

**MINUTES OF THE CALLED MEETING OF THE FACULTY
ON MARCH 1, 2001 IN MCC 100 TO HEAR A REPORT FROM
THE STUDENT SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AN HONOR
CODE**

President Andy Westmoreland began the meeting by thanking those present for coming. He emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to promote further discussion of the Honor Code with the ultimate objective of obtaining faculty endorsement in order to strengthen the presentation of the Honor Code at the Board of Trustees meeting next week.

President Westmoreland thanked Hal Bass, Keldon Henley, and the student senate committee for their work on the code. He then introduced Amber Wilson, President of the Student Senate, and a member of the committee. Amber thanked President Westmoreland, Dean Henley, Dr. Bass, Mr. McKinney, and the University Committee for their assistance in developing the Honor Code. She then introduced the members of the student senate committee who were present: Alan Bagley, John Beller, Tilly Carter, Clint Fulks, and Mary Carole Young. Dameron Rendell and Ben Utter also served on the committee, but were not able to be present. A draft of the Honor Code Mission and Pledge, as well as a draft of the Selection Process for the Judicial Council (the organization responsible for hearing violations of the Honor Code), were distributed. (Both these documents are included as appendices to these minutes)

Each member of the Student Senate committee was then given an opportunity to provide insights concerning the Honor Code and its development. Following are some of the comments made.

- It is hoped a culture of honor, not just in the classroom but outside the classroom as well, will develop at Ouachita.
- Honor is something we choose to possess.
- Studies have shown that honor codes reduce cheating by about 20 percent.
- Hopefully the Honor Code will promote positive peer pressure.
- There is a need for faculty to explain in their syllabi what they consider cheating.
- Faculty will nominate students to serve on the Judicial Council. A selection committee will then choose twelve students to serve on the Council.
- Faculty have no obligation to refer violations of the code to the Judicial Council; they can handle violations on their own if they prefer.
- The Judicial Council is not an appeals court.

Faculty were then given an opportunity to ask questions. Some of the concerns expressed by faculty during the question and answer format included the need to stress that the Judicial Council is not an appeals court, the importance of equal treatment of students by the Judicial Council, and the desirability of emphasizing that the code is an

"Academic" Honor Code. In response to the last concern, President Westmoreland suggested that the code be called a Covenant on Academic Honor.

At the conclusion of the question and answer period, the students involved in the development of the Honor Code were given an applause of appreciation for their work as they departed.

A motion was made by Terry Carter that the faculty support the Covenant on Academic Honor developed by the student Ad Hoc Committee on an Honor Code. Lindsay Van Sicklen seconded the motion.

Raouf Halaby moved that the following amendment to the motion be adopted: in the honor code pledge, make the sentence, "I recognize that academic excellence is more than the absence of dishonesty; true scholarship entails devotion to my studies and respect for my professors and classmates," the first sentence in the pledge. Jay Curlin seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion failed.

The original motion was then voted, resulting in its passage with only one dissenting vote.

Scott Duvall made a motion that the faculty support the spirit of the draft of the Honor Code Selection Process for the Judicial Council, recognizing that the document is a work in progress and that any subsequent changes must come before the faculty for a vote. The motion was seconded by Marty Perry and carried unanimously.

Charles Wright made a motion that the Student Senate Ad Hoc Committee on an Honor Code be given our highest commendation. Randall Wight seconded the motion and it carried.

President Westmoreland reminded everyone that the North Central Committee would be on campus next week, and encouraged attendance of the committee's open meeting with the faculty on Monday, March 5, at 4:00 p.m. in MCC 100.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Ary, Secretary

APPENDIX A, DRAFT
March 1, 2001

Mission

We believe that a university under the Lordship of Jesus Christ must involve itself in the pursuit of honor. In all academic endeavors our commitment is to build a community of scholars characterized by the highest standards of integrity consistent with Ouachita's Christian ideals. We hope this pursuit of integrity will extend beyond the classroom and be reflected in every area of our daily lives.

Pledge

As a member of the Ouachita community, I am committed to fostering a culture of honor. I affirm that an academic environment can be enriching only when its members commit to mutual integrity, trust, responsibility, and respect. I will refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, and I will act responsibly when confronted with the knowledge of such behavior. I recognize that academic excellence is more than the absence of dishonesty; true scholarship entails devotion to my studies and respect for my professors and classmates. With the aim of academic and personal growth I make this pledge to myself and to the women and men of Ouachita Baptist University.

Respectfully submitted by

Amber Wilson

Alan Bagley

John Beller

Tilly Carter

Clint Fulks

Dameron Rendell

Ben Utter

Mary Carole Young

Revised November 9, 2000

APPENDIX B, DRAFT Honor Code Selection Process For The Judicial Council

***Ask University Committee to appoint 4 Faculty Members**

***12 students should be selected to sit on the council.**

Selection Process for Students:

1. Nominations accepted from the entire OBU Faculty
2. The nominations will appear before a selection committee in order to appoint the nominees that will serve on the Judicial Council.
 - A. The selection committee will consist of
 1. The president of the university,
 2. The president of the Student Senate,
 3. The chair of the current judicial council,

4. The dean of students,
 5. The vice president for academic affairs, and
 6. The chair of the University Committee.
3. Qualifications for Students:
- A. Four seniors, four juniors, and four sophomores would be selected from diverse academic areas on campus.
 - B. Must not be currently on probation.
 - C. Must sign an oath of confidentiality.

It would take two faculty members and six students to hear a case. NOT all six students will vote. Three students will be jurors, along with the two faculty members. Two students will be independent investigators, and one student will be a note taker.

*****Four votes would be needed in order to convict a student of an academic violation.**