

MINUTES

Samford University Full Faculty Meeting

December 6, 2001 Brock Forum

Devotional by Melissa Tate

President's Remarks:

The President spoke about the events of September 11, and expressed his thanks for both effective teaching and leadership by example. Students conveyed to him their deep appreciation of faculty support and influence. A tragic event presented a very unusual opportunity for teaching and guidance.

The President introduced Dr. Stephen Chew as Alabama's current Carnegie Professor, and presented him with a plaque. Dr. Chew came to Samford in 1993 to reinvigorate the Psychology Department and brought with him a keen interest in undergraduate research. Dr. Chew has made a real difference in the University and the lives of his students. President Cortis also noted past recipients, Marlene Reed and Tom Woolley.

Dr. Chew, with his characteristic good humor, pointed out the fact that both Marlene Reed and Tom Woolley served in the Faculty Senate, and service to the Senate was obviously a critical step in receiving the award.

Presentation of Mace Bearer Photographs

Paul Aucoin presented photographs to former Mace Bearers Governor Albert Brewer (not in attendance), Liz Wells, and Stephen Chew.

Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 22 Faculty meeting. The minutes were distributed by email and can be found on the Web. Motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Summary of the Senate's Major Actions

Stephen Chew noted the very active semester of the Senate and the many accomplishments. He explained that the majority of actions taken by the Senate would take effect if the Faculty did nothing. He noted the review by the SARURL subcommittee regarding the University Faith Statement and subsequent approval by the Senate. Dr. Chew also noted the review and approval by the Senate of support for reform of the State Constitution. He further noted the requirement of a vote and a two-third majority Faculty vote for approval.

The Senate approved changes to Jan Term credit limit specifications.

Cindy Kirk reported that everything looked good for Jan. term. There was some concern that this might negatively impact enrollment in UCFH 120, but the two sections offered, were full. Due to the events of September 11, enrollment in Study Abroad was down. Cindy stated that the purpose of the revision was to allow greater flexibility in determining schedules.

Question: Isn't this a one year trial. Reply: No. We will review its success after a year, but the policy change is fully enacted. Question: UCFH is a 2 credit course. So, does this mean that a student will not be able to take UCFH and a regular 4 hour course? Reply: Yes, however a student may, as in any semester, request permission from his or her dean to take a course load beyond the limit.

Dr. Chew noted changes to the University course approval form, designed to identify duplication of course content. The intent wasn't to prohibit course content but better coordinate and dovetail like courses and content as well as improve communication campus-wide.

Also cited was the new grade policy which should be implemented by Spring 2002, to provide midterm evaluation of pass/fail for Freshmen level courses. The grades A, B, and C would be recorded as S or satisfactory. The grades D and F would be recorded as U or unsatisfactory.

Stephen reported that the Faculty Opinion Survey data was in and ready for review. He noted that there were still hard copies of the survey if anyone was interested in participating. Jim Eck currently has the data. A number of faculty agreed to take part in the analysis. It is hoped that the results of the analysis will be presented at the February 1st Senate meeting.

and at the February 12th Faculty meeting. The February 12th meeting has been moved to 3:00 pm from its previous 10:00 am Convo hour time, to allow greater time for discussion.

Dr. Chew reported a change in Senate composition, noting the current policy of one Senator for each school and one additional Senator for each ten faculty members in a school. The Senate counts faculty members in the Fall and members are elected in the Spring. The recent establishment of the School of Performing Arts caused a bit of confusion. It was again noted that the count determining Spring election numbers is taken in the Fall of the previous year.

Several amendments and additions have been made to the Faculty Handbook. Among these is a description of the University Committee on Faculty Development encompassing purpose (newly defined), procedures, membership composition, and codifying existing practice.

Another handbook item affecting Faculty Senate composition was a change from one year terms to three year staggered terms. The Committee on Elections will review and propose a transitional method for implementing one, two and three year terms until all members are on a three year staggered rotation. Which Senators serve these terms is up to each college.

