

Minutes for May 7, 2004
Samford University Faculty Senate

Present: Nancy Whitt, A&S; Paul Blanchard, A&S; Melissa Tate, A&S; Steve Donaldson, A&S; Bob Riggs, Pharmacy; Bill Strickland, Music; Sherrie Lawhon, Music; Darlene Mathis, Nursing; Gretchen McDaniell, Nursing; Ed Cherry, Library; Dennis Jones, A&S; Randy Todd, A&S; Brad Creed, Provost; Linda Ables, A&S; Jennings Marshall, Business; Richard Dendy, A&S; Norfleete Day, Divinity; Paul Holloway, A&S

Paul Blanchard called the meeting to order.

Jennings Marshall gave the opening prayer, asking for special blessings on the family of Mary Ann Hocutt.

Minutes for April meeting were approved.

The Provost announced; a memorial service for Mary Ann Hocutt for Thursday, May 13; the Board of Trustee's approval of the creation of a standing committee for Diversity; that three task forces on Christian Mission, Academic Rigor and Community have met and their findings are under review; that budgets are about finished and contracts should be sent by the end of May; that searches are under way for an associate provost and a dean of the Business School; and that the Alabama Historical Society is meeting on campus this weekend.

Committee Reports—the following committees submitted oral reports:

Business Affairs—David Little presented two proposals, one for a 15% tuition benefit for faculty members sending children to the Samford Children's Learning Center, the other asking the University administration to inform University employees when changing policies (see attached).

Athletics—Jennings Marshall reported that a survey of all graduating senior athletes will be conducted by the committee with the goal of studying the relationship of athletics to academics, and that records of these surveys each year will be kept. He also announced that the OLV Conference representatives will visit the campus during the week of May 10 to observe Samford's athletic program. He noted that this is a good chance for Samford to demonstrate the concern for academics among those dealing with Samford athletes.

Curriculum—the final meeting is May 14; the deadline for submission of new course proposals was May 7. Fifteen course proposals will be considered.

Election committee—Tina Duffy asked about the use of ballots. It was agreed they are needed only when there is a contested election.

Academic Freedom—Bob Riggs announced that a faculty member had not given Sarah Latham data she needs to undertake a study of issues of academic freedom. She said it is best to do a new survey regarding academic freedom, probably in the form of an online survey of faculty. Such a survey should be given in this fall.

SALUR committee—Nancy Whitt reported that SALUR had granted organizational status to a national Christian Counseling group and that minutes had been sent to the faculty secretary.

Old Business—None

New Business:

The following proposal from the Business Affairs Committee was adopted by vote of the Senate:

That the University provide all faculty/staff members who have children attending the Samford Children's Learning Center an annual 15% tuition discount for each dependent child enrolled in the Children's Learning Center.

The following proposal from the Business Affairs Committee was adopted by vote of the Senate:

That the University administration, when changing, clarifying or rewording faculty/staff policies inform the appropriate University standing committee of the changes.

Announcements:

Paul Blanchard noted that the salary equity study has been released to faculty and he hopes that next year a faculty group will study to see what might need to come out of it.

He also expressed appreciation for the work of the Senate for the past two years.

Dennis Jones presented a request from the Arts and Sciences Assembly that better record keeping be done on the Senate website. The Senate agreed that the committee on elections following Spring elections should record on the website a list of all standing committee members and a list of members of the faculty senate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.