

# Samford University Faculty Senate

## Committee on Student Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations

### Minutes, November 16 meeting



Members Present: Elaine Marshall, Michael Janas, Randolph Horn, Timothy Welty, Rebecca Remley, Jean Thomason, Deborah Strevy and Nathan Buchanan (student SGA representative)

Guest: Dr. Richard Franklin and Phil Kimrey

Elaine Marshall called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Elaine Marshall requested a report from Dr. Franklin concerning the SGA forum of the previous day addressing the removal of MTV from campus cable service. Dr. Franklin reported receiving many positive comments about the removal, and some negative comments from faculty and students attending the forum on Nov.15. He reported that faculty members present at the forum objected to the way in which the decision was made.



Committee members made several comments and asked a number of questions including:

Elaine Marshall commented on the importance many young people attach to MTV and the culture it represents and stated that students should be able to choose what they watch.

Mike Janas expressed concern about the removal of BFT and the effect on African American students. Deborah Strevy stated that many students feel competent to make their own choices in such instances and asked if there was recourse to the decision.

Randolph Horn questioned the reasons the decision was made in the summer with so few students on campus and the reasons students were not included in the decision process. He also expressed concern that students are made to feel powerless when not included in the decision process.

Nathan Buchanan indicated that many students were willing to accept the decision of the University.

Dr. Franklin responded that summer is the time to make adjustments in the cable service and that Resident Assistants were asked their opinion before the decision was made. The Resident Assistants surveyed indicated that many students were uncomfortable with the inclusion of MTV in the cable service and expressed an interest in substituting other channels. Dr. Franklin added that he was working with the cable company to try and offer other options to the students.

Elaine Marshall asked Phil Kimrey to address the issue of minority recruitment.

Mr. Kimrey listed some of the obstacles to minority recruitment. Those obstacles included: financial concerns, historical perspective, and location. Mr. Kimrey also indicated that it is difficult to compete with the scholarship packages offered to excellent minority students by the state universities. In order to address these obstacles the recruitment office is targeting minority students who indicate interest in Samford, attempting to acquire additional scholarship money, and increasing telemarketing and other public relations approaches to interest minority students.

Mike Janas inquired as to the support network available to minority students who may have difficulty adjusting to the academic demands of Samford.

Mr. Kimrey described the support system available to all struggling students, which includes new instruments to identify students at risk and assistance to faculty in supporting marginal students. Mr. Kimrey asked about the possibility of instituting a summer program to support marginal students and provide some remediation prior to the fall semester.



Michael Janas suggested an increased effort to recruit first generation college students.

Rebecca Remley related several successful recruitment stories involving minority students.

Mr. Kimrey requested that committee members inform the recruitment office about students who might be interested in attending and indicated that students are more likely to attend following a visit to the campus. It is important for prospective students to attend classes and interact with students and faculty. Minority students should see other minority students and faculty while visiting, according to Mr. Kimrey.

October minutes were accepted.

Elaine Marshall pointed out the revised lists of campus organizations provided by Suzanne Martin, Director of Student Activities and Leadership Education.

There was no new report on the scheduling of football games.

Ms. Marshall suggested the committee consider the issue of honoring retiring faculty in the spring committee meetings.

Ms. Marshall proposed there be no December meeting of the committee in light of the scheduling conflict with the general faculty meeting. The committee agreed to cancel the December meeting. The committee will

next meet on Jan. 18, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Minutes submitted by Deborah H. Strevy, [mdstreve@samford.edu](mailto:mdstreve@samford.edu)