Handbook revisions: All revisions must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Two manuals (the Faculty Policy and Information manual, FPI and the University Policy manual, UPM) have been established to alleviate the need for review by the Board, those items which are specific to Faculty only and pedagogy. The revisions have been approved by the Senate and if the Faculty takes no action, will be submitted to the Trustees at the next Board meeting. Dr. Chew asked if there were questions. None

Policy Regarding Political Activity: Samford does not take positions on political and economic issues. Faculty cannot speak for Staff, Administration or Students. It is unusual that we as a body take a stance on an issue such as Constitutional reform. It should be understood that we are taking a position not on a particular piece of legislation, but on a general issue. Guidelines from the Committee on SARURL will be included in the Faculty Policy Manual

Committee Reports

1. Committee on University Curriculum

Jeanie Box had nothing to report. Previous Curriculum reports can be found on the Senate web site

2. Committee on Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare

Steve Ruble circulated a report for David Little

Current Issues Being Discussed by the Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare Committee:

1. Providing retired faculty and staff tuition benefits for spouses and dependent children
2. Amending the Family Leave Policy to provide an additional year for tenure track requirements.
3. Provide reserved parking for expectant employees.
4. Parking issues too numerous to list!
5. Expansion of the faculty and staff wellness program.

Next meeting: January 10th, 2002 at 10:00 OBBSE.

3. Committee on University Learning Resources

Tim Banks stated that the latest report from learning resources could be found on the Senate website.

4. Committee on Elections

Tina Duffey said that Spring is coming and with it come elections.

5. Committee on Athletics

6. Committee on Students Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations

Randolph Horn noted that SARURL approved seven new student organizations. Two subcommittees were formed to review the faith statement and issues concerning retiring faculty Declarations of the Senate. The committee produced the resolution for constitutional reform.

7. Committee on University Writing

8. Committee on Academic Affairs

Steven Epley Briefly addressed the new midterm progress report proposal and stated the concern of the committee that monies for faculty development grants had dropped from \$25,000 last year to \$18,000 this year.

Motion to support Constitutional Reform:

Dr. Chew stated that there were hard copies available, and asked if there were any requests. None

Dr. Chew stated that the Senate recommends the motion before you supporting the reform of the Alabama State Constitution., and asked if there were any remarks or questions. Howard Walthall said he wished to make a brief statement in favor of the motion to support. He stated that he hoped it would be a rare occasion that we, as a Faculty, would address such issues and that he realized the potential for divisiveness. Howard expressed, as a native of Alabama, his appreciation for the effort to reform a constitution in great need of reform. He also noted that those faculty members arriving from outside the state were surprised to find that they were, at election time, asked to vote on issues of distant counties and townships He felt this support would be viewed as a positive decision by and for Samford. The motion sets forth important reasons for supporting the reform and by supporting this Samford sets a very positive example for other groups and institutions.. The motion doesn't address the mechanisms of legislation, which are more controversial. Once again, he stated his support and urged adoption of the resolution

Question: Is there a process in place for petition? Reply: The regular route of the Senate, or the Senate need not be involved at all.

Question: Is the College of Arts and Sciences allowed o take a stand? Reply: There is no address of specific schools.

Question: Is this Faculty as a body? Yes Faculty Body. There was a friendly amendment to include Full Faculty in the statement. Question: Can we call for a vote? Reply: Yes

Comment: In the last statement, this reform should affect normal, everyday government, and not just the exigencies.

Question: Must we have a voice vote? Reply: Would the Faculty rather have a written vote? Motion was made for a ballot. Motion failed.

Question: How will we recognize a two-thirds vote by voice ? Reply: Lets take a vote and see if it is unclear.

A vote was taken to approve the motion by the Senate to support State Constitutional Reform. Motion was approved without dissent.

NCAA Recertification

Chris Metress stated that eighteen faculty members put together this weeks report to the NCAA. Every five years a report is submitted: The Alabama Physical, Sportsmanship, Governance and Compliance Report. This self report recommends changes and improvements. Mentioned specifically for their efforts were Mark Bagget, Jackie Goldstein, Sandra Willis, Ralph Gold and David Dedo. Chris stated that a report and continued assessment needs University involvement. Samford can serve by its involvement, as a model for other NCAA schools.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting wa adjourned at 10:58 am

The next University Faculty meeting will be held at 3:00 pm, Thursday February 12th, in Brock Forum.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Dendy
Faculty Senate Secretary

