



**Emory University Faculty Council Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting**

**January 19, 2021**

**3:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Christa Acampora, Douglas S. Ander, Juliette Apkarian, Mary Anne Bobinski, Doug Bowman, Deborah Bruner, Cliff Carrubba, Richard Castillo, Amy Chen, Dawn Comeau, Alicia DeNicola, Hashem Dezhbakhsh, Elizabeth Downes, Michael Epstein, Molly Epstein, Gregory Fenves, Judith Fridovich-Keil, Mindy Goldstein, Jodie L. Guest, Jill Hamilton, Curtis Henry, Tim Holbrook, David Howard, Octavian Ioachimescu, Amanda Marie James, Kathryn Kadous, Laura P. Kimble, Ellen Brown Landers, Joel LeMon, Jan Love, Ulemu Luhanga, Lynn Magee, Donna Maney, Jill Marie Martin, Marilynne McKay, Theresa Milazzo, Robin Morey, Giacomo Negro, Lynne Nygaard, Rafael Pardo, David C Payne, Nichole Powell, Usha Ramakrishnan, Clara Riddick, Ani B. Satz, Rachele Spell, Jill Sprong, Aryeh D Stein, Vaidy Sunderam, Erin Tarver, Bonna D Wescoat, Kimber Williams, Jackie Zavitz

**I. Approval of Consent Agenda and Discussion and Vote on DEI Special Committee selection**

*Giacomo Negro, Faculty Council Chair*

Professor Negro gave an overview about the proposed roster of the new Faculty Council Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. The floor was opened for discussion though none was raised. Molly Epstein moved to approve the consent agenda and DEI Committee Roster; Curtis Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**II. 2020 Funding, Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic, and Strategic Directions** *Deborah W. Bruner, Senior Vice President for Research*

The goal of the Office of Research is for Emory to be recognized as one of the world's leading research universities. In 2020, Emory was ranked #3 nationally and #1 in the state of Georgia in COVID-19 NIH-related research. Faculty came together in unprecedented and rapid ways to open over 300 clinical trials and win nearly \$132 million in COVID-related awards. Faculty authored 582 COVID-related manuscripts in less than a year. Emory put 17 of the first 45 patients on the Moderna vaccine trial.

A continuing concern is health disparities and social justice. In June 2020, public health investigators put together the COVID dashboard to help inform resources and policy related to health disparities.

The stress of the impact of the pandemic on faculty mental health and productivity is a concern of the Office of Research and is being closely monitored in partnership with the Office of the Provost. Mitigating stressors for faculty is a top priority. Gender disparities in productivity are being examined both in COVID times and in time of normal operations. Although we have heard faculty concerns that female researchers may bare a higher burden of family care during the itme of COVID, from May – Sept 2020 female tenure track faculty submitted the same if not more grants as their male counterparts. We will continue to monitor.

\$831 million in total awards during COVID is an impressive number, but while funding is rising in absolute value, the rankings have dropped over the last several years. The Office of Research is focusing on adding value to multi-disciplinary cross school and unit grants; supporting Faculty as they compete for grants by rolling out new models for pre-work and being proactive in providing resources as faculty apply for large awards. Funding for planning grants would allow faculty time to bring teams together and achieve more multidisciplinary collaborations.



New communication plans in the Office of Research include a program called “Know Your Collaborator” led by Dr. Kimberly Eck, AVP for Research to encourage and protect faculty in their global collaborations. Dr.s Burner and Lewin have created a faculty led working group to develop a white paper on the Emory Biomedical Innovation Ecosystem and make recommendations.

Guided by the Emory’s strategic framework, and the pillar on “Emory as a gateway to Atlanta and the World,” the Science Gallery Atlanta initiative is a new public-facing activity to showcase Emory’s research that brings together scientists, artists, and student mediators who will take Emory’s fantastic work to the public.

III. **Master Planning Update** *Robin Morey, Vice President for Campus Services, and David Payne, Associate Vice President, Planning and Engagement*

This information is being provided for the Senate to put into context the University’s plans for future investments and delegation of resources. This framework has many items listed as opportunities, not planned work.

The *My Campus Survey* found broad engagement from Emory and the local community. Important information to note is that most socialization of the Emory community happens on the Druid Hills Campus, Ponce City Market, and Little Five Points. The Office of Planning and Engagement will use this data as they make decisions about where to focus future investments to create better student, faculty, and staff experiences. Decisions about graduate student housing will be made using these survey results.

Students see the area in front of Cox Hall as the heart of campus, while faculty and staff view the quad as the heart of campus.

The Briarcliff Campus at Executive Park is growing. The Midtown Campus is thriving.

The emerging themes from work that has been done and research completed that the office is paying attention to are: student experience; research and innovation; the arts; thinking about how to activate the quad to create a better student and academic experience; sustainable transportation; and continued investment in Oxford campus.

Focusing on the *24/7 Live, Work, Learn* initiative to improve student experience is a top priority of the Office of Planning and Engagement. Improving physical assets and growing the research portfolio will be considered when making future investments. They are integrating the goal of acquiring Egleston (CHOA) and supporting interprofessional education into planning their research and innovation goals.

The Health Science Research Building II construction is well under way and will increase Emory’s physical space by 330,000 square feet. The project will be completed in Summer of 2022. The new Rollins building will also be completed in Summer of 2022.

Marta is working with Planning and Engagement to bring train service from Lindbergh to the Clifton Campus. Advocating for this initiative is a top effort.

Oxford campus has benefited from significant investments in the Student Life Center and their Science Building. Investments in residential and recreational assets would go a long way in benefitting the student experience at Oxford.

The Haygood triangle has been fully purchased to create a 1,000-unit Graduate Student Housing Complex. The goal is that the units would be at or below market rates. More announcements will be made Spring 2021.

Executive Park’s Muscular and Skeletal Building is well under construction and will open September 2021. To support infrastructure at Executive Park, Emory is making investments for new housing to create a Live, Work, Play environment.



Property at the Midtown campus has been purchased, and ideas are being solicited about how growth could be accelerated. Emory owns a few depreciating assets at Briarcliff campus, and the best investment opportunities for those properties are being explored.

The pandemic has accelerated the administrative work of the office. An outside consulting firm is being hired to help the team think through policy and procedures around employees working from home and space utilization on campus. The drawback of losing spontaneous interaction and collaboration by not being in the office is being considered in these plans.

IV. **Laney Graduate School Dean Search Input Session** *Mary Anne Bobinski, Dean, Emory School of Law*

Dean Mary Anne Bobinski chairs the search advisory committee for the next Dean of the Laney Graduate School. The input session coordinated by Dean Bobinski proceeded by discussing questions with the governance group:

- What are the current strengths of Laney Graduate School?
- What significant role does Laney Graduate School play within the Emory community? Beyond the University?
- What are some of the opportunities that you see for Laney Graduate School going forward?
- What are some of the challenges facing Laney Graduate School?
- What are your priorities for the next Dean of Laney Graduate School? Include both short and long-term priorities.
- What are the preferred qualifications for the next Dean? What specific experience should a candidate have?
- What types of competencies (or specific patterns of behavior) are important for the next Dean to have?
- What specific personal attributes should an individual have to be successful in the Dean's role?
- How will we know if the next Dean is successful in the role? What will need to happen in one year? In five years?
- Are there particular places we should look for this Dean, or particular people we should talk with about the search?
- What should we tell a potential candidate for the deanship that would motivate them to consider the opportunity?

Input for the search committee and updates about the search process will be provided through: <https://executivesearch.emory.edu/laney/search-committee.html>

V. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm.