



Emory University Faculty Council
Convocation Hall, Room 208
February 18, 2020
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Christa Acampora, Douglas Ander, Amy Chen, Hashem Dezhbakhsh, Elizabeth Downes, Timothy Holbrook, Octavian Ioachimescu, Ulemu Luhanga, Donna Maney, Giacomo Negro, Rafael Pardo, Usha Ramakrishnan, Ani Satz, Jason Schneider, Juliette Stapanian Apkarian, Aryeh Stein, Kelli Stidham Hall, Vaidy Sunderam, Octavian Ioachimescu, Sasha Volokh, Kimber Williams

Attendees (via Zoom): Andreas Fritz, Marilynne McKay, Laura Kimble, Lynne Nygaard, Nichole Powell Rocío Zambrana

Excused Absences: Alicia DeNicola, Sandra Garraway

Guests: Liz Bounds

I. Approval of Consent Agenda

- A. Professor Aryeh Stein moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the January 21, 2020 minutes, and Professor Giacomo Negro seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. Update About Undergraduate Affairs, Pamela Scully, Vice Provost, Undergraduate Affairs

- A. The Office of Undergraduate Affairs, in keeping with the Emory motto, encourages students to seek knowledge and foster meaningful connections.
- B. The Office also focuses on faculty engagement in student life. There is currently a faculty working group, “The Wise Heart Seeks Knowledge,” that centers on the undergraduate four-year journey.
- C. Faculty collaborate with the Student Life Committee, which works to bridge the gap between academic and co-curricular activities and participates in Dining at Dobbs Common Table with students.
- D. Student success is highlighted by retention and graduation and supported by reviewing policies. This includes thinking about faculty involvement in crisis care and encouraging faculty to serve as the cultivated “grown-ups” in the room.



- E. Emory Edge assists with coaching students in life skill areas and answering student inquiries about office hour etiquette.
- F. The Office is open to attend any event and speak with all groups on campus.
- G. Contact Information:
Vice Provost, Professor Pamela Scully, pamela.scully@emory.edu
Associate Vice Provost, Dr. Heather Mugg, hmugg@emory.edu
Assistant Director, Marybeth Smith, marybethsmith@emory.edu

III. Board of Trustees, Audit and Compliance Committee, Faculty Counselor Report, John Petros, Department of Urology

- A. Faculty Counselors serve as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and Emory faculty. The Audit and Compliance committee is led by Shantella Carr Cooper and has seven board members; John Petros serves as a non-voting member.
- B. The Audit and Compliance Committee's primary purpose is to oversee financial accounting functions. The Committee also hires and retains an independent auditor and works with the internal audit division. Chief Audit Officer Scott Stevenson has staff members who prepare data for external auditors.
- C. It is also within the role of the Committee to oversee legal compliance and conflicts of interest in research, maintain large risk management, and serve as subject matter experts. The Committee must maintain Emory's financial stability; there is always scrutiny over the budget due to the University's size and expansive healthcare system.

IV. Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Faculty Counselor Report, Vaidy Sunderam, Faculty Counselor and Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor and Chair, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

- A. The primary functions of the Finance Committee are to collaborate with the University President to review the annual budget and to review and recommend capital projects on both the University and healthcare sides.
- B. Other roles and responsibilities of the Committee include: overseeing the balance sheet, approving capex projects over two million dollars, such as acquisitions and property in capital; monitoring potential risks and University insurance programs; and providing counseling for financial levers to adjust spending habits.
- C. Typically, the Committee compares the current and previous fiscal year (September 1-August 31) to make sure the years are close.
- D. Meetings involve discussions about interest rates, risk assessment, state of the spending rate within the current budget, and predictions about the next recession.



V. **Update on Open Expression, Sasha Volokh, Chair of University Senate Committee on Open Expression and Professor of Law**

- A. Student arrests during protests over the treatment of Emory Sodexo cafeteria workers prompted changes in the facilitation and management of protests. The Taskforce on Dissent, Protest, & Community was created and issued a report in 2011. The Open Expression Policy (8.14) (OEP) was created on October 29, 2013.
- B. Basic values of the policy include respecting the Constitutional right to free speech and maintaining the norm of University neutrality as to expression that communicates a viewpoint, protest, and dissent.
- C. The “Emory Community” is protected by the OEP, which includes students, employees, trustees, alumni, invited guests and patrons, and guests and patients of Emory Healthcare.
- D. Violations of the OEP involve substantial disruptions of a meeting or event, infringement upon others’ open expression rights, hardships that impede community members’ open expression (such as a University official denying a space reservation), and open expression in forbidden areas such as private offices and classrooms.
- E. Activities not protected by the OEP can include violations of law, interference with the general operations of the University and rights of others, health or safety endangerment, threats of bodily harm to person or property, harassment under state law, and noise violations.
- F. The OEP established a committee comprised of fourteen Emory faculty, staff, and students, who evaluate and mediate controversies involving the violation of open expression. The Committee has a responsibility to investigate alleged infringements; provide education and training, such as issuing interpretive guidance to clarify its policies; and to resolve disputes by issuing opinions.
- G. The OEP also applies to faculty and staff, though how it applies is contextual. For example, any Emory Community member may state that LGBT rights are unimportant. But if the person who said this was the head of LGBT Life at Emory, it would presumably be permissible for the University to say that this person is not the best fit for their position.
- H. Currently the OEP does not contain sanctions for violations of its policy because it was a recommendation to an Emory disciplinary body. The policy sets out a series of principles that will guide those who would otherwise imply sanction.



VI. University COVID-19 Preparedness Briefing, Christa Acampora, Deputy Provost for Academic Affairs

- A. Deputy Provost Acampora was tasked by President Sterk to assess campus climate and the academic response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus disease.
- B. All University travel to China was suspended on January 31. China is a top destination for faculty, staff, and students, and roughly 8% of students are of Chinese descent, meaning families of students may be impacted.
- C. It is important that faculty understand the climate issues related to possible bias against Chinese or other students. Emory already has had reports of bias in classrooms and laboratories.
- D. Deputy Provost Acampora will continue to participate in contingency planning, as it is anticipated that students may not be able to travel abroad after the semester ends and students in the United States with Chinese passports may be limited in their travels. Graduating F-1 Visa students may have challenges as well as newly admitted students who may have to return to their country to retrieve their student visas. Contingency planning will also center on student housing, particularly for graduate students.
- E. Emory's Office of International Student and Scholar Services has expertise to help faculty, staff, and students navigate complexities.
- F. The University's [webpage](#) provides more information, and informational sessions being held by the Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.