

**Committee on Academic Affairs**  
Minutes of the February 18, 2009 Meeting

**Members Present:**

Jim Reburn, Chair (Business)  
Don Rankin (Arts)  
Bernie Ankney (A&S)  
Janie Kennedy (A&S)  
Tom Fuller (Divinity)  
Charles Ford (Education)  
Alyssa A. DiRusso (Law)  
Jaro Szurek (Library)  
Mary Worthington (Pharmacy)  
Nancy Biggio (Ex-Officio)  
Mark Bateman (Ex-Officio)  
Paul Aucoin (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:**

Tyler Hooper (Student, Ex-Officio)  
John Mayfield (A&S) on sabbatical (replacement to be notified – Robin Roberts)  
Mary Karlet (Nursing)

**Others present:**

Larry Thompson

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:20pm.
2. A proposal (see below) to eliminate the “W” course graduation requirement was discussed at length by the Committee. The Committee affirms writing proficiency as one of the university’s learning objectives. The motion was approved with one abstention. A discussion of the timing of the implementation of the policy followed. It was decided that the policy would be effective beginning with the 2009-10 catalog. Dean Aucoin’s Office, the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, and the Associate Provost’s Office would evaluate and address any transitional issues on a case-by-case basis through the summer term.
3. The Committee discussed a proposal (see below) from the Student Government Association to include the grade of “A+” in the grading scale and to award 4.3 quality points for an “A+” with a cap of 4.0 on a student’s grade point average. The Committee considered such factors as the proposal’s impact on grade inflation, trends at other universities, honors implications, and standardization and adjustments made by graduate schools. Finally it was noted that the current catalog defines a grade of “A” as “The highest proficiency in ability and application.” The Committee voted unanimously not to recommend this change to the Senate.

4. A brief discussion about changing future meetings times was held. No better time was identified. Thus, the remaining meeting will be held as scheduled.
5. The Committee began a discussion regarding possible changes to the AP and/or Dual Credit Policy as listed on page 15 of the 2008-09 catalog. The following is representative of some of the comments/questions/issues raised:
  - a. Can students handle the work? Does the successful completion of an AP exam or dual enrollment course guarantee that a student can handle college work? Are they adequately prepared for future course work?
  - b. Admissions may be at a competitive disadvantage particularly with respect to universities located in Georgia and Tennessee.
  - c. Double-dipping is wrong. We should not give credit for the same course twice.
  - d. Credit awarded at other places is not the same as the course as the course was taken at SU.
  - e. What kind of institution do we want to be? How long should students be in school to earn a degree? Are we a disadvantage in Admissions because students cannot expect to finish a degree at SU in less than four years?
  - f. SU experience is significantly different.
  - g. Inconsistent treatment of students who transfer to SU from other universities. For example, Alabama may accept dual credit but when a student attempts to transfer to SU, we must explain that the dual credits do not count here although they did at Alabama.

The Chair will request input from the deans on this policy for the Committee to review at the next meeting. Specifically, what is the compelling argument to count dual credit or alter the current AP policy? Do AP courses adequately prepare students? Should the university-wide policy with respect to AP credits be changed?

6. The Committee approved the following policy to be inserted into the Catalog to allow the University to adjust the calendar schedule to due unforeseen exigencies:

“Inclement weather or other events beyond the control of the University that might cause risk or danger to students, faculty, and staff may occasionally result in changes to normal University operations, including cancellation of classes or events; the calendar schedule may be adjusted.”
7. Future agenda items include: managing student drops prior to the first day of classes during Jan term which eliminate possible enrollment, examine drop and withdrawal dates, possible faculty development grant modifications, and the “D” repeat policy.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

Motion: The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends the following catalog change:

Page 22 of the 2008-2009 Academic Catalog:

**Writing Proficiency Requirement**

Samford University considers the development of students' writing proficiency one of its most important objectives. To emphasize this objective, ~~the University has a twofold writing requirement.~~ all ~~All~~ students must complete Communications Arts II (UCCA 102) at Samford (or transfer an equivalent course) with a grade of C- or better. ~~In addition, students must pass two approved writing intensive courses at Samford. These courses are designated with a W following the course number in the course listing of this catalog.~~

Further, committee affirms writing proficiency as one of the university's learning objectives. If desired, academic units may continue to use the "W" designation as a part of their own means of developing students' writing proficiency.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SR: 08-09-05

Sponsored by: Meagan Sloan  
Academic Affairs Committee

**A Resolve of the Student Senate**

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Government Association Senate to exercise oversight on all matters of student opinion and concern, and

WHEREAS, the University of Alabama has adopted a grading scale that includes an A plus, where the value of such is 4.3 quality points, and

WHEREAS, at the University of Alabama, the overall GPA can total no more than 4.0, and

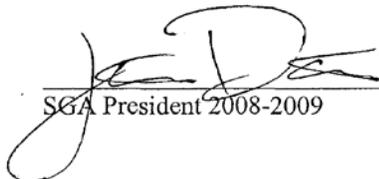
WHEREAS, Samford University's current grading scale contains a B plus, C plus, and D plus, but no A plus, and

WHEREAS, students are rewarded for making a B plus, but not an A plus, and

WHEREAS, it is highly unlikely for a Samford student to make an A plus, and

WHEREAS, if such a high grade is made, it should be rewarded

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the SGA Senate proposes to implement a grading scale like the one at the University of Alabama that includes an A plus, worth 4.3 quality points.

  
SGA President 2008-2009