsideration with the presenters of the session, Wendland invited UFC members to consider turning it into an open session. Jason Hockenberry made the motion. which passed with no oppositions.

Description of the workshop: “Pre-Texts” is a pedagogical approach that distills theoretical approaches to literature and community-based engagement strategies into a simple protocol that fosters close reading of texts, creativity, and civic agency. “Pre-Texts” uses literature as a point of departure, by inviting participants to interact with and reflect on a text through multiple art forms. Developed by Harvard professor Doris Sommer through the Cultural Agents Initiative, “Pre-Texts” is highly flexible, and has been used successfully in a full range of settings. Grounded in community arts and organizing strategies gleaned from Latin American contexts. “Pre-Texts” proposes that the arts and humanities are necessary for civic engagement. Collaboration with the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard on “Pre-Texts” is now a key component of the Engaged Learning Program in the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence (CFDE) at Emory.

Recent practice demonstrates that this approach can be used in undergraduate and graduate settings, and as a community partnership-building tool. “Pre-Texts” is a central element of the Modern Language Association’s
K-16 Alliances Working Group. At Emory, “Pre-Texts” has been used in at least ten undergraduate courses and one graduate course, in faculty groups as a reflection tool, as a community partnership building strategy with the Latin American Association, and in Emory’s Graduation Generation partnership with Atlanta Public Schools.

During this interactive demonstration, Vialla Hartfield-Méndez and Pamela Scully introduced the UFC members to the basic components of “Pre-Texts,” and UFC members participated in some example “Pre-Texts” activities. During these “Pre-Texts” activities, Hartfield-Méndez and Scully also engaged in “meta-commentary” to provide details about this approach, how it works to build engagement between different disciplines, and how it develops collaboration within groups that work and/or teach and learn together.

VIII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.