

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

When I came to Salem, I was told that the institution was based on principles that set it above other institutions. I was told that the students of Salem believed in these principles and thus, abided by an honor code to prove their belief in these higher principles. Well, Salem, the students have done their part. We have respected the honor code and defended all of the higher principles that Salem set forth before us. My question is, has the administration of this school faithfully upheld its responsibilities as well? The current controversy displays a certain distrust in this administration. The students have openly questioned the validity of information that has been presented to us as fact. Despite numerous attempts to verify the information doubt still lies in the minds of many student. Why is it that the students of Salem College question the reliability of their administration? We don't question the reliability of our faculty! I believe that this is the true controversy. Whether or not the information in question is valid does not represent the basic issue at hand. The point is how effective is the administration of a learning institution when information presented to the population of that institution is doubted? This problem goes much deeper than the resignation of an administrative official. The problem lies in the basic framework of administrative management skills. Questions have been raised about institutional budgeting, the extent of the duties of administrative officials, and the communications network at Salem. Now, as members of the Salem community we must decide to let these problems that have come to the surface continue as we look the other way, or work to change these problems into solutions. After all, what good is an education from an institution based on distrust with only a facade of the principles which it claims to represent? I urge the students, faculty and administration of Salem College to not look the other way and let the problems remain. I urge the Salem community to work to solve these problems and to keep working incessantly until all distrust and doubt is removed from their minds. Please...please, defend the principles that Salem was built on, and change the facade of openness and honesty into the framework and *policy* - of the institution.

Sincerely,
Kara L. Hayes

Dear Editors,

The Executive Board of SGA expressed a desire for more open discussions with the faculty concerning Dean Cobb's resignation. I may be wrong but, my hunch is this: some faculty were bending over backwards not to "use" the students in any way. Plus most faculty themselves were confused about what was appropriate for us or you to do! Be assured that the faculty is willing to work cooperatively; however, we did receive what we took to be good advice from one of our members that we not simply "join forces" with the students but encourage the two entities to act independently. Can we have more open discussion while acting independently? The following letter was sent to the Salem College Community from the faculty and staff:

"Eulalia Cobb was chosen by the Search Committee for the same reasons which make her our choice today as Dean. She is intelligent, intuitive, articulate, and visionary. Most of all, she is joyful, and her sense of esprit de corps has

enlivened this campus. At faculty meetings, on Friday afternoons relaxing in her office during Open House, in committee meetings, in college conferences, in personal conversations with individuals, and in exciting public speeches, she is uniquely Eulalia: refreshing, exhilarating, and full of energy. She has brought radiance to our campus. It attracts us, it will attract others.

To lose her is to let a fire go out which has given us light and warmth, and good times in the midst of hard work. In the face of financial hardships confronting a small woman's college, we need optimism perhaps more than anything else. It is Dean Cobb's optimism which has brought us together and enabled us to go forward with greater energy and greater happiness in our tasks."

The number of faculty and staff who signed this letter to the Salem Community indicates to me that there is not a problem of fear among faculty concerning job security.

Sincerely,
Sid Kelly

Dear Editors,

I would like to express to Dean Cobb the sense of loss I feel in learning of her resignation. I'm sure that it is shared by many others. I respect her decision to leave and her decision to stand by her original memo despite a lot of pressure from students, faculty and administration. Dean Cobb has been an inspiration to us all. She has drawn our college community together through her visions. I have been mesmerized by her orations and have walked away

Dear Editors,

It seems as though every semester since I have been at Salem, I have heard some students complaining about a professor counting a final exam fifty percent of the final grade. Someone always reacts with "They can't do that, can they? Isn't there a rule at Salem that says that exams can't count more than thirty percent?"

This semester I have become involved in just such a case. When I asked the professor, I was told that she had never heard of such a thing and for me to show her such a statement in writing.

I went to an administrator who read to me out of the Faculty Guide "The final exam shall count one-third of the final grade." This administrator then went on to tell me that she felt that this statement was open for interpretation, that the statement meant that the final exam shall count at least one-third of the final grade. I pointed out to the administrator that, in my opinion, the statement was not written as to allow any interpretation. As it had been read to me, it said that the final exam shall count exactly one-third of the final grade, no more and no less.

I passed along what I had learned to my professor. A week or so later she called me into her office and read to me, word for word, the same statement out the Faculty Guide. She also said that she and the Dean felt that the statement was open to the interpretation of at least one-third of the final grade. I pointed out to my professor that there was no qualifier in the statement allowing that assumption to be made.

Without a qualifier, "The final exam shall count one-third of the final grade" leaves no room for interpretation. Saying that the statement can be interpreted as saying that the final exam should count at least one-third of the final grade is like the professor saying that the number of points he/she put by each question on a test was the least amount each question could count.

I must point out I am not upset because my professor is being adamant about her final exam counting fifty percent; we are working on a solution. I am upset because administrators and faculty are taking a statement and reading words into it.

I think it is time that the administration and faculty decide if they want a school policy on what percentage final exams should count in the final grade. Whatever they decide they need to make sure that the students and all of the faculty know and abide by the policy. As it is stated now in the Faculty Guide, the faculty is told that final exams shall count one-third of the final grade and there is no room given for interpretation.

Sincerely,
Pat Oberle

Dear Editors,

I would like to encourage every student to thank Dean Cobb for the dedication and enthusiasm with which she has performed her duties over the last year. Her charm, spirit, and professionalism have represented Salem well. We have been very fortunate to have her share her vision with us and to have been involved in the true spirit of women's education.

Dean Cobb has brought new life

with stronger feelings about who I am and with greater confidence in what I can accomplish as a woman in this century. Dean Cobb's visions and determination continually support us in all of our endeavors. The next institution to which she travels will soon realize how lucky it is. She has meant a great deal to the Salem community in the short time she has been here. I wish her happiness and continued success in the future.

Sincerely,
Tara Newton

to the tradition of progress that is Salem College, and we must strive to maintain the standards which she has set: we must not let Salem's tradition disappear, no matter who leads us in our endeavors. She has made progress beyond all expectations and leaves us with a better institution than we had before. She has been quite an asset to our college and will be missed.

Sincerely,
Karen Lewis