

Faculty Committee on Diversity
Minutes: March 26, 2008

Members present: Joe Scrivner, Heather West, Frank Thielman, Jonathan Davis, Marcia McCormick, Harold Goss, Jennifer Coleman, Timothy Welty

1. The committee wrote, reviewed and approved a statement on the diversity report submitted by Dr. Lewis Shepherd.
2. The committee wrote, reviewed and approved a request for additional data on diversity that will accompany Dr. Shepherd's report. The committee forwarded its statement and data request to Dr. Sarah Latham.

Faculty Committee on Diversity
Minutes: April 23, 2008

Members present: Joe Scrivner, Nancy Whitt, Heather West, Frank Thielman, Jonathan Davis, Marcia McCormick, Timothy Welty

1. On Wednesday, April 16, Nancy Whitt, Joe Scrivner and Jonathan Davis met with Dr. Sarah Latham to review the data gathered in response to the committee's request. Dr. Shepherd's report, the committee's statement on the report and the requested data will be made available at the Office of Institutional Research's website.
2. Jonathan Davis agreed to serve as co-chair with Nancy Whitt in the upcoming academic year.
3. The committee met with Randy Pittman, incoming Vice Present of University Relations, and Judi Aucoin, Director of Development Systems in University Relations. The committee requested this meeting to learn more about Samford's Minority Scholarship.
 - a. Working with University Relations in 2002-2003, Jewel Littleton, an African American student at the time and a leader in the Black Heritage Association, initiated interest and development of the minority scholarship. As a result of these efforts, the scholarship began in September 2003.
 - b. Joe Scrivner briefly mentioned his involvement in discussions about the naming of the scholarship during the 2003-04 academic year. Here is a summary of this information.
 - i. In the spring of 2004, James King, Paul Holloway and Joe Scrivner met with Michael Morgan and Sean Flynt, arguing that the proposed name of "The Harry Memorial Scholarship" would probably send the wrong signals to many in the larger African American community, albeit unintentionally.
 - ii. In the October 2004 edition of *The Belltower*, Sean Flynt wrote a brief story on the fire of 1854. Flynt's story can be read here: <http://www.samford.edu/pubs/belltower/Oct2004/fire.html>.
 - iii. The scholarship has subsequently been given the basic title: The Minority Scholarship. If the scholarship is renamed in the future, suggestions included Rev. John T. Porter, a Samford trustee from 1991 to his death in 2006 (and perhaps Samford's first African American trustee). Samford's news release on Porter's death can be seen here: http://www.samford.edu/News/021606_1.html.
 - c. The scholarship has reached the amount required at its inception for endowment and now stands at about \$21,250.00. Small grants have been given to African American students demonstrating financial need beginning in 2006-2007.
 - d. The scholarship has been funded primarily by small donations, including many from Samford's own faculty and staff.
 - e. There was some discussion about ways to increase awareness, such as brief announcements by committee members in the meetings of each school at the beginning of the academic year. There was also some discussion about possible community contacts.
 - f. The committee is very appreciative for the time taken by Mr. Pittman and Ms. Aucoin and looks forward to working with University Relations on the development of this scholarship. The committee wants to be as helpful as possible in this regard.