

If I may, I would, on behalf of the Faculty, like to thank Stephen Chew for his hard work this year as Faculty Senate Chair. He is truly a friend to all his fellow faculty members and a terrific advocate for faculty, as well as staff and administration. His goals were ambitious, his efforts tireless, and his accomplishments formidable. He exhibited always, exceptional insight and leadership, and he handled all issues, negotiations, occurrences, and commitments with aplomb, a warmth of spirit, and perhaps most important, a sense of humor.

MINUTES

Samford University Full Faculty Meeting

May 16, 2002 DBH Brock Forum

Devotional by Dan Sandifer-Stech

I. Paul Aucoin presentation of Macebearer's photographs.

Photographs were presented to Dr. Paul Blanchard and Dr. David Little.

II. Approval of minutes

The Chair reminded everyone that the February 12th minutes were posted on the web for review. A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2002 Faculty meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

The minutes were distributed by email and can be found on the Web at:

<http://www.samford.edu/groups/facsen/>

III. Items requiring Faculty Approval

A motion was submitted by the Faculty Senate for approval of resolutions to honor outgoing Acting Provost Joe Lewis. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was submitted by the Faculty Senate for approval of resolutions to honor incoming Provost Brad Creed. The motion was approved unanimously. (click here to see the resolutions on page 6)

The Chair and Faculty recognized this year's retiring faculty. The chair expressed on behalf of the faculty, appreciation for the many years of service and excellence in teaching given by these professors. The Faculty expressed its appreciation with a standing ovation.

Dr. Sigurd F. Bryan, Professor/Chair, Religion - 46 years

Ms. Mary H. Hudson, Assistant Professor, Math & Computer Science - 34 years

Dr. William S. Nelson, Assistant Professor, School of Music - 41 years

Dr. Harry Edward Tibbs, Professor, School of Music, 43 years

A motion was submitted by the Faculty Senate for approval a resolution on Recognition of Retiring Faculty. The motion was approved unanimously. (click here to see the resolutions on page 7)

IV. Summary of the Senate's Major Actions

(If anyone wishes to have a linked PDF including the activities of the year, please reply to this, and I will attach the document to my reply. The document is about 900k, and will take approximately half your allotted email space. I would recommend you save it to your hard disk and trash the reply.)

For Spring Semester:

1. Approval of Faculty Handbook Revisions

The Chair explained that the Handbook will be divided into two sections. The front section will include all Policy and the second section will be Information. This will allow changes to be made regarding informational items without immediate approval of the Board. Stephen reiterated that all information is subject to the guidelines and approval of the Trustees. Some material may be included in both sections, however a great deal of redundancy has been eliminated..

Division/clarification of Policy and Information

Faculty Senate composition was a change from one year terms to three year staggered terms. Faculty Senate composition also encompassed the establishment of the School of Performing Arts Establishment of a University Faculty Development Evaluation Committee, to be reviewed for approval by the Senate at the first Fall 2002 meeting.

2. Gender Equity ((Senate minutes 040502)

The Chair noted the work of Sandra Wills former Senate Chair Hugh Floyd. Stephen described the progress regarding the gender Equity issue and data as being very constructive. A committee is established to analyze the data is in place and will continue to work into fall of next year. The committee is chaired by Steve Ruble.

Question: Will the data reviewed include total compensation or salaries only?

Reply by Steven Ruble: The data does not yet include fringe benefits, but the inclusion of benefits is something which we should consider reviewing as well.

3. Expansion of new grade policy implementation to provide midterm evaluation of pass/fail for Freshmen level courses. This expansion will now apply to both 100 and 200 level courses. (Senate minutes 050302)

A motion was presented in opposition to the expansion of the midterm evaluation policy to include both 200 and 300 level courses. The motion was presented by Robin Snyder .

The motion reads:

I make a motion to oppose expanding the reporting of mid-term grades to 200 level courses.

A YES vote to this motion means you are in favor of this motion and do NOT want mid-term grades expanded to include 200 level courses. A NO vote means you DO want 200 level courses to have mid-term grades reported.

Comment: I have reviewed the number of 100 and 200 level courses at samford and they comprise 70% of all classes. In my department these classes are taught largely by adjunct professors. I don't think it is fair to ask them to do extra work for which they will not be compensated, and regarding a policy which has proved ineffective in the past.

Comment: I would like too speak o behalf of the students. The senate approved this , and whether it seems effective or not, I think that we should make an effort to support the students in what I believe to be a reasonable request.

Reply by Steven Epley: The students' original proposal called for an evaluation constituting at least 10% of a student's grade three days before the final day for withdrawal without academic penalty. Because the Committee on Academic Affairs felt there was no way to enforce this policy, they offered the alternative policy of pass fail evaluation. This would provide a warning shot for those who are doing poorly or snap-shot of the semester.

