SAMFORD UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETING

Thursday, May 11, 2006 Brock Forum 10:00 A.M.

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

Invocation: Brad Creed, Provost

Message from Dr. Corts: Dr. Corts addressed the Samford faculty one final time. Dr. Corts described how when he was inaugurated in the Fall of 1983, he asked three important people to be visible during the inauguration, interact with the Samford community, and then give feedback/recommendations to Dr. Corts as he began his tenure as president. The three people were: Dr. James Ralph Scales (Wake Forest), Dr. Gordon Blackwell (Furman), and Dr. Robert Mills (Georgetown). Dr. Corts related to us some of the recommendations that these men made it 1983, and then he reflected on how the recommendations have been put into action.

Don Sandley then made a motion that the faculty of Samford University thank Dr. Thomas Corts for his years of service. The motion was approved by an energetic applause and standing ovation.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the Dec 2006 meeting were approved as posted on the faculty senate web page. Motion for approval was made by **Jennings Marshall** and seconded by **Paul Blanchard**.

Fred Rogan gave a summary of the benefit changes that will take affect June 1, 2006. The changes highlighted were:

- 1. Viva has issued a non-renewal notice, and therefore will no longer be an option.
- 2. An alternative, lower-cost Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) plan has been created.
- 3. A medical spending account is now available for employees.
- 4. Several changes also had to be made to the existing BCBS plan. As a result of the changes, the BCBS premium will only increase by 4%.
- 5. Supplemental life and supplemental AD&D will be offered for the first time.

Paul Aucoin carried on the Samford tradition of honoring those people who carried the mace at official ceremonies with a framed picture of each person carrying the mace. This honor was extended to the following people: **Marlene Rikard**, **Mike Howell**, **Don Sanders**, and **Lowell Vann**.

Final Committee Reports: Nancy Whitt opened the floor for any final committee reports. Charlotte Brammer gave a report from the university writing committee. She indicated that the whole report would be on the faculty senate web page, and that a list of all writing courses has been sent to all department chairs to attempt to coordinate with the

course catalog which courses are being offered as writing courses. The committee wants to make sure that the catalog is consistent with the list the committee has. The committee has tried to streamline the process for submitting new writing courses or making changes to existing ones. Forms and directions related to the process have been posted in two places:

- 1. The writing committee page on the faculty senate web page http://www.samford.edu/groups/facsen/writingcomm.htm
- 2. The Samford forms page http://www.samford.edu/forms.html

In the fall, the committee will post more clarified guidelines for the process.

Questions for executive committee: Nancy Whitt opened the floor for any questions of the executive committee. No questions were given.

Election of Chairs of Standing Committees: Tina Duffey distributed a ballot containing nominations for the 2006-2007 senate executive committee and for the 2006-2007 committee chair positions. Tina opened the floor for nominations. There were no nominations. Andy Webster moved to accept the nominations and approve by them by affirmation. Paul Blanchard seconded, and the nominations were approved by oral vote. Tina then asked for a vote on the 2006-2007 committee chairs. Ralph Gold made a motion to accept and affirm the nominees. Terry Pickett seconded, and the nominees were approved by oral vote.

2006-2007 executive committee:

Chair	Don Sandley
Vice Chair	Robin Snyder
Secretary	Brian Toone

2006-2007 university committee chairs:

Committee on Academic Affairs	Jim Reburn
Committee on Athletics	Bruce Waldrop
Committee on Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare	Les Ennis
Committee on Curriculum	Kathryn Fouse
Committee on Diversity	Nancy Whitt and Joe Scrivner, co-chairs
Committee on Elections	Randall Richardson
Committee on Stud Affairs, Relig Life, & Univ Relat	Linda Ables
Committee on University Learning Resources	Larry Harper
Committee on University Writing	Charlotte Brammer

Mark Bateman thanked **Nancy Whitt** for her hard work by indicating that **Nancy** has brought wisdom to this position (as chair) by reflecting on the past, but not remaining in the past. She has helped move the institution forward. She has helped us think more

broadly on issue. She has been a statesperson. **Mark** invited **Robin Snyder** to come up and present a gift to **Nancy**.

Announcements: Don Sandley opened the floor for any announcements. The following announcements was made:

Hugh Floyd made his annual plea for the AAUP. First, he indicated that there was no faculty senate before Dr. Corts came, and that now we have one thanks in part to the support given by Dr. Corts. **Hugh** also indicated that membership in the AAUP has grown and now has its highest membership ever. He indicated that a newsletter is available in the back, along with a table out in the foyer having more information. **Hugh** also indicated that the AAUP is in our best interest for transparency and dialogue.

There being no further announcements, **Don Sandley** adjourned the meeting after indicating that the upcoming year is going to be a very active one for the faculty. We have a chance to facilitate many positive changes, and we ask that senators take their position very seriously and that you (as the faculty) elect senators who will come to meetings, participate, and help make these changes.