



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,



Jennifer L. Rice
President, Franklin Faculty Senate
Associate Professor
Department of Geography

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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, reburying, 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.



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November 7, 2019

Dr. Jennifer L. Rice
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Dear Dr. Rice:

I am in receipt of your letter dated October 23, 2019, pertaining to the Franklin Senate's passage of three resolutions related to Baldwin Hall. This is a matter that some members of the Franklin College clearly feel passionate about; as your letter notes, the Franklin Senate has devoted an enormous amount of discussion and deliberation to these issues for more than two years. While I deeply respect the faculty's right to express their opinions, it is clear that we have strong differences of opinion on the University's handling of the remains discovered at Baldwin Hall.

More than six years have now passed since the University System of Georgia Board of Regents authorized the expansion of Baldwin Hall. Five years have gone by since the project was funded by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia. Four years have passed since the outside contractor, Allstate Construction, inadvertently discovered the first human remains on the site. More than two years have passed since the remains were reinterred and respectfully remembered in a solemn ceremony at Oconee Hill Cemetery, and it will have been one year, as of November 16, since the granite monument to those buried at Baldwin Hall was dedicated in front of the building. As I noted in my comments at the dedication, those of us present were drawn together "by a deep sense of respect for these individuals and by a strong sense of duty to commemorate the lives they lived."

To the University's knowledge, no one from the University or community—not even the Franklin College faculty whose offices in Baldwin Hall were directly above the construction site—came forward with any warnings prior to the beginning of construction. That would have been an optimal time for discussion with faculty experts, but none contacted the University administration. Similarly, it would have been beneficial if the Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning had conducted ground-penetrating radar tests outside the fence line of the Old Athens Cemetery prior to breaking ground, but that did not happen.

Dr. Jennifer L. Rice

November 7, 2019

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We all see more clearly when looking back in hindsight. However, I am confident that at every stage of the process in regard to Baldwin Hall, University administrators acted with integrity and in good faith. They made decisions based on the available information at the time, in keeping with the guidance of the State Archaeologist's Office and in close consultation with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, under whose purview the stewardship of UGA facilities and real estate belongs.

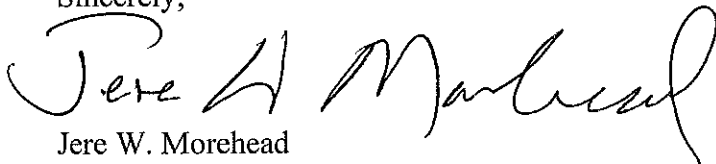
The University has learned from this experience, which has informed the significant actions we have taken as we have moved forward. I commissioned a new Historic Preservation Master Plan, developed by the Office of University Architects, which now requires archaeological review prior to the start of construction on any campus site. I have personally convened meetings with community leaders in education and workforce development to promote further engagement in the local community. At present, we have more than 50 partnerships with the Clarke County School District, including the Georgia Promise program which developed as a direct result of those conversations.

In addition, in Spring 2017, following consultation with several community leaders, Vice President for Research David Lee authorized the continuation of further DNA analysis by an ancient DNA expert and professional colleague selected by Dr. Laurie Reitsema, Dr. Deborah Bolnick, now with the University of Connecticut. Such meticulous research takes time, as I am sure the members of the Franklin Senate understand. Dr. Bolnick's research is ongoing and, when completed, may lead to additional constructive conversations.

Most recently, on October 31, Dr. Lee awarded a grant to a 22-member team comprised primarily of Franklin College professors—some of whom are members of the Franklin Senate—to research and publish a scholarly account of the history of slavery at UGA from the time of its founding to the beginning of the Civil War. This report is scheduled to be completed by June 2021, and it is being funded by up to \$100,000 in private discretionary funds that I have authorized.

These are substantive and constructive actions, and they reflect my strong commitment to continue promoting diversity and inclusion for all of our faculty, staff and students. I respectfully request that you share this response at the upcoming meeting of the Franklin Senate on November 19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jere W. Morehead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jere W. Morehead
President

cc: Alan T. Dorsey