

Chapter 5

Service

5.1 Overview

During my first five years at Berry I was a committed institutional servant, serving on a variety of committees, chairing a few, and playing an active role in faculty meetings as well as departmental work. Over the past six years I have expanded my service to include significant leadership roles on campus. I served as Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly and was a member of the Quality Enhancement Plan Steering Committee during the 2007-2008 academic year. My efforts to ensure that the faculty had significant input into the QEP process led to me receiving the Voice of Berry Faculty Award in 2008. During the 2010-2011 academic year I served as Chair of Faculty Assembly. In that capacity I successfully campaigned for increased faculty salaries, worked to align the timeline for evaluations with that for pay raises, provided opportunities for faculty input on “new and enhanced programs” and General Education Review, and helped initiate discussions about course credit models. I have also played an active role on the General Education Review Task Force, and proposed some new curricular initiatives.

In addition to these leadership roles, I have continued to work on a wide variety of committees. My service to the department has also expanded, primarily because I am now solely responsible for the operation and maintenance of Berry’s Pew Observatory. I have hosted several public nights at the observatory, as well as visits from groups of elementary and middle school students. I helped create the Viking Solar System Trail and I have hosted guided walks along the trail for school groups. I have served as a guest lecturer in courses ranging from the Berry Kindergarten to Government and English courses at the college. All of this is in addition to my participation in normal departmental service activities (academic advising, BCC 100 and SOAR, Discover Berry, curriculum review, job searches, etc).

I believe I have established myself as a “campus leader.” I do not hesitate to state my own views on important campus issues (in meetings or in my legendarily long emails), but I also work hard to ensure that the faculty as a whole has a strong voice on these issues even when the views of the majority of the faculty differ from my own. I am very involved with the campus community through my participation in intramural sports and Mountain Day Olympics, attendance at campus events, and involvement with the Elementary School. My love for this college has drawn me to become a deeply committed servant of the institution, and I expect this commitment to remain in the years ahead.

Table 5.1 summarizes some of my formal service activities.

The sections that follow provide a detailed list of most of my service activities over the last six years. These activities are categorized as service to my department, service to my School, service to the College, and service to my discipline.

5.2 Service to the Department of Physics, Astronomy, & Geology

- I have participated in typical departmental service activities such as representing the department at Discover Berry and Firsthand Friday, writing recommendation letters for students, and engaging in periodic reviews of our curriculum (including our 2008 external review).

Academic Year	Committees	Panels, Etc.	Advisees
2006-2007	Council on Student Scholarship Center for Teaching Excellence Writing Across the Curriculum Center for Instructional Technology	Berry Innovators Panel	18
2007-2008	Council on Student Scholarship Center for Teaching Excellence (Chair) Center for Instructional Technology Faculty Development Faculty Assembly Executive (Vice Chair) Quality Enhancement Plan Steering	First-Year Faculty Workshop QEP Panel QEP Board Presentation	7
2008-2009	Center for Teaching Excellence Center for Instructional Technology Interfaith Council Academic Council	None	22
2010-2011	Faculty Assembly Executive (Chair) Planning Council Budget Advisory Course Credit Models (ad hoc) General Education Review Task Force	Agora Film Discussion Panel CTE Sabbatical Workshop FA Board Presentations	3
2011-2012	Planning Council Budget Advisory General Education Review Task Force	SCDG Workshop Paul Wallace Lecture Panel	25

Table 5.1: Summary of formal service activities

- I have primary responsibility for the maintenance of our departmental web pages.
- With Chuck Lane and Dan Robb I helped design a new curriculum for our physics major. To support these curricular changes I created a new course (PHY 321) and made major modifications to an existing course (PHY 402I).
- I have served on three job search committees (two for one-year visiting positions in physics, one for a tenure track position in physics).
- I hosted our departmental picnic at my home three times.
- I helped arrange for outside speakers (Paul Wallace and Trinity Allen) to come to Berry.
- Since Fall 2008 I have served as the Director of the Pew Observatory. In this capacity I am responsible for maintenance of the observatory building and telescopes, and for the purchase of new equipment (including our new 14 inch Schmidt-Cassegrain GPS guided telescope). I have hosted numerous public nights for the Berry community and other groups. I have developed a proposal for a new observatory building, and I have created a web site for the observatory (facultyweb.berry.edu/ttimberlake/observatory/, see Appendix G for a printout). I also serve as the faculty advisor for the Berry College Astronomical Society.

