

**SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY MEETING**

Thursday, December 9, 2004  
Brock Forum  
10:00 A.M.

**Call to Order:** Nancy Whitt, President of the Faculty Senate

**Invocation:** Paul Holloway

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for August 24, 2004 meeting were approved as reported on the faculty senate web page.

**Administration Remarks:**

As Dr. Corts was away from campus attending the funeral of a former trustee, Brad Creed, Provost, reported for both of them. He expressed Dr. Corts' concern about the moral insensitivity issues that have recently been reported and his encouragement of the faculty to be responsible for monitoring and controlling any such expressions in their classrooms.

At the November meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the 2005-2006 budget of \$105,395,000, which includes a 5% increase in university tuition, a 4% increase in law school tuition, and a 2% increase in room and board. They also approved the candidates for December graduation.

The Parking Committee will meet later this semester and will have a report by the spring faculty meeting.

The MCPVV document is being revised in its foundational statements and most will be pleased to know that the word "customer" does not appear. The new draft is shorter and will be put on the Samford web page for faculty input.

Preparations for the SACS re-accreditation process will begin in January 2005 in preparation for our review year, which is 2007.

Jennings Marshall (Business) expressed concern about the recent notice of a potential relationship between Samford and Baptist Health Systems. Brad affirmed that any financial commitment must, of course, be approved by the trustees. The primary interest for Samford is in regard to the Quality Care Institute and therefore, the University is open to possibilities. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

**New Business:**

Paul Holloway (Religion) reported for the Diversity Committee concerning the racial insensitivity in the campus Greek organizations. His committee is looking into the matter and has met with the SGA, the Black student organization, and the administration. This is clearly a serious issue for the life of our community. The committee will report its findings to the Faculty Senate in the spring and then to the full faculty.

Perry Tompkins (Physics) questioned whether this focus represents new events or simply a new awareness. Paul thinks it is perhaps both and pointed out that diversity also includes gender and class issues.

Don Sandley (Theater) expressed the hope that these events will lead to a discussion of encouraging more civil discourse among the University community as there seems to be an uncomfortable level of acerbity in some communications, notably a letter to the editor in the latest issue of *The Crimson*.

In keeping with the spirit of affirming and appreciating diversity, Charles Raddin, SGA Chief of Staff, made a presentation to the faculty concerning an upcoming "Be Aware Campaign" on campus. The vision of the campaign is to create a more informed and more unified student body by helping students grow in their ability to see through the eyes of others. He exhorted the faculty to make use of their considerable influence on students by taking the initiative to help students see things from other perspectives. Many incidents are recognized to be the result of ignorance, not malice.

The campaign will begin in the first two weeks of the spring 2005 semester with an intense emphasis, but it will continue with a variety of speakers to help raise consciousness of diverse perspectives.

Betsy Dobbins (Biology) spoke on behalf of Earth Day 2005 in April. She urged the faculty to plan now how to "grow" the event. Her desire is to pull together a diverse group of the faculty to demonstrate a unified concern for the community of earth. She asked all faculty to think of ways to be involved and noted that the library will be hosting speakers with relevant messages for the event.

### **Old Business:**

Don Sandley's ad hoc committee that is studying student evaluations and their possible influence on grade inflation as well as the evaluation of school deans will report by the end of the spring semester.

Sarah Latham (Institutional Research) is still working on the gender equality data requested.

The Academic Freedom Committee will meet with Dr. Creed before reporting to the Faculty Senate.

**Presentation:**

Paul Aucoin presented mementos for recent mace bearers: Jon Clemmenson (JMC), May Commencement; Dennis Jones (JMC), December 2003 Commencement; Nancy Whitt (English), Convocation.

**Announcements:**

Nina Sanders (Nursing) announced that on January 28 Judge Jean Dimato will be on campus speaking on the topic of student threats to sue and Supreme Court rulings on the issue.

David Dedo (Communications) announced that the Writing Committee will meet next week and submit its report. The final writing proficiency exam of the semester will be given this Friday evening for graduating students.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Nancy Whitt