

Southern Factor

November 2014

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

Potential General Education Reduction Being Studied

General education requirements and shared classes were the primary topics of discussion at the University Assembly in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel on Monday, October 27.

Shrinking the general education requirements from between 55-59 hours to 42 hours is one of the primary objectives on the initiative.

Scot Anderson, professor in the School of Computing and chair of the General Education Committee, said that the main purpose of the reduction is to help students. He pointed out that it currently takes the average student 9.8 semesters to graduate, leaving the average borrower \$26,000 “in the red.”

“Student loan debt makes up 60 percent of all national debt,” Anderson said during his presentation at the assembly. “As such, education—specifically higher education—is seeing a lot of tension about what we’re doing and ways to make it more efficient.”

Anderson said the goal is to have just enough general education so students can change their major as a sophomore and still graduate in four years.

“Having 22 hours of general electives allows a student to take several courses in a major, change majors, and still use those hours as general electives,” Anderson said.

While the university continues strategizing a way to implement this potential change, Anderson urged employees to develop a clearer vision of what they expect from the general education portion of the curriculum.

“I want to hear ideas from everybody across campus; if you offer input, we will faithfully consider it.”

—SCOT ANDERSON
GEN. EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

“If we can come to some sort of consensus on campus of what general education is, we could probably do this,” Anderson said. “But if we can’t, this is going to be much more difficult.”

The outcome of this discussion is far from final, and Anderson is actively looking for constructive feedback

from faculty and staff about what can be done to make the reduction better.

“I want to hear ideas from everybody across campus because this is a whole cross-campus process,” Anderson said. “If you offer input, we will faithfully consider it.”

EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

After making the decision to merge academic calendars, the academic vice presidents of Southern, Union College, and Southwestern Adventist University worked together this past summer to identify courses the three institutions could share. To that end, Southern is currently sharing a number of classes with these sister institutions, including Financial Management from its MBA program.

Though the partnership has been successful so far, Bob Young, senior vice president for Academic Administration, noted that it was “not without some challenges.”

“We will at some point have to stop, take a look at how it’s going, and think about if it’s really achieving the ambitions we had when we started the program,” Young said.

—Myron Madden

CARING FOR STUDENTS

If you have agreed to participate in the Collegedale Church’s Adopt-a-Student program, we encourage you to make contact with them. Also, if you did not get a chance to adopt a student, we encourage you to make students feel welcome through Southern’s other, related initiatives. The **Student Hospitality Policy**, meant to provide fellowship and a home environment for students, reimburses employees \$5 per student for a full meal and \$2.50 per student for light refreshments. The **Pickle Fund** allows you to help a student by giving a one-time gift of \$25. For more information, call x2816.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stephanie Sheehan presented a seminar titled “Free to Be Still” at the North American Division Women’s Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Stephanie Sheehan facilitated a WorkPlace Big Five team building session for the Chaplain’s Office at Southern.

Linda Crumley, Stephen Ruf, and Greg Rumsey attended the 25th annual Society of Adventist Communicators Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, October 16-18. They attended workshops and supervised communication students, two of which won awards for their work.

Herman Odens, associate professor of chemistry, along with colleagues at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, published a paper titled “Inhibition of the Thioesterase Activity of Human Fatty Acid Synthase by 1,4- and 9,10-Diones” in the *Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin of Japan* (September 2014, vol. 62(9), pages 933–936).

Marty Hamilton and **Becky Djernes** attended the Association of University Interior Design Conference in Seattle, Washington, September 29 to October 3. This conference focused directly on higher education trends, furniture, and colors. It also provided a great opportunity for networking and design sharing.

Katie McGrath and **Faith Laughlin** attended the #iTeachDigital workshop in Chattanooga. This seminar was jam-packed with creative ideas for using iPad technology to increase student engagement and empowerment, facilitate strong collaboration, connect learners to an authentic audience, differentiate instruction to reach all learners, provide real-time feedback, transform instructors into learning coaches, and more.

