

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CALLED MEETING OF THE
RESEARCH FACULTY SENATE**

**Friday, April 5, 2019, 1:00
Student Center Theater**

MINUTES

1. President Peterson opened the meeting at 1:00 PM. He reminded everyone this meeting is a Special Meeting of the Research Faculty Senate. He stated we are following the *Faculty Handbook* section on Research Faculty Senate. Special meetings of the Research Faculty Senate may be called for three reasons: one on the initiative of the President, one on petition of one-third (1/3) of the members, or upon the recommendation of the Faculty Executive Board. In this particular case, a request was made from the Faculty Executive Board (FEB); a member of the FEB formally introduced it and the FEB voted and approved the request. The President was then contacted to call the special meeting. This process brought us here today. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a resolution to remediate research faculty representation on the Georgia Tech Presidential Search Committee. President Peterson formally called this special meeting of the Research Faculty Senate to order and reminded everyone the agenda is restricted to this topic to consider the resolution. If a motion comes forward and the motion is seconded, we will make a determination if a quorum is present. Jeanne Balsam, the Secretary of the faculty will determine if a quorum is present. If a motion is seconded, we will vote regardless of whether or not there is a quorum, but will identify if a quorum existed.
2. President Peterson called on Mr. Robert Barbier who sought this special meeting of the Research Faculty Senate, to present the recommended resolution. He introduced himself as a research faculty representative from GTRI and the SEAL laboratory. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the resolution (**Attachment #1**). In January, the University System of Georgia formed a Presidential Search Committee who are to identify a small group of candidates to be considered for the President of Georgia Tech. In the 135-year history of Georgia Tech there have been eleven presidents at GT so seeking a new president does not happen very often. The Presidential Search Committee has 22 members, but none of those members is research faculty. He stepped through the points in the resolution.

Mr. Barbier made a motion to adopt the resolution to remediate research faculty representation on Georgia Tech Presidential Search Committees. The motion was seconded. President Peterson opened the floor to discussion.

After some discussion, the group felt three purposes emerged. The first two are explicitly in the resolution: 1) have a representative appointed to the current presidential search committee (even if that seems unlikely to happen at this point) and 2) cause the USG policy to be changed to ensure research faculty representation in future searches. The third purpose is—by means of submitting the resolution—to have the voice of the research faculty heard, both in this and other matters, because they are a unique, large, and growing portion of the

university system and because they were excluded in the process of forming the search committee.

The motion was called. Prior to consideration of the Resolution, a quorum was evaluated; 52 needed to be present to make a quorum; there were 48 voting members present. The sense of those gathered was that it was important to record their wishes on the Resolution and a majority of those present voted (47 yes, 1 abstain) to adopt the resolution and requested President Peterson carry the resolution forward to the Chancellor's office for consideration.

See addendum #1 for a message about the resolution.

3. The President asked if there was any other business.

The meeting was adjourned about 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Balsam
Secretary of the Faculty
April 15, 2019

Attachments:

1. [Resolution](#) Remediate Research Faculty Representation on Georgia Tech Presidential Search Committees

Addendum #1:

Email Message from President Peterson on Monday, April 8, 2019:

I have forwarded the Resolution to the Chancellor and have also discussed it with him. While the Chancellor indicated that he appreciates the Research Faculty's perspective, he does not foresee any changes to the committee at this stage in the process. He indicated that he charged the committee with holding listening sessions to ensure the input and any concerns of all of the various constituencies were heard. As we discussed on Friday, these have in fact been held and the input of the Research Faculty noted. He further indicated that he is confident in the process and is committed to listening to all groups as the candidate selection process moves forward. Finally, he indicated that he will share the viewpoints and perspectives with the chairman of the board as well as the chairman of the search committee.
