

Samford University Faculty Senate

MINUTES, Committee on Academic Affairs

DATE OF MEETING: February 27, 2001

TIME: 3 p.m.

PLACE: Room 308, Divinity North

Members present: Norfleete Day (Divinity), Bill Ellison (Law), Pat Hart (Education and Professional Studies), Roger Parker (Pharmacy), Sue Peterson (Library/Staff), Marlene Reed (Business), Steven Epley (Arts and Sciences, presiding as chair)

Members absent: Greg Jeane (Arts and Sciences), Sherry Lawhon (Music), Jane Martin (Nursing), Perry Tompkins (Arts and Sciences)

Ex officio members present: Paul Aucoin (Registrar), Emily Thompson (student representative)

Prof. Epley called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Prof. Parker offered a prayer.

The minutes of the February 8, 2001 meeting were approved as submitted by Greg Jeane, recorder for that day.

Old Business

1. A case involving a student appeal scheduled to be heard at this time had been resolved to the satisfaction of the student and the professor, according to Registrar Aucoin.



2. The committee discussed a resolution which would make it possible for students to repeat a limited number of courses in which a "D" or "F" grade was earned. The resolution read as follows.

Upon the recommendation of the advisor and with the approval of the dean of Academic Services, an undergraduate student may repeat a course for credit in which they received a D+ or lower to improve their grade and cumulative grade-point average, as well as their understanding of course content.

When a course grade of D+ or lower is repeated at Samford, only the last grade will count in the calculation of the cumulative average. The credits count only once. Both courses and both grades remain on the transcript with an indication of which course is counted in the computation of the cumulative grade- point average. The repeated course must be exactly the same course that was originally taken. Courses repeated at other institutions do not change the Samford cumulative grade-point average.

Repeating a course may influence a student's financial aid or sports eligibility. Courses repeated after graduation will not change the graduation GPA.

The deadline for submitting this completed form is the last day to add a course in the semester the repeated course is being taken again.

A student may take advantage of this policy only three times or for a maximum of twelve credits.

Most committee members reported that their constituents were in favor of the resolution. Prof. Reed said the Business School was opposed.

The resolution passed on a vote of 6-1, with Prof. Reed casting the "no" vote on behalf of the School of Business. The resolution thus moved to the University Senate.

New Business

1. Prof. Epley read a memo from Dr. Joe Lewis in which the Provost asked for guidance from the committee on several matters related to university funding of faculty presentation at conferences.

Dr. Lewis, who administers a fund to defray the travel and lodging costs of faculty who are giving papers at professional conferences, asked the committee if it supported his decision to fund only one presenter per paper. Dr. Lewis said that funding multiple authors for a paper will drastically reduce the number of papers that can be funded. The committee expressed its support for Dr. Lewis' position.



Dr. Lewis also asked the committee's advice on poster presentation. Dr. Lewis said he felt that funds should be restricted to papers which are accepted for oral presentation. The committee, especially those who represent scientific or technical fields, said that poster presentations are often as useful and beneficial to presenter and audience alike as are oral presentations, if not more so. The committee thus asked Dr. Lewis to fund poster presentations as he would oral presentations.

Dr. Aucoin said that he would convey the committee's sentiment to Dr. Lewis.

2. The committee asked Prof. Epley to ask the Faculty Senate to form an ad hoc committee to study a University Honor Code.



There being no other business, Dr. Epley adjourned the meeting at 3:55.

Minutes submitted by chair Steven Epley.