Michael Cafferky received the Best Pedagogical Paper Award from the Christian Business Faculty Association (CBFA) for his peer-reviewed paper “Business Ethics in Biblical Perspective: A Thematic Framework for the Ethics Process and Content” presented at the CBFA Annual Conference on October 10.

HATS OFF!

The School of Nursing was well represented by **Holly Gadd**, **Barbara James**, **Frances Johnson**, **Mike Liedke**, and **Lilly Tryon** who presented at the Southern Union’s Medical/Dental/Health Professional Convention in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, October 9-10. The topics were timely and the feedback from participants was complimentary. One comment was: “Many thanks to all the presenters from Southern. Great info! Relevant to practice. Good to know our nursing students at Southern have knowledgeable Christian instructors.” —School of Nursing

A big shout-out to **Steven Crosby** and the Quick Print production team for delivering great service amid competing deadlines and priorities. Thank you! —Stephanie Sheehan

I would like to thank the following faculty and staff for their outstanding contributions during the month of October: **Lisa Kuhlman** for the long hours of preparation and organization in arranging our Meet the Firms event; **Julie Hyde** for arranging the accounting club’s outing to Decosimo, the Tennessee Society of CPAs Student Night, and Becker CPAs review to come to our campus for a presentation; **Michael Cafferky** for representing the School of Business as a board member during the Christian Business Faculty Association’s meeting in Nashville, Tennessee; **Dale Walters** for planning the joint School of Business and Technology Road Rally Race; and **Lisa Goolsby** for planning and conducting our View Southern event. —Mark Hyder

CHANGING FACES

SOUTHERN WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING:

Matthew Dekle, maintenance technician, Transportation
Andrew Myaing, director, Risk Management
Mark Arquitt, regional relationship manager, Advancement
Mariella Pechero, disability services coordinator, Student Services Center

FOND FAREWELLS TO:

John Thompson, maintenance technician, Transportation
Steven Tsui, chef, Deli/Village Market
Deborah Case, shift supervisor, Deli/Village Market
Dennise Rios-Blood, office manager, Chemistry

BIRTHDAYS

November 1 **Laurie Minner**, Music
Deanna Moore, Enrollment Services
November 4 **Steven Crosby**, Purchasing Services
Greg Merchant, Online Campus
November 5 **Robert Bovell**, Advancement
Liane de Souza, Student Success Center
David George, Visual Art and Design
November 6 **Astrid Conibear**, Edu. and Psychology
Tamara Mallory, Accounting Services
November 7 **Scott Kornblum**, WSMC Classical 90.5
November 8 **Yolanda Abril-Ocsai**, Food Services
Lisa Patterson, Talge Hall
November 9 **Minodora Perchik**, Food Services
November 10 **Alan Parker**, Religion
Carl Patterson, Talge Hall
November 11 **Jim Parks**, Plant Services
Cheryl Torres, Advancement
Autumn Wurstle, English
November 12 **Jeffrey Michel**, Nursing
November 13 **Marty Hamilton**, Financial Administration
Marla Seasily, Biology
November 16 **Tim Cwodzinski**, Visual Art and Design
Adrienne Royo, Modern Languages
November 17 **Lorri Merchant**, Social Work
November 18 **Jim Wampler**, Student Success Center
November 20 **Barbara James**, Nursing
November 21 **Russ Orrison**, Purchasing Services
Sharon Pittman, Global Community Dev.
Len Raney, Plant Services
Bob Young, Academic Administration
November 23 **Elden Ford**, Campus Safety
Stevenson Pangkey, Campus Safety
November 24 **Jason Smith**, Campus Safety
November 25 **Don Hart**, Plant Services
Philip Samaan, Religion
November 26 **Sarah Shelburne**, Human Resources
November 27 **Kimberly Miller**, ASSIST
November 28 **Joyce Azevedo**, Biology
Frances Johnson, Nursing
Robert Montague, Business
November 30 **Taresa Vanderoeff**, Village Market
Crystal Whitten, P.E., Health, and Wellness