

**Samford University
Full Faculty Meeting
May 7, 2009
10:00 a.m., Brock Forum**

AGENDA

****NOTE: Attendance Rosters are located in the back of the room. Please register your attendance before departing today's meeting.****

CALL TO ORDER – Robin Snyder

INVOCATION – Lowell Vann

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTION BALLOTS – Kim Benner

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2008 MINUTES

AFFIRMATION OF FACULTY SENATE ACTION ITEMS (Note: Action Items are found at the end of this document)

COLLECTION OF ELECTION BALLOTS – Kim Benner

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Faculty are requested to review minutes of each committee as posted to the faculty senate website. Chairs of committees will be allowed enough time only to make pressing announcements.

PROVOST'S MINUTE – Brad Creed

PRESIDENT'S QUESTION and ANSWER SESSION – Andy Westmoreland

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

SPRING 2009
Action Items of the Faculty Senate

1. **The minutes of all previous meetings were approved without objection.**
2. The Writing Committee (Charlotte Bramer) and Academic Affairs Committees (Jim Reburn) gave a concurrent report: Jim Reburn presented a resolution from the Academic Affairs committee which read as follows:

“The Committee on Academic Affairs recommends the following catalog change: Page 22 of the 2008-09 Academic Catalog:

Writing Proficiency Requirement

Samford University considers the development of students’ writing proficiency an important objective. All students must complete Communication Arts II (UCCA 102) at Samford (or transfer an equivalent course) with a grade of C- or better.

Charlotte Bramer presented the proposal from the University Writing Committee, which reads:

February 19, 2009

The University Writing Committee respectfully proposes its immediate dissolution. Eliminating the committee entails the discontinuation of the review of upper level, writing intensive courses, the cessation of W course designations, and the two writing course graduation requirement.

While we struggled with this decision, the committee believes that this change is inevitable. Support for the committee’s efforts to promote and to improve writing instruction across campus has been in decline for many years. The committee has had no budget and little power to engage faculty in best writing practices.

The Transitional Assessment Committee plans to pass writing assessment to a permanent committee for university assessment, thereby eliminating the committee’s remaining charge of evaluating upper level, writing intensive courses.

We are hopeful that the new assessment processes that are being planned will do more to address the issues of writing pedagogy on this campus. Specifically, we hope that the anticipated assessment will include sound pedagogical practice for writing to learn as well as learning to write, including;

- (1) A process approach to writing*
- (2) Small class sizes to accommodate effective writing instruction*
- (3) Faculty development opportunities to encourage and promote effective writing pedagogy*
- (4) Authentic and formative writing assessments that reach across disciplines and throughout undergraduate curriculum.*

Action: The senate unanimously approved the motion of the Academic Affairs Committee and the proposed dissolution of the University Writing Committee. The Handbook Committee was charged with updating all references to the University Writing Committee upon final validation of this action at the spring meeting of the full faculty.

3. **Action: The senate unanimously approved the following addition to the catalog: "Inclement weather or other events beyond the control of the University that might cause risk or danger to students, faculty, and staff may occasionally result in changes to normal University operations, including cancellation of classes or events; the calendar schedule may be adjusted."**
4. **Action: The faculty senate unanimously approved the following resolution: The faculty senate requests that there be faculty representation on the search committees for any and all key university positions, including but not limited to vice president level positions.**
5. **Action: The faculty senate unanimously approved the following: The senate wishes to express its deepest sympathies to the family of president emeritus Dr. Thomas Corts. The senate executive committee is instructed to communicate these condolences on behalf of the senate to Mrs. Corts.**
6. **Action: The senate approved the following unanimously: The date to withdraw from a course without academic penalty and the date to withdraw from all courses in a semester without academic penalty should be combined. The final date to withdraw from a course is to be set at approximately two full weeks before the first day of the final exams week.** As noted in the report of the committee, under this policy, students withdrawing from a course after the last date to withdraw from a course without financial penalty but prior to the date to withdraw from a course without academic penalty (which will occur at approximately the end of the 12th week of classes) receive a grade of "W". If the course is dropped after the date to withdraw from a course without academic penalty, the student will receive a grade of WF.
7. **Action: After significant discussion, the senate approved the following unanimously: Dual Enrollment policy will be changed to reflect that, beginning in 2009-10 academic year, entering freshmen may have limited dual enrollment courses considered for transfer credit and may transfer up to 12 semester credits of dual enrollment credit in which the student has a B- or higher.** The precise wording of the entire policy change appears in the academic affairs committee report posted online.
8. **Action: After significant discussion, the senate approved the following unanimously: The course repeat policy will be changed to allow the repeat of undergraduate courses up to 16 hours if the grade is a C- or lower.**
9. **Action: The senate unanimously approved the changes to the faculty handbook as posted on the senate's website. These changes represent changing the name of the Learning Resources**

committee to the “committee on Academic Technology and Learning”; dissolving the University Writing Committee, and; creation of the Assessment Committee.