

Faculty senate and provost executive meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2006 – 10:00 AM

Attendance

Brad Creed,
Mark Bateman,
Don Sandley,
Robin Snyder,

Brian Toone,
Doug Clapp,
Tim Banks,
Matt Kerlin

Agenda items for next faculty senate meeting (10/27)

1. Matt Kerlin's proposed changes to the convo program
2. Proposed faculty handbook revisions:
 - a. Academic freedom statement
 - b. Final exam policy
 - c. Designation of the faculty handbook committee as a standing university committee

Topics discussed:

- The above agenda items
- Waiting for formal proposal from business school related to writing assessment

Detail

Here is a summary / paraphrased / transcript of the meeting. I have placed a bold heading to categorize each comment or series of comments. There are some places marked in brackets where I have tried to interpret what was being referenced by the speaker.

MATT KERLIN'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONVO PROGRAM

The text of these changes is available as a separate attachment on the faculty senate web page.

Matt Kerlin: [Let's] bypass discussion of the history of the need for a change. Here (attached) is a redesign based on 1. Samford needs 2. Comparison to other schools' chapel / convo programs. Seldom do schools have both a chapel and a convo program. My proposal is a hybrid of the two which will lead to a categorization of convo [opportunities]. The emphasis will be *faith connections outside classroom*. I have met with SGA, SALUR, and the presidential cabinet.

Mark Bateman: Is faith-service [part of the] wild-card category? Perhaps we could eliminate a category. Is the purpose to have credits across the board?

Matt Kerlin: Technology, it's hard to avoid a category. The purpose of the wildcard category is to make up for any deficiencies [in the categorization system].

Tim Banks: What about sophomore study abroad programs?

Matt Kerlin: We're willing to work with ISO (international studies?).

Don Sandley: Does this include art exhibits?

Doug Clapp: Non-credit convo courses are offered every semester. Reflection conversations are held after plays, lectures, etc...

Brad Creed: [From a practical side, how do we manage this?]

Matt Kerlin: We can manage it, but we need faculty [support]. Non-credit courses → Bateman.

Mark Bateman: There is a divide between academic affairs and student life.

Don Sandley: Put student life under academic affairs.

Tim Banks: No double credit.

Matt Kerlin: Based on the length of the event.

Sandley: I like [that idea].

Banks: Overcrowded on double credit events. What are the political ramifications of this change on our Baptist constituency?

Kerlin: University chapel won't change.

Creed: Argument on systematic exposure to real world faith is tied to our mission.

Kerlin: 75% of convo credit is NOT available T, Th 10-11.

Kerlin: Business and nursing students will not get credit for off campus internships / clinicals.

Kerlin: Belmont is currently using software to connect with Banner. It is a standalone, user-friendly system. It is helpful to us in tracking attendance and in which category.

Robin Snyder: Q: Would the MWF calendar go into affect in 2008?

Kerlin: A: Yes

Creed: Encourage faculty to have dept meetings during that hour ... spread out the schedule.

Kerlin: One potential problem is with the business school.

Kerlin: Did we finalize the wildcard category?

Bateman: Maybe the presentation is difficult to hold true to ... wild wildcard. Maybe take out the language related to the wildcard.

Banks: May need to take "study abroad" program wording out so that it could become part of the wildcard category.

Clapp: You must already get pre-approval for convo credit programs.

Kerlin: I'll add wording saying unless convo is built into the study program (you won't get credit).

Sandley: I was going to invite Charlotte Brammer here to discuss writing assessment, but I am waiting for a formal proposal from the business school.

Sandley: About the proposal on non-smoking policy ... can it be brought to the board of trustees?

Creed: I will pass it on. The trustees may ask what do other campuses do?

[Somebody said it's mixed about what schools are doing.]

Bateman: Which schools are banning smoking?

[Somebody answered Cal-Berkely, Oberland, Dennison]

Snyder: Student did research on this and reported to Bill Matthews.

Creed: Why are we concerned about this?

Snyder: Smoke is coming into the building.

Creed: I think about the Sodexo employees ... small comfort for them.

Clapp: Repercussions of this could reinforce false connection between "no smoking" and Christianity. We should have designated areas and encourage a cessation program. We need to make sure it doesn't come across as another Christian rule.

Snyder: When is the next trustee meeting?

Creed: 1st of December. I will pass it on.

Sandley: Q: When is the handbook committee going to meet to discuss academic freedom?

Creed: We met last Wednesday and have a draft. If we want to get this on the docket, let's have a called meeting to discuss:

- That the faculty handbook committee become a standing committee
- Academic freedom statement
- Final exam policy

Brian Toone
October 25, 2006