Comment: I believe we should do all we can to encourage individual responsibility. This policy is detrimental that ideal.

Reply: Some students are not receiving any feedback. This is a covert way to provide that feedback.

Comment: This was not an administrative proposal.

Question: With the direct link to withdrawal, couldn't we be creating a monster by doing this?

Comment: There is an instrument in place which already encourages the faculty to provide evaluations. It is responsibility of the deans and chairs to enforce this. If we pass this and it encourages students to withdraw, we should clarify the consideration of the WF standing and declare, based upon this informal assessment, that a student dropped failing.

Comment: 10% of the grade was the original request. This doesn't address the specific concern of students: what their grade is or will be at semester's end. Satisfactory and unsatisfactory doesn't make much sense.

Comment: I would prefer a comprehensive look at midterm grading, not just one more piece of it.

Reply: The current motion only speaks to this expansion to the 200 level courses. The motion does not affect the evaluation policy for 100 level classes approved in the Fall .

The motion carries to deny expansion of midterm evaluations for 200 level courses

Reply by Steven Epley: A proposal will be forthcoming from the Committee on Academic Affairs to the Senate, asking Deans too be more rigorous in their enforcement of grade return. .

The second motion regarding student evaluation was approved by the Senate extending the last day for withdrawal without academic penalty from the 30th to the 35th school day.

Comment: I oppose the extension to 35 days. Where I attended school you were given 5 days to drop, and then it was up to you to pass the class.

A motion was made to overturn the Senate's approval of extending the withdrawal without academic penalty deadline from the 30th to 35 days.

Comment: The first test given in my introductory class is primarily for review and assessment of previous classes and experience. The second test is the first true evaluation of the students understanding of the material in the class. Extending the withdrawal date would allow me to give a third test before a student would have to decide whether he or she should continue taking the course.

Comment: Since we defeated the midterm evaluation expansion, I think it would be good to keep this and show good faith to the students.

The motion failed to overturn the Senate approval. The last day for withdrawal without academic penalty is extended from the 30th to the 35th school day.

4. Approval of resolutions to honor outgoing Acting Provost Joe Lewis, and incoming Provost Brad Creed. (Senate minutes 050302)
5. Ongoing review of and effort to increase faculty involvement in the Presidential Scholarship selection process. (Senate minutes 040502)
6. Approval of resolution on Recognition of Retiring Faculty. (Senate minutes 050302)
7. Approval of Jan Term and summer school tuition stipend for scholarship athletes, up to 8 hours. (Senate minutes 050302)
8. Approval of Senate Quorum guidelines. (Senate minutes 050302)
9. Approval of revision providing retired faculty and staff tuition benefits for spouses and dependent children. (Senate minutes 30102)
10. Approval of revisions amending the Family Leave Policy to provide an additional year for tenure track requirements. (Senate minutes 040502)
11. Review of:
 - Expansion of the faculty and staff wellness program .
 - Handicap access on campus.(Senate minutes 30102)

V. Committee Reports

1. Committee on Elections

Tina Duffey noted the nominations for next year's executive Council. The nominees are Paul Blanchard - Chair, Nancy Whitt - Vice Chair, and Perry Thompkins - Secretary. Tina called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.

A motion was made to elect the slate of nominees as proposed

Comment: I believe we are required by the bylaws to take up the ballots.

Reply: I see nothing in the handbook requiring a written ballot be returned.

A vote was taken and the nominees were elected..

A motion was made, due to the lack of nomination of chairs for some committees, that current committee chairs will continue to serve through the Summer Chairs will be nominated and elected in the fall, when all the new committee members are in place.

Question: How are chairs nominated and elected?

Reply: They are nominated by the committee and upon acceptance of their nominations, review by the Provost and the President. After some give and take, and back and forth discussion, they are elected.

Reply: I don't remember the back and forth part of my election.

Comment: Back and forth isn't as great a distance as one might always expect.
The motion was approved.

The chair recognized Jackie Goldstein. Jackie encouraged those interested in the Faculty Mentoring program to fill out one of the forms which had been distributed, and return it to her.

2. Committee on University Curriculum

Jeannie Box thanked all those who served on the committee.

3. Committee on Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare

David Little revisited the revision providing retired faculty and staff tuition benefits for spouses and dependent children.

Question: Will you report on the passage of these proposals in the Fall?

Reply: The Board will not meet again until December, so we will report after the December meeting.

David also revisited the faculty service award, tenure and medical leave extension, gender equity, family deductions for Samford Children's Center.

