

DATE: March 5, 2009  
TO: Franklin College Faculty  
FROM: Garnett S. Stokes, Dean  
RE: WSB Channel 2's Investigation of Faculty Travel

Many of you have likely seen WSB Channel 2's advertisement for their story on university faculty travel, which is airing today at 5 p.m. The advertisement has been shown frequently over the last several days on Channel 2. If you haven't seen it, here's a link to it: <http://www.wsbtv.com/video/18843759/index.html>

The travel mentioned in the ad occurred during the summer of 2006 and the two faculty members featured are Franklin College's own:

Fred Mills is the William and Pamela Prokasy Professor in the Arts in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music (HHSOM). He is a founding member of the Canadian Brass, recognized as the world's leading brass ensemble, and as a member of the Canadian Brass, Fred has made over 40 recordings on ACA, RCA, Sony, BMG, and Philips labels. He is a dedicated teacher who not only instructs a full studio of students but is extremely active in performing and in directing brass ensembles in HHSOM. Fred is the keystone of the HHSOM brass program.

Richard Neupert is the Wheatley Professor of the Arts and a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Theatre and Film Studies. He is one of our most effective and popular instructors and a prolific and respected scholar in film animation history and French film. He founded and is the current director of the UGA film studies major and minor. Richard teaches a range of film courses, such as film history, film theory, history of animation, and French cinema, which are subjects of central importance in the development of film as a major art form.

Much of faculty travel is funded by sources other than state dollars, and that has been even more the case this year as we've faced significant cuts and have had to turn to non-state sources to support essential faculty work. In Franklin College, we are very careful stewards of the funding we receive from ALL sources, and during times of such enormous economic hardship, we become especially attuned to the difficulties faced by our colleagues and friends on and off campus. Many of our faculty are directly involved in assisting those who are most affected by poverty, job losses, and rising health care costs. In all areas of research, teaching, and service, however, faculty must continue to do their jobs, and in many disciplines, travel is an essential component of life as a faculty member. We are enormously proud of our faculty in the Franklin College, and we stand firmly behind those who are featured in WSB's investigation.

Although WSB's initial investigation involved faculty travel across many of the disciplines represented on UGA's campus, it was clear when I met with the investigative reporter, Justin Farmer, that from the long list of faculty who had traveled during FY07, his focus was on two of our faculty in the arts. It is not unusual that the arts are targeted during an economic downturn, but it is essential as a research university that we support arts as well as sciences and that we resist the denigration of intellectual life in higher education. The citizens of Georgia, whether through private donations or through public funding, have made a substantial investment in arts facilities on our campus, including a world class Performing Arts Center and an exceptional State Museum of Art, along with the Hugh Hodgson School of Music building, the new Lamar Dodd School of Art building, and renovations of the Fine Arts Theatre and studios in the Department of Dance. We have filled our exceptional facilities with faculty who are internationally renowned and who bring honor to the University of Georgia and the state in which we reside. Our faculty members throughout the arts and sciences have deeply enriched the experience of students on campus and have made significant contributions to the intellectual climate of our university. We must stand up against the anti-intellectualism that would minimize the value of the contributions of faculty, across all of arts and sciences, to our students, our communities, and the world in which we live. I write today in advance of the airing of WSB's investigation, without knowledge of the specifics of their story, to say that we are committed to supporting faculty at the University of Georgia.

Below, I share with you President Adams' own statement in response to the WSB investigation:

/The University of Georgia in this climate has met without complaint every request for cuts in state funds, which now total more than \$45 million. We are sensitive to the expenditure of state funds, which comprise about one-third of the university's total budget, and of private funds. UGA supports our faculty in the arts as well as in the sciences, as this is the kind of work in which we are expected to engage as a state flagship. It is not unusual that an expert in French media would periodically be required to travel to France, nor is it unusual that a world-class trumpeter would be invited to perform in overseas venues. UGA has hundreds of world-class faculty whose knowledge and expertise are valued throughout the state and indeed the world. In these cases and in all regards, this university has been and will continue to be sensitive to the expenditures of both public and private funds./