

## Minutes of the Full University Faculty Meeting

**Date: Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009**

**Place: Brock Forum**

**Presiding: Robin Snyder, Chair, Faculty Senate**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**INVOCATION:** Chair Snyder gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Dennis Jones moved that the minutes of the Aug. 18, 2009, faculty meeting be approved as submitted. Jennings Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Andrew Westmoreland reported that Samford's economic prospects were "getting better," with a high likelihood of meeting budgetary goals and of a "modest pay increase." He expressed appreciation for the faculty's "patience" during difficult economic times.

**PROVOST'S REPORT:** Brad Creed reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education had been formed and that he was meeting with faculty in each school to discuss strategic goals.

**REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE:** Buck Brock reported on challenges in the budgetary process but expressed hope that positive momentum would continue to build. He said that a new technology plan was being drafted that would focus on classrooms and infrastructure improvement.

**REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT:** Phil Kimrey reported that Samford had recently hosted the largest Preview Day ever and that the number of applications for scholarships had risen by three-and-a-half percent from last year. Two candidates for the vacant Dean of Students position were scheduled to visit campus soon, he said.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Votes on Action Items:** The faculty approved several action items forwarded by the University Senate.

Following is a summary of the items approved by the faculty.

1) **Elimination of early retirement subsidy.** Employees can still retire early, but the discount rate will change, while the benefit formula will stay the same. This will make the plan for early retirees actuarially neutral to the plan for normal retirees, and it does not significantly affect the discount rate, which will go from 5/18 to 5/9. Adjunct faculty will be removed from participation in the plan. The formula for the accrual rate will be adjusted from 1.83 percent to 1.5 percent. This change will apply only to new hires starting Jan. 1, 2010, and will not affect any current employees.

**2) Creation of Award for University Service.** The award will be given to full-time faculty members who have made significant and sustained service contributions to the university during their career at Samford. University service is defined as participation and leadership in activities other than teaching and research that contribute in important ways to Samford's mission. Nominations will be made by full-time faculty or administrators other than the nominee. The winner will be selected by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

**3) Proposal for Depositing of Subcommittee Minutes in University Archives and Creation of Notebooks for all Standing Committees.** Minutes of all subcommittee meetings, as well as standing committee meetings, will be deposited at the end of the academic year in the university archives preserved in Davis Library's Special Collections Division. Chairs of all standing committees will preserve in a physical (as opposed to "virtual") notebook a record of all actions taken by that committee and a list of future projects to be undertaken by the committee. Each outgoing chair would deposit the notebook in the archives.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Affairs:** Chair Charles Ford reported that the committee will meet soon to award mini-faculty development grants. Provost's travel funds are still available.

**Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare:** Chair Cynthia Lohrke thanked committee members for their hard work in fashioning a pension plan (see New Business), and Dr. Westmoreland added his personal thanks.

**Curriculum Committee:** Chair Kristie Chandler said the committee is moving toward an electronic process for submitting course and program proposals to the committee.

**Diversity Committee:** Chair Jonathan Davis said the committee is preparing a diversity assessment survey to be given to faculty and staff in the spring.

**Committee on Student Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations:** Chair Betsy Dobbins said an ad hoc committee is studying sexual violence on campus and studying other universities' response to this issue to see what Samford might be able to do.

**Committee on Academic Technology and Learning:** Chair Grace Simms said that a print management system is being developed for Jan term or spring 2010. The system will place no limits on number of copies that can be printed, although such limits might be studied for a future date.

**Assessment Committee:** Chair Mary Sue Baldwin said the committee is trying to identify and develop sources on assessment to help the process move smoothly and effectively.

**Admissions Committee:** Senate Chair Snyder asked administrators present if the committee is meeting. President Westmoreland assured her that it will meet and that it is being redesigned as a more comprehensive Strategic Enrollment Management Committee.

**Faculty Service Award Ad Hoc Committee:** Chair Cynthia Lohrke thanked President Westmoreland, Provost Creed, and faculty colleague Don Sandley for helping to create, for the

first time, an award honoring a faculty member for university service. The first award will be given in the spring.

**Ad Hoc Committee on General Education**: Chair Doug Clapp presented a power-point presentation on this committee, which hopes to construct a process by which general education at Samford can be reviewed and assessed.

Closing the meeting on a personal note, Chair Snyder said she wished to thank Sarah Latham, vice president for operations and planning, for her diligence and hard work that have resulted in great financial savings for the university.

There being no further business, Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 10:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Epley  
Secretary