



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Geography

Dear President Morehead:

October 23, 2019

I write to you as the President of the Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to inform you of recent actions taken by the Senate.

At our October 15, 2019 Senate meeting, three Resolutions were passed concerning Baldwin Hall and related matters. The full text of these Resolutions is provided at the end of this letter. The votes on each of the three Resolutions were 34-2-0, 36-0-0, and 34-2-1, respectively.

These votes were taken after the Senate voted to accept, with an additional appendix added, the Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall at a special called meeting of the Senate on April 23, 2019. At our August 20, 2019 meeting, the Senate resumed its discussion of the Committee's Report and directed the Committee to bring three of the Resolutions from the Report before the Senate for discussion at the next meeting. At the August and September Senate meetings, Senators also discussed the letter provided by you (dated April 22, 2019) addressed to Dean Dorsey and the Senate regarding the Ad Hoc Committee Report, as well as another letter circulated over the summer (dated May 13, 2019) signed by five other UGA administrators and staff. These Resolutions were then discussed, at length, at our September 17, 2019 Senate meeting, and the Committee used information from this discussion to make revisions to the Resolutions. All three Resolutions were then accepted by the Senate at our October 15, 2019 meeting, with the votes reported above. Other discussions of Baldwin Hall and related issues date back to Senate meetings in early 2018. All of the information regarding these meetings can be found on the Senate website here:

<https://franklin.uga.edu/faculty-senate-agendas>

As you can see, an enormous amount of discussion and deliberation, spanning nearly two years, has gone into the adoption of these Resolutions by a body of nationally and internationally renowned experts across the Humanities, Social Sciences, Fine Arts, Physical & Mathematical Sciences, and Biological Sciences representing the largest college at UGA.

There is a genuine hope among all the Senators and the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Baldwin Hall that these Resolutions will serve as constructive recommendations. They are based on Senators' cumulative knowledge and scholarly judgment, derived from a wealth of data and from a range of expert perspectives.

The Senate awaits your response to these Resolutions. We also invite you to discuss these Resolutions at our next Senate meeting on November 19th at 3:30pm in the MLC building. We do hope that you will come and continue this important discussion. Please let me know how I can facilitate this communication and if you will accept this invitation to speak with the Senate.

Sincerely,



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[Senate Resolutions enclosed]

Resolutions Adopted by the Franklin College Faculty Senate

Item 1

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that in the matter of Baldwin Hall, the rights of the descendant community were not sufficiently respected by UGA's manner of exhuming, reburial, and researching the graves and human remains discovered in the Old Athens Cemetery. The Senate therefore urges President Jere Morehead to issue an apology to the descendant community.

Item 2

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that in the matter of Baldwin Hall, the descendant community has the right to public consultation with UGA regarding two outstanding issues: 1.) the proper treatment of the graves and human remains in the portion of the Old Athens Cemetery not currently under federal protection, and 2.) the best method for publicly discussing and providing genetic analysis to identify, where possible, direct descendants of the persons whose remains were removed to Oconee Hill Cemetery. Therefore the Senate urges President Jere Morehead to authorize public, robust consultation concerning both issues, adhering to well-established best practices in cultural resource management. As demonstrated by successful cases at other universities, this consultation will best be conducted by an expert or experts from outside the immediate stakeholding groups, will allow for multiple public opportunities and modes for community input, will provide community education as the consultation process unfolds, will try to synthesize disparate views between and among stakeholders through open dialogue, and will operate in a transparent manner throughout the process.

Item 3

The Faculty Senate of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences judges that if UGA media spokespersons and other University officials publicly object to the actions, speech, or writing of faculty in areas of their disciplinary expertise, these objections must be scholarly in nature and have evidentiary value. The Senate judges that there was no substantial evidence, and no scholarly expertise, backing public remarks authored by Greg Trevor of the Office of Media Communications and directed at Dr. Laurie Reitsema in March of 2018. The Senate judges that Mr. Trevor's remarks mischaracterized the presentation Dr. Reitsema gave to the Senate. Dr. Reitsema appeared before the Senate to present information germane to the situation. She

spoke factually, within the realm of her expertise and her close familiarity with the Baldwin Hall matter, and with the University's best interests in mind. The Senate urges President Jere Morehead to instruct the Office of Media Communications to apologize for singling out an expert faculty member for undue criticism, and to assure faculty that such conduct will not occur going forward.