

Minutes of the Full University Faculty Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2010

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.

ELECTION OF FACULTY SENATE VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY: No nominations were received from the floor for the positions of vice chair and secretary of the Faculty Senate for the 2010-11 academic year. As a result, Elections Committee Chair Kim Benner asked faculty members to vote for the candidates of their choice listed on the paper ballots distributed at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jennings Marshall moved that the minutes of the Dec. 3, 2009, faculty meeting be approved as submitted. Kathryn Fouse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF SENATE ACTION ITEMS PASSED SPRING 2010: Chair Snyder presented five items passed by the Faculty Senate in spring 2010 that needed to be reviewed by the university faculty before becoming official recommendations to the university administration. The five items were as follows:

1. To reduce the number of Samford credit hours required for a Latin honors designation (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) from ninety hours to seventy hours.
2. To extend the charge, or mandate, of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education until the process of reviewing general education is completed. The committee's charge was originally set to expire on Feb. 22, 2010.
3. To change the name of the Committee on Student Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations to the Committee on Campus Life.
4. To renew twelve-month contracts at the same time as nine-month contracts commencing Sept. 30 and ending Aug. 31. The duty period covers the period beginning Sept. 1 and ending Aug. 31.
5. To request that the administration grant a one-course-per-semester reduction in the teaching load of the chair and secretary of the Faculty Senate

There being no objection to the action items, they will be forwarded to the university administration.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Andrew Westmoreland said that fiscal goals were being met, although not exactly in the ways that were expected when they were set. Recruiting is going well, he reported, with an incoming class of about 750 students expected for the fall. The greatest concern expressed by the president dealt with salaries, on which he said significant progress is not being made. He said that work will continue over the summer to develop new models and to work with faculty committees on the issue. He also said that the administration plans to revise and expand the ways in which Samford markets itself. Finally, he thanked Chair Robin Snyder for her outstanding service for the past two years leading the Faculty Senate. Chair Snyder asked the faculty to give incoming Chair Mike Floyd their continuing support.

PROVOST'S REPORT: Brad Creed reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education is continuing its multi-year project and that structural changes are being made in the Office of Student Affairs.

ASSOCIATE PROVOST'S REPORT: Mary Sue Baldwin gave an update on the Assessment Committee and added that every academic unit will undergo two reviews before the next SACS assessment in 2017.

REPORT BY ACADEMIC GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS OFFICER: Tim Wolfe thanked the faculty for making him “look so good” by bring in seventeen grants since July 2009 accounting for \$500,000 in funding, with over \$8 million in the pipeline.

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE: Buck Brock reported that the deficit for the year will be bigger than planned but that significant progress has been made on a number of challenging fronts. The search for a permanent Chief Information Officer should get under way in earnest this summer, he added. The Classroom Initiative, the first academic computing objective in the Strategic Technology Plan, should be largely in place by June 30, with the goal of bringing at least “baseline standards of technology” to all classrooms. The initiative is being funded largely by a new technology fee. The university is also seeking additional savings through its contracts with vendors, and some 400,000 fewer pages of paper have been saved by the new copying policy in computer labs, benefiting both the environment and the university budget, said Mr. Brock. Mr. Brock also announced a new “hold it and fold it” initiative. Departments who “hold” S&E expenses below budget will have those savings “folded” into a designated fund available to them for strategic projects and/or specific uses in the next year or future years. Correspondingly, that department’s operating budget for next year will not be reduced by the savings amount.

REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT: Phil Kimrey reported that the incoming freshman class has set a record for deposits paid (738), and that the average ACT score is 25.7, down slightly from 25.9 last year. Minority students comprise 12.3 percent of the entering class. Twenty more students than last year will be coming from Georgia and sixteen fewer from Alabama, with a ten percent increase in the number of males. Reporting on a number of ongoing personnel searches, Mr. Kimrey reported that Jason Black continues to serve as interim Dean of Admission, while the search committee for a new Dean of Students has met twice this week and will meet twice next week. Two upcoming meetings are also planned for the Dean of Campus Life search committee.

Meanwhile the new Strategic Enrollment Management Committee will continue to meet year round, he said.

REPORT FROM VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS AND PLANNING: Sarah Latham reported a high level of response to the Diversity survey. She added that an NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Academic Integrity subcommittee will visit campus in October.

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONS: Randy Pittman said that in the past year a total of \$88 million was either given or pledged to the university, with \$15 million in pledges coming from bequests in the planned giving category. He added that giving for scholarships is still strong, while donations for endowed professorships are lagging behind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Technology and Learning: Chair Grace Simms reported that the committee is heavily involved in helping to shape the Strategic Technology Plan.

Academic Affairs: Chair Charles Ford reported that the committee awarded \$40,000 in Faculty Development Grants in 2009-10.

Athletics: Chair Greg Kawell reported that the Athletics Department is in the midst of recertification by the NCAA.

Business Affairs and Faculty Welfare: Chair Cynthia Lohrke reported that the committee's next major project is to work toward adjusting faculty salaries to reflect market conditions. She urged all faculty members to report to her committee any statistics about faculty salaries in their area of expertise.

Campus Life (formerly Committee on Student Affairs, Campus Life, and University Relations, known previously, but never henceforth, as SABLUR): Chair Scott McGinnis reported the formation of a subcommittee on the status of our campus' experience with, response to, and prevention of sexual violence and harassment. The subcommittee is led by Vicki Rochester in Nursing, who with assistance from Associate Provost Mary Sue Baldwin, also on the committee, has applied for a Department of Justice Grant in cooperation with the Coordinated Community Response in Birmingham. The committee's work and recommendations will not be contingent upon getting the grant, Chair McGinnis said.

Curriculum: 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 that the committee is focusing on the areas of education, training, and assessment. He specifically mentioned the first-of-its-kind survey on diversity issues administered this year at Samford. The committee is also helping to plan a Birmingham Diversity Roundtable, he said.

Elections Committee: Chair Kim Benner reported that Steven Epley had been elected vice chair and Shannon Rogers Flynt had been elected secretary of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Service Award Ad Hoc Committee: Chair Cynthia Lohrke encouraged colleagues to suggest nominations for the award. The first award was given this spring to Jennings Marshall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Snyder reported that summer school has been extended this year. There will be twenty-four class days in the first session and twenty-seven in the second session. She encouraged

faculty who will be teaching those courses to calculate how many of those days they will need to teach to satisfy the credit-hour requirement for the class.

There being no further business, Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 10:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Epley
Secretary