

Agenda
Samford University Faculty Meeting
December 6, 2005

Call to Order: **Nancy Whitt**

Opening Prayer: **Don Sandley**

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Remarks from Administration

Brad Creed reported on the following issues:

1. The SACS process – Brad just returned from a SACS annual meeting. We're in good shape, but not going to assume everything is OK. The QEP is a new feature this year. We've had focus sections and narrowed down to a general topic of intercultural awareness. We need a few more focus groups.
2. We have proposed and presented changes to the academic integrity review process. The trustees need to approve this process and it needs to be included in all handbooks.
3. Parking – there are challenges ahead. There has been a desire and effort to rethink charging faculty for parking. Brad and campus safety is putting together a committee that is meeting regularly. They are asking schools to select representatives to be on that committee.
4. We are in a time of transition. We are looking for 4 deans. We are searching for a president. This bring anxiety, but I want to commend you for your work.

Committee Reports—Brief statements of business conducted and continuing concerns:

Academic Affairs—

Janie Kennedy reported that they committee has met and reviewed the faculty development grant application. We are in the process of changing the process (and adding a repository on the web)

Athletics—

Ralph Gold reported that the committee had met three times. One focus has been academic support services for athlete. We are also working on restructuring the mission statement.

Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare—

Les Ennis reported that the committee met twice. These issues were discussed:

1. The children's learning center
2. Ongoing parking discussion
3. Dialogue with Fred Rogue, director of human resources
4. Good communication with Provost Creed

University Curriculum—

Kathryn Fouse reported that since September, the committee has approved 22 new course offerings, 20 course changes, 5 program changes and a significant change to the journalism major. She also reported that the committee has been working with Charlotte Brammer and also has added Mary Sue Baldwin as ex officio member. Two new forms have been created:

1. Simple course change
2. Course deletion form

Diversity—

Andy Webster reported that the committee has completed work on a faculty diversity statement, which was adopted by the senate.

Elections—

No report.

Student Affairs, Religious Life and University Relations—

David Shipley reported that the committee met last week to discuss Dean Franklin's proposal to move the Greek system's rush weekend in the Fall. The fourth weekend is parent's weekend. The Pan-Hellenic Council proposed the second week, but we thought this was too soon so we delayed it to the third week. This is only a 1 year change.

University Learning Resources—

Larry Harper reported that the committee met once and identified two priorities:

1. An online library catalog system (still to be funded)
2. Incremental funding for WebCT upgrades

University Writing—

Charlotte Brammer reported that the committee met twice. Much of the work done via email. We have worked on the writing proficiency exam. Out of 134 students taking the exam, 98 students passed (74%). We also conducted a review of writing courses: 30 courses passed or received high passing marks, 6 courses were questionable, 6 courses could not be reviewed because no responses were received. The value of writing courses should continue to be reviewed. We are working on making guidelines more clear. We are working on how this should go through the curriculum first.

Don Sandley asked if department chairs had been notified whether or not no info had been received about a particular course. **Charlotte** responded affirmatively.

New Business

Earth Day 06—

Betsy Dobbins spoke about earth day. She indicated that earthy day is sometimes perceived as a “Betsy Dobbins earth mama kind of thing”. Earth day addresses the core question of why are we here? We believe teaching matters. Teaching goes beyond conveying what is just in our discipline.

This year’s earth day will be a Thursday in April close to April 22.

Paul Blanchard indicated that Betsy has worked very hard to make this a successful event, and he led everyone in giving her a big hand of applause.

Concerns from the floor

None.

Nancy Whitt briefly summarized the major senate work below. She indicated that it has been a good opportunity to strengthen faculty governance. She appreciates all the work the committees have done.

Fall 05 Business

1. Academic integrity policy was instated and given to Deans and Dept. Chairs

2. The Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom concluded its study and sent recommendations to the Academic Affairs Committee

3. An Ad Hoc Handbook Committee was appointed to consider updating the Handbook with a concern for strengthening academic freedom and faculty governance. Members are Jennings Marshall, Mark Baggett and Mike Floyd.

4. A faculty statement on Diversity was approved; it will appear on the Senate Web Page.

5. Parking discussions are continuing. Faculty and staff parking fees are no longer under consideration.

6. The Faculty Executive Committee and the Provost's office instituted monthly meetings with the Executive Committee, the Provost and the Associate Provost in attendance.

7. The resolution: "That the University provide all faculty/staff members who have children attending the Samford Children's Learning Center an annual 15% tuition discount for each dependent child enrolled in the Children's Learning Center" passed and was forwarded to the Provost's office.

8. The resolution that "the Handbook Committee include a provision in the Handbook that indicates faculty members will choose the faculty members who will be on the search committee for President and Provost of the University" passed.

9. The resolution that "The Faculty Senate expresses its appreciation for the work done by the faculty members of the current Presidential Search Committee" passed.

Nancy Whitt adjourned the meeting.