

Diversity Committee
Minutes for September 20, 2006

Present: Melissa Tate; Tim Welty; Harold Goss; Cindy Kirk; Frank Thielman; Joe Scrivner (presiding); Clara Gearhardt.

1. As the Diversity Committee is a relatively new standing committee, we are not always on the administrative or faculty radar. Nancy Whitt will send an e-mail to remind administration and faculty to include committee representation when issues, including long-range planning, concerning diversity arise.
2. The Committee will solicit student representation. Tim Welty will work with graduate schools; Cindy Kirk with Metro College and Joe Scrivner with BSO in seeking student representation.
3. Melissa Tate suggested that we find a way to work closely with student media. She will look into ways of doing this.
4. A carry over from last year is a plan to assess by survey faculty and administrative understanding of and responses to diversity. Joe Scrivner will draft a proposal for Project Red, a University of Georgia group experienced in researching diversity issues on college campuses. Nancy Whitt will talk with Sarah Latham about possibilities for an instrument developed by her office, noting that diversity concerns will be considered in SACS reports. Tim Welty suggested that an understanding of the connections between diversity and the Christian faith is an important element on Samford's campus. A concern also arose as to whether the Board of Trustees should be included in whatever survey develops.