



Emory University Faculty Council minutes

January 21, 2025

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Zoom

Attendees:

George Shepherd, Gregory Fenves, Lanny Liebeskind, Pearl Dowe, Noelle McAfee, Lisa Parker, Kurt Warncke, Michelle Lampl, Sean Meighoo, Roberto Franzosi, Sasha Volokh, Jehu Hanciles, Jodie Guest, Florian Pohl, Harold Simon, Jennifer Stapel-Wax, Kajal Patel, Andrew Sherrill, Jeffery Lichtman, Benn Konsynski, Lars Ruthotto, Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown, Tom Rogers, Erin Tarver, Emmanuel Lartey, Babak Mahmoudi, Aryeh Stein, Usha Rackliffe, Edjah Nduom,

Excused Absents: Nichole Powell, Kylie Smith, Dabney Evans

Unexcused Absences

Hashem Dezhbakhsh, Karen Sedatole, Salom Shomade, Ashima Lal, Phillip Wolff, Roger Deal,

Summary

The Faculty Council meeting covered several key updates and discussions. President Fenves provided updates on the provost search, emphasizing the high interest and the goal to finalize candidates soon. He also addressed the OCR resolution agreement, highlighting Emory's commitment to non-discrimination and the establishment of a new Department of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance. The master planning update included details on graduate housing, Briarcliff development, and sustainability initiatives. The Faculty Council discussed the need for new faculty counselors for Board of Trustees committees, emphasizing the importance of faculty input in governance. The meeting concluded with a discussion on improving communication and shared governance. The meeting discussed the impact of administrative bloat on shared governance and faculty issues at Emory University. Concerns were raised about the overlap and duplication of efforts between various faculty groups, including the new group led by Ilya Nenn. The group aims to increase faculty power and voice, complementing the efforts of the Faculty Council and Senate. The conversation highlighted the need for better communication and coordination among faculty members, including the use of a listserv for broader faculty engagement. Proposals included enhancing faculty oversight in policy and budget decisions, and the potential for organizing faculty efforts similar to unionization, despite legal limitations.



Action Items

- [] Identify and submit nominations for faculty counselor positions on the audit and compliance, development, and finance committees of the Board of Trustees.
- [] Resurrect the "Council Concerns" monthly newsletter to better communicate Faculty Council activities to all faculty.
- [] Follow up on sending out communications to constituents about Faculty Council activities, as previously announced possibly using the Senate Faculty Listserv

Outline

Meeting Agenda and Initial Updates

- George Shepard, Chair of the Faculty Council, welcomes everyone.
- George outlines the agenda, including approval of minutes, updates from President Fenves, master planning, faculty counselor program, and standing committees.
- George mentions the ongoing provost search and the Senate's open expressions subcommittee's new policy proposal.
- George introduces new members and asks Noelle McAfee to introduce them.

Introduction of New Members

- Noelle McAfee explains the composition of the Faculty Council, including elected, ex officio, and appointed members.
- Erin Tarver introduces herself as a professor of philosophy and chair of the humanities division at the Oxford campus.
- Tom Rogers introduces himself as a professor of history at Emory College.
- Emmanuel Lartey introduces himself as a professor of pastoral theology and spiritual care at the Candler School of Theology.
- Kylie Smith was absent but introduced by Noelle and welcomed.

Approval of Consent Items

- Chair, George Shepherd calls for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19 meeting.
- Benn Konsynski motion to approve, Jodi Guest seconds the motion, and there is no objection in the chat.



President Fenves' Updates

- President Fenves discusses the provost search, mentioning the high interest and strong candidates.
- He acknowledges Lanny Liebeskind's first month as interim provost and the progress in the search process.
- President Fenves addresses the OCR resolution agreement, emphasizing Emory's commitment to non-discrimination and the steps taken to improve policies and procedures.
- He explains the new Department of Equity and Civil Rights Compliance and the ongoing collaboration with the University Senate on policy updates.
- President Fenves answers questions about the provost search, the OCR resolution agreement, and the university's assessment of campus protests.

Master Planning Update

- David Payne and Robin Morey are introduced to present the master planning update.
- Providing an overview of the master planning principles and the strategic framework.
- Discussing various current and completed projects, including graduate housing, Briarcliff, and the Emory computing project.
- The presentation highlights the importance of sustainability initiatives and the integration of healthcare assets.
- Robin and David also discussed the graduate housing project, including its design, location, and goals. The presentation can be found on SharePoint.

Discussion on Graduate Housing and Briarcliff Project

- Robin Morey emphasizes the success of the graduate housing project with a 99% lease-up rate in the first year.
- Robin and David discussed the Briarcliff project, including the development of a senior living community and the restoration of the Candler mansion.
- Robin mentions the potential for partnerships with the School of Nursing and School of Medicine for brain health research.
- Robin and David discuss the challenges and opportunities for office space and research space on campus.
- George Sheperd raises the issue of Emory Village and its impact on the university's reputation and ranking.



Faculty Counselor Program and Committee Nominations

- Noelle McAfee explains the Faculty Counselor Program and the need for nominations for openings on the Audit and Compliance, Development, and Finance Committees.
- The importance of the program and the need for faculty to be involved in governance is discussed
- Noelle provides a timeline for nominations and emphasizes the importance of reaching out to the faculty community.
- The need for better communication with faculty and the potential for a monthly newsletter is discussed
- Jodie Guest mentions a new faculty group called Faculty for Emory and its focus on open expression, dissent, and protest.

Communication and Documentation

- Noelle suggests reviving the council's concerns communication and creating a one-page summary of discussions.
- The importance of effective communication and distribution of the document with an emphasis on the need for good communication hygiene and the re-emergence of past communication practices.
- George thanks everyone for their participation and concludes the meeting.