

Faculty Senate Meeting

September 24, 2007

BBS Room 101

Attendance

Senators: David Bains (A&S), Milicent Bolden (A&S), Gary Bumgarner (Pharmacy), Beth Burch (Law), Terri Cahoon (Nursing), Robbie Cameron (A&S), Doug Clapp (A&S), Grant Dalton (PA), Steve Donaldson (A&S), Les Ennis (Education), Stephen Epley (A&S), Margie Findlay (Nursing), Mike Floyd (Law), Jackie Goldstein (filling in for N. Siegfried who is on sabbatical, A&S), Jane Hiles (A&S), Dennis Jones (A&S), Greg Kawell (A&S), Jennings Marshall (Business), Lori Northrup (Library), Sydney Park (Divinity), Bill Service (Business), Grace Simms (Library), John Venable (Business), Bruce Waldrop (Pharmacy), Heather West (A&S)

Committee Representatives: Jim Reburn (Academic Affairs), Nancy Whitt (Diversity), Eric Olson

Senate Executive Committee: Don Sandley (Chair), Robin Snyder (Vice-Chair), Michael Hogue (Secretary)

Administration: Brad Creed (Provost), Alan Hargrave (Associate Provost)

Visitors: 5 visitors from the faculty of Anderson University, South Carolina.

Call To Order

Meeting was called to order by **Don Sandley** 3:05 p.m.

Invocation was given by **Don Sandley**.

Motion by **Jennings Marshall** (A&S) and seconded by **Dennis Jones** (A&S) to approve the April 2007 faculty senate minutes. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Provost's Report

Provost Creed welcomed the guests from Anderson University in South Carolina who are here to review our methods for faculty governance as they begin to establish a faculty governance process at their university. Dr. Creed updated the senate on several items of importance to the faculty, including:

- The SACS final report is complete.
- The Consortium for Global Education, a Baptist organization of which Samford is a part, is meeting on our campus this week.

- Parent's weekend occurred this past weekend, with a record preview day attendance of 225 prospects and their families. Congratulations to Samford Football for their win against Southeast Missouri.
- The University Council met earlier this month to discuss the master plan for facilities, at which time they received an interesting report on the history of the architecture of the campus. The Council is moving forward with the strategic planning process and is making very good progress. The Board of Trustees and the Student Government Association have now been given the same opportunity to provide input as the faculty was provided during "Week of Beginnings".
- Reminder: Walter Isaacson will be delivering a lecture on campus on October 18th. The Provost has begun a book club of about 15 honor students to review Isaacson's most recent book on Einstein to mark the occasion of this event.

Senate Chair's Report

Don Sandley updated the faculty on the efforts of the University Council. Don reported that the strategic planning process has been highly transparent and very open. He feels that we are headed in the right direction. Comments from the faculty workshop are being taken very seriously in the planning process. Please do not be disappointed if everything you suggested is not implemented, as there are some quite divergent recommendations given that such a large group of constituents is providing input into the process. The last of the comments are being incorporated now, and a final document will be available soon.

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

Jim Reburn reported that the committee met on September 13th. Faculty development grants have been increased to up to \$2500 per grantee for this cycle, and the requirement for release time to perform granted research has been removed in the application. The committee and the provost have worked closely over the past several months to consider moving from a January term to a May term. After careful review, both the provost and the committee agree that such a move should not happen, and the current Jan term will remain. Thus, there will be no recommendation coming before the senate from academic affairs on this matter. A full report of the September 13th committee meeting is attached.

Athletics

Greg Kawell reported that the committee met on September 18th. The committee has already completed their charge to review the faculty handbook committee description, and the committee feels that the last revision in 2005-2006 should stand as it currently reads. The committee has developed a close working relationship with the athletics department. The committee encourages the faculty to be proactive at identifying possible issues with student athletes early and raise awareness with the committee if there is anything which does arise. **A charge was given to the athletics committee:** Three of the four racquetball courts are being used by the football program for viewing game tapes. The racquetball courts are general use areas, and some faculty/staff/students feel

that access has been severely limited. **Don Sandley** asked the athletics committee to address this issue to determine if an alternative space could be identified for the football program to view game tapes other than the racquetball courts.

Business Affairs/Faculty Welfare

Jennings Marshall initiated a discussion related to the university's retirement plan revisions. **Cynthia Lohrke** and Jennings have met with **Fred Rogan**, and then subsequently meetings with **Buck Brock** have occurred in an effort to provide further input into the possible revisions to the retirement plan. This is still in the "discussion stage". It was reported that this is an "ongoing, very fruitful discussion with knowledgeable faculty engaged." Don noted that we are very fortunate to have been given the opportunity for input into this process, as ultimately any decisions regarding the retirement plan are the purview of the board of trustees. At the request of the faculty, the Pension Task Force has been given additional faculty representation, including **Nena Sanders** and **Cynthia Lohrke**. Don reported that the hope is that this matter will be settled this semester; however, making the right decision is more important than making a quick decision.

