

MINUTES

Samford University Full Faculty Meeting

May 17, 2001, 9:30 am, DBH Brock Forum

Dr. Hugh Floyd, presiding

Devotional

The devotional was given by Governor Brewer.

President's address

Dr. Corts announced that this academic year was one of change. There were 11 new people added to the Board of Trustees as well as four new Deans and a Provost. Dr. Corts announced that Dr. Brad Creed has agreed to serve as Associate Provost for one year with Dr. Joe Lewis serving as Provost for one more year. Then, Dr. Creed will assume the Provost position. In response to a question, Dr. Corts stated that Dr. Creed will start in either July or August.

Update on construction

Bill Mathews reported on the status of construction projects around the campus. He has compiled a master schedule, including time lines for the various projects. Dr. Matthews said that he sends status reports of the campus projects to interested people, and that faculty can request e-mail updates as well. He hopes to put the information on the Samford web site so he can eliminate the periodic e-mails.

The Sciencenter is on schedule and will open when classes start in the fall. The university is planning a celebration during Homecoming in the fall. The University Center will undergo an expansion of the kitchen and will receive a new entrance on east side. This project is currently over budget, so some changes have been made to the original plans. Smith dormitory will be renovated during the summer. Last year, the HVAC piping on the first floor was replaced, and this year the rest of the pipes will be replaced. The language labs will also have HVAC replacement. The Law school courtroom will be remodeled so students with disabilities can have access; this remodeling is in the planning stages, however. The Wright Center will undergo repairs to the ceiling and some of the seats. It will also be painted and the carpeting will be replaced. There will also be some repair of chipped mortar around campus. Finally, the fire alarm system will be renovated by connecting all alarms to a central point in Campus Safety.

Report on pension policy

Dr. Joe Lewis announced that the Board of Trustees approved the new pension policy. The new policy will go into effect in January, 2002, and will allow retired faculty to teach longer without having pension benefits discontinued.

Report on Committee changes

The Faculty Senate Secretary read changes to the Faculty Handbook regarding the number of Senate members and faculty members required to make a quorum. Questions were raised concerning the number of Senators required for a forum. A motion was made to send the proposed change back to Senate for reconsideration. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

- Committee on University Curriculum

Maurice Persall reported that the committee approved new curricula and programs in seven areas and approved 42 new courses and 44 new course changes.

- Committee on Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare

David Little reported that the committee accomplished the following.

- Requested and received from the administration a greatly expanded financial investment portfolio of mutual funds, money market funds, etc. for employees to choose from.
- Requested and received from the administration a revamped and greatly improved family leave policy.
- Requested and received from the administration additional faculty parking spaces on the northeast campus.
- Requested and received from the administration faster TIAA funds deposits.
- Replied to and approved a request from the administration to designate appropriate areas in academic buildings to honor retired faculty with their displayed portraits.
- Requested and received from the administration a greatly expanded tuition exchange program for dependents of Samford Employees.
- Requested and received from the administration a clarification and increase in the number of employment hours allowed Samford retired professors to teach part time at Samford.

- Committee on University Learning Resources

Tim Banks reported that the committee reviewed the VTLS system that links the campus libraries to each other. He also reported that the library hired two staff people: a music reference/cataloguer and a reference librarian. Tim reported that the Davis Library was featured in a recent edition of *Choice*, a library publication. Finally, Tim reported that the library hours were extended for finals in response to students' suggestions and that archival digitization is underway.

- Committee on Athletics

Ralph Gold reported that he would like the committee to be an integral part of athletics.

- Committee on Students Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations

The Faculty Senate Secretary read the report of the committee from Elaine Marshall. The committee met six times this year and discussed the following topics.

- Fall Rush
- Minority student recruitment
- Freshman orientation
- Football athletic schedule (scheduling of Thursday night football games)
- Honoring retiring faculty
- Removal of MTV from campus cable service
- Monitoring student organizations and their approval process
- Christian environment of Samford

The committee also received reports from Dick Franklin, Dean of Students, Phil Kimrey, Dean of Admissions, K.C. White, Associate Dean of Student Involvement, Suzanne Martin, Director of Student Activities, Perry Relfe, VP of University Relations, Jack Brymer, Director of University Communications. Jim Barnette announced that a part time position for Assistant Director of Student Ministries will be in place June, 2001. No issues required faculty senate action.

- Committee on University Writing

David Dedo reported that 207 students took the writing proficiency exam. The pass rate was 85%, and five or six seniors will take the exam tomorrow evening.

- Committee on Academic Affairs

Steven Epley reported that the committee is close to having a proposal for academic mediation of dishonesty as an alternative to the Values violation process. The new policy would supplement, rather than replace, the existing policy and, if approved, would provide protection of faculty by the University. He also announced that Perry Tompkins is chairing an ad hoc committee to determine guidelines for approving faculty development grants. That work should be completed in the fall.

Recognition of retiring faculty

Chairman Floyd asked for announcements of retiring faculty members. Genevieve Blaudeau is retiring as a full time instructor in the World Languages and Cultures Department but will still teach part time. Sandra Craft is retiring as assistant professor from the School of Nursing. Lee Allen is retiring as professor from the History and Political Science Department.

Vote on D repeat policy

[Steven Epley](#) proposed the policy on D repeats from the Academic Affairs Committee. The policy is as follows. The language of the resolution also can be found [here](#).

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 two times or for a maximum of eight credits.

Several objections to the new policy surfaced during the discussion. Some faculty members felt that the existing policy is adequate and doesn't need to be changed. Others expressed concern that students might request lower grades so they could repeat the course. Another objection was that the policy discriminates against better students since there is no B or C repeat policy. Supporters of the policy stated that an unforeseen matter late in the semester may lead to a problem, and the new policy would allow the student to recover academically. The limit of two courses also prevents students who have a pattern of failing classes to exploit the policy. Finally, the new policy requires approval of the academic advisor, which may prevent students from using the policy frivolously. The motion passed.

Election of officers

Tina Duffey, chair of the Committee on Elections presented the committee lists to the faculty for approval. There were no nominations from the floor, so a motion was made to accept the slate by acclamation. The motion passed.

Next, the slate of officers was presented to the faculty for vote. There were no nominations from the floor for any position, so the slate was elected. The officers for 2001-2002 are Steve Chew, chair, Stephen Ruble, vice chair, and Richard Dendy, secretary.

New Business

Jennings Marshall noted that the faculty did not send back the requirement for a full faculty meeting to have over 50% attendance.

[Chairman Floyd](#) reminded the faculty of the importance of self-governance and stated that Senate and committee obligations are important for faculty and are especially important for officers. He noted that the current Senate has put in place a mechanism for openness for communication by maintaining a Faculty Senate web site with e-mail links to each Senator and committee chair. Chairman Floyd encouraged the faculty to use the web site to keep up with Senate issues of importance and to communicate concerns and suggestions to the appropriate Senators or committee chairs. Chairman Floyd reminded the faculty that the system worked well this year. In several instances, the faculty contacted Senators with a concern, the Senate and its committees proposed a solution, and the administration acted on the concern.

[Joe Lewis](#) thanked Chairman Floyd and the Faculty Senate for their hard work during the academic year. Steven Epley also thanked the other officers for their work.

Respectfully submitted,

[George Keller](#)

Faculty Senate Secretary