5.3 Service to the School of Mathematical & Natural Sciences

- I have been an active participant in School meetings, and I have served as a School representative on several committees.
- I have served as a School representative in meetings with the Board of Trustees and the Board of Visitors.

- I developed a proposal for a new minor in Secondary Science Education as part of the “new and enhanced programs” initiative. That proposal is still under consideration, as far as I know, but no action has been taken on it. My proposal is available in Appendix G.

5.4 Service to Berry College

- I twice taught BCC 100 (Fall 2008 and Fall 2011) and participated in the corresponding SOAR sessions. I have served as an advisor for physics majors and dual-degree engineering students.
- I served on a wide variety of committees as indicated above. Here I would like to highlight my most significant committee work.
 - In 2007-2008 I served on the Council for Student Scholarship and took primary responsibility for the organizing the 2008 Symposium on Student Scholarship.
 - In 2007-2008 I served simultaneously as Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly, Chair of the CTE Advisory Committee, and as a member of the Quality Enhancement Program Steering Committee. I used all three of these roles to ensure that the faculty had significant input into the QEP process by gathering feedback by email and organizing a public forum on the QEP. I also gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees on the QEP. As Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly I also played a major role in developing the college’s new sabbatical policy.
 - In 2010-2011 I served as Chair of Faculty Assembly. I helped to initiate discussion on course models, aligned the schedule for faculty evaluations with the schedule for raises, and organized forums for faculty feedback on “new and enhanced programs” and General Education Review. My most important accomplishment as FA Chair was to negotiate new targets for faculty salaries. These negotiations led to substantial improvement in average faculty salaries in January 2012. For more information on my work as Faculty Assembly Chair see the documents in Appendix G.
 - Since Fall 2010 I have served on the General Education Review Task Force. As a very active member of that task force I proposed a model for General Education. The model recently proposed by the task force has some similarities to the model I developed. I have written (with assistance from other Task Force members) definitions for three Gen Ed goals: Clear and Analytical Reasoning, Understanding Scientific Inquiry, and Understanding Mathematical Inquiry. I have also helped develop student learning outcomes for two goals: Understanding Scientific Inquiry and Understanding Mathematical Inquiry. In addition, I composed the first draft of a “wrapper” or “story” that attempts to tie together all aspects of our General Education program. Documentation of these efforts is provided in Appendix G.
- With Chuck Lane and Dan Robb I created the Viking Solar System Trail, a one-billion-to-one scale model of the solar system painted onto the Viking Trail. The initial idea for this project was mine, and I did much of the design work. Chuck Lane made significant improvements to my design and both Chuck and Dan assisted with the actual painting of the trail. I am continuing to work on creating signs for the trails. Preliminary versions of the signs and other information about the trail can be found at <http://www.berry.edu/academics/science/physics/page.aspx?id=9499>.
- As Director of the Pew Observatory I have hosted numerous star parties and sunspot viewing sessions for the Berry community as well as for school and scout groups.
- I served on Third-Year Review committees for two Berry faculty members (Jennifer Fincham and Dan Robb).
- I served on several college panels: Berry Innovators (Spring 2007), First-Year Faculty Workshop (Spring 2008), Agora film discussion (Spring 2011), CTE Sabbatical Workshop (Spring 2011), CTE Summer Course Development Grant Panel (Fall 2011), and Paul Wallace Lecture Panel (Spring 2012).
- I gave public talks at Berry on subjects ranging from the prime numbers (Fall 2006) to the role of religion in the Copernican Revolution (Spring 2009). My talk on religion in the Copernican Revolution was reprised (by invitation) at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Rome, GA.

- I served as a guest lecturer in classes at a variety of levels: the Child Development Center, Berry Kindergarten (three times), Berry Fourth Grade (five times), Berry Seventh Grade, Michael Bailey's Public Policy course, and Tom Dasher's Contemporary Literature course.

5.5 Service to the Discipline of Physics

- I published reviews of two physics and astronomy books (copies of these reviews are available in Appendix E).
- I reviewed four different manuscripts for the *American Journal of Physics* and one for *The Physics Teacher*