Curriculum Committee

No report was given.

Diversity Committee

Nancy Whitt gave a report of the diversity committee. The full minutes of this committee's meeting are attached at the end of this document.

Elections Committee

No report was given

Student Affairs, Religious Life, and University Relations

No report was given

Learning Resources

Lori Northrup reported that the committee has not yet met.

Don Sandley raised a concern that with **Bob Sharp's** (library assistant in charge of media for many years) departure, the services available have been greatly diminished. The core curriculum course instructors concurred with this assessment and feel that there is a definite loss of technology resources. One example given was the need to get iTunes site up and running as quickly as possible. **Greg Kawell** pointed out that the rapid expansion and changing of technology makes it very difficult to keep up with these

changes. **Alan Hargrave** reported that the Technology and Learning Center is supposed to be “guided assistance” not a “drop and do” center. While he is not opposed to TLC becoming a “Drop and Do” center, it is currently not staffed for this level of service. **A Charge was Given:** Don asked the learning resources committee to take up these concerns at their next committee meeting.

Writing Committee

Stephen Epley gave the report. The committee has suspended mandatory review of W courses for this semester while they focus on redefining their role in relation to the newly created Office of Assessment. New courses desiring the “w” designation will need to apply for such; however, faculty are encouraged to hold off on making new applications until the committee finalizes its assessment of the process and how it will proceed in the future.

New Business

Dennis Jones raised a concern that the chairs of committees are not always a senator. This seems to bog down our governance process because many committees often violate the procedures which have been put into place for a report to be given at every faculty senate meeting. It was suggested that somehow committee chairs be given *ex officio* status to help encourage attendance, and that compliance with senate governance rules regarding reporting be emphasized. **A Charge was Given:** Don Sandley charged the faculty handbook committee to examine this issue and come back to the senate with a recommendation.

A Motion was Made: **Michael Hogue** motioned, **Jennings Marshall** seconded a proposal that attendance be taken at all faculty senate meetings and that an attendance report be provided by the senate secretary to the deans of each academic unit at the end of the academic year so that this could be taken into consideration in selecting senators for the coming year. **The motioned carried unanimously.**

Jennings Marshall raised the issue that the Admission’s Committee of the university, which is not a faculty committee, has not met in three years. Jennings raised serious concerns about this with **President Westmoreland**, and an email was sent to **Phil Kimrey**, Dean of Admissions and chair of the admission’s committee instructing that the committee does need to meet. In January 2007, an email response from Phil to Dr. Westmoreland indicated that meetings would be held; however, they have not and now another year has passed. Several senators present voiced their serious concerns about this matter as well; as it is widely viewed that faculty are being left out of the entire admission’s process. According to policy, the faculty are supposed to have significant input into the admission’s process. **Greg Kawell** noted that the athletics committee is particularly concerned about this issue, as any exceptions being made for admissions for student athletes must have faculty input. This is certainly a breach of Samford’s standards, and may well have some impact on NCAA reporting. **Dr. Creed** also reported that his office is taking action to make sure there is a functioning admission’s committee

or equivalent. Dr. Creed is working on a plan to develop a Strategic Enrollment Committee to possibly replace the Admissions Committee, and he will provide more guidance on his thinking at a future senate meeting. Strategic enrollment will likely also be a topic of consideration at the next faculty workshops. **Action: Phil Kimrey** is to be invited to EVERY faculty senate meeting by the chair of the faculty senate to give monthly updates on the progress of the admissions committee.

Doug Clapp raised the issue of whether Samford should continue to have a December graduation. **Dr. Creed** stated that this issue is currently being considered but no decisions have been made. There was also discussion surrounding January term, and the possibility of requiring Jan term attendance (mandatory) for all freshmen. There will be more discussion on this issue in the Academic Affairs committee.

Dennis Jones raised concerns about some rumors which have been floating around via email among the faculty. These rumors state that due to possible renovation of the Daniel House, our London Study Center and our educational activities in London would be suspended for one year. Some discussion ensued about ways to get around the need to totally suspend London educational activities. Dr. Creed stated that this is all being examined carefully.

Motion was made: John Venable motioned, and **Dennis Jones** seconded a motion to add the values council and faculty appellate panel as an official faculty committee. It was mentioned that **Mark Bateman** is to bring a report on this issue. After much discussion, this item was **referred to the faculty handbook committee for consideration of where values council best fits in the university structure.**

Old Business

No old business was brought before the faculty senate.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Don Sandley at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the faculty senate will be held on October 29th at 3 p.m. in BBS room 101.