

The Salemite

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The Uncensored Voice Of The Salem Community

October 31, 1989

Dean Eulalia Cobb Resigns

by April Edmondson

Dean Eulalia Benejam Cobb resigned her position as Dean of the College October 9, 1989 (effective July 1, 1990). Her decision, dictated by family considerations, has sparked an emotional outcry from the Salem College community.

Dean Cobb and President Litzenburg decided to wait until October 16 to release Dean Cobb's decision to resign. They chose to do this because the Board of Trustees were scheduled to meet October 11 - 13. Dean Cobb and President Litzenburg felt that the importance of the Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools and Visitation issues being discussed would, somehow, be overshadowed by the news of her resignation. Therefore, the news of Dean Cobb's resignation was not made public to the faculty and staff until October 16.

The students, however, were not informed until October 18. Due to timing, however, many students did not learn of Dean Cobb's decision to resign until their return from fall break on October 22. The students have been informed by Strat Newitt, President of SGA, that an error was made by the President's Office in getting a memo out to the students on October 16.

Due to the numerous concerns over Dean Cobb's resignation, Dean Cobb appealed to the faculty, staff, and students via a memorandum in which she stated that, due to concerns expressed by Mrs. Mary Bryant Newell, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, she wanted to reiterate that the contents of Dr. Litzenburg's memo of October 16, 1989 were "accurate and Correct." Dean Cobb also expressed her appreciation for all of the support and concern that has been shown to her in the last several days.

On October 25 Mary Bryant Newell sent a memo to faculty, staff, and students on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. In this memo Mrs. Newell addressed the sense of loss the community feels and the many contributions of Dean Cobb on behalf and for the Salem College community.

The Executive Committee feels that Dean Cobb's resignation, though unwelcome, should not cause the Salem community to "lose sight of either its mission or the remarkable progress the College is making in addressing various issues of common concern." The Executive Committee not only pledges to continue working vigorously and closely with students, faculty, staff, and alumnae, but they



Dean Cobb, resigning after this academic year, takes a break from her busy day.

also unanimously reaffirm their faith in Dr. Litzenburg and his leadership.

Perhaps the most noted point in this memo is the promise that "the Executive Committee and the

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Visitation Proposal Discussed

by Catherine Davis

Wednesday, October 11, the AD HOC Visitation Committee and the student minority against any further extension of male visitation presented their proposals to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. The ultimate decision will come from the Board of Trustees in February when they will hear a final proposal from both sides.

The written proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee chairman, Mindy Worrell, asks to extend the hours of male visitation to 24 hours on dance weekends. Provisions on the proposal include a roommate contract, bathroom schedule for males, and emphasis of student responsibilities for her guest.

The conditions of the proposal are formed by student concerns and suggestions as indicated on the survey given in the September 12 SGA meeting. Ninety-four percent of

the students who participated in the survey indicated they want change, 6% want no change in the present visitation policy.

After the September 12 SGA meeting a collection of 12 students opposing change in the present visitation policy formed and presented a minority report to the Student Advisory Committee. Leading the opposition, Paige Goza said people had expressed concern that not all possible conflicts had been considered.

The group concerns include property damage, increase of date rape, and unescorted males, to name a few. Goza said that the opposition is not satisfied with the AD HOC Committee's proposal at present, but she said she thinks it can be resolved. Male visitation will not be a choice for everyone and those without guests will be "subjected to men being on the hall," Goza said. Last spring, Miss Worrell circulated a petition

supporting change in the male visitation. This was discussed in the Faculty Advisory Board, Legislative Board, and the Student Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees. Under the advice of the Student Advisory Committee a survey was conducted indicating student concerns which were included in the final proposal.

After the issue became an SGA issue, a formal committee was chosen by Miss Worrell. The committee consists of three senior representatives, Michelle Duffie, Sally Lemmon, Liz Smith; three junior representatives, Katy Glenn, Joanna May, Mindy McLarty; and three sophomore representatives, Debbie Bruce, Anna Harris, Melanie McRae.

This fall in the September 12 SGA meeting another survey was conducted with more detailed choices of the extension of

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Faculty Responds to Resignation

by April Edmondson

As the news of Dean Eulalia Benejam Cobb's resignation spread, tempers began to flair. With the knowledge of this resignation Mrs. Emily Wilson submitted her resignation to President Litzenburg. Other faculty members were literally reduced to tears due to this action.

Dr. Jeff Ersoff said, "I am destroyed. I think it is the worst thing that could have happened to the school. She is such a positive force at Salem...to have been here for such a short time...what is wrong with us that we can't keep someone who fits our needs so well?"

Dr. George McKnight stated, "I'm very unhappy and disappointed. I think its a great loss for the college. I sincerely wish it [Dean Cobb's resignation] had never

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