David thanked all those on the committee for their terrific efforts and accomplishments.

4. Committee on University Learning Resources

Tim Banks deferred to Alan Hargrave. Alan reported that a team has been established too review the library's current learning systems The systems have been in place for ten years and it seems time to replace them.

5. Committee on Athletics

Ralph Gold reported that the scholarship allowance for athletes had been increased to include a four year cumulative 8 hours during Summer and Jan. terms. He also reported that the mission statement for the Committee on Athletics had been changed to affect a more active role in decisions and advocacy. The revision also included a change of composition of the committee. Ralph stated that it had been a very productive year for the committee.

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

Randolph Horn revisited recognition of retiring faculty, and cited other items reviewed and acted upon by the committee. These included convo credit, the Samford Distinction, two additional honor societies, and the recommendation of a new chair for the next academic year. Randolph thanked those on the committee for their hard work and accomplishments..

7. Committee on University Writing

No report.

8. Committee on Academic Affairs

Steven Epley reported that the committee had put in place a mechanism to allow greater faculty involvement in the selection process for Presidential Scholars. Steven thanked those on the committee for their hard work and accomplishments.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

The Chair cited the Optimal Learning Peer Report and said that there was not enough information to report at this point. The report will be reviewed at the first Fall Senate meeting.

The Chair thanked the Senate for the exceptional year. Stephen also thanked the Vice Chair and Secretary for their work.

Motion to adjourn was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Dendy

Faculty Senate Secretary

Proposed Resolution Honoring Dr. Joe Lewis on His Retirement as Provost

Whereas Dr. Joe Lewis has proven himself an able administrator, performing a myriad of vital functions, first as associate provost for academic administration and later acting provost since coming to Samford University in July 1992; and
Whereas Dr. Lewis has managed skillfully to negotiate the dangerous terrain between faculty vision and administrative reality; and

Whereas Dr. Lewis has always been willing to listen to faculty concerns and to shape the vision of the university in a way that serves all its constituencies; and

Whereas Dr. Lewis has been both a valued colleague and friend to all;

Therefore, let it be resolved by the Faculty Senate to express its heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Lewis as he steps down from his administrative position to return to the teaching faculty as professor of religion.

Proposed Resolution Honoring Dr. Brad Creed as He Becomes Provost

Whereas Dr. Brad Creed has served admirably as associate provost at Samford University since fall 2001; and

Whereas Dr. Creed has in this role proven himself capable of ascending to the most important and influential academic position at Samford; and

Whereas Dr. Creed has proven willing to listen to faculty concerns and to attend to pressing needs while being cognizant of the demands of the future; and

Whereas the faculty is confident that Dr. Creed will continue to shape the academic vision of the university in a way that serves its varied constituencies;

Therefore, let it be resolved by the Faculty Senate to congratulate Dr. Creed as he becomes Provost of the university and to offer him our support and cooperation in the years ahead.

Items Requiring Senate Action

SARLUR Recommendation on Recognition of Retiring Faculty

1. Each retiring faculty member will be recognized at the December or May graduation ceremony as appropriate. Faculty members retiring over the summer will be recognized at the May graduation.
2. A dinner for retiring faculty and their families will be held each spring. All retirees will be personally recognized by the appropriate Department Chair, Dean or Provost with a short biography of their time at Samford. The invitation to the dinner hosted by the University will include all current faculty.
3. A retirement committee representing members of the administration and faculty will plan the dinner each year. The committee will be composed of:
Two representatives from University Relations, one serving as chair. Chair, Student Affairs, Religious Life, & University Relations Committee, One additional committee member from SARLUR.
Two senators.
Ex-officio: Provost
President of the Senate
4. Each retiree will be given an identical gift symbolic of Samford University at the retirement dinner.

NB: Retiring faculty is defined per policy number 3.11.

Comparison of Current and Proposed Policies

Current Policy

1. \$50 + \$10 per full year of service used by unit supervisor for gift, luncheon or other appropriate recognition for retirees
2. Employees with multiples of five years of service recognized at service luncheon.
3. Retiring faculty recognized at graduation.
4. Retiring Faculty recognized at last full faculty meeting (among peers).
5. Retiring faculty receive a proclamation at last full faculty meeting.
6. No biography read.

Proposed

1. Unchanged
2. Unchanged
3. Each retiring faculty member will be recognized at the December or May graduation ceremony as appropriate. Faculty members retiring over the summer will be recognized at the May graduation.
4. Retiring Faculty recognized at a dinner held in their honor (among peers and loved ones).
5. Retiring faculty receive a symbolic gift (which could be a proclamation) at dinner.
6. Brief biography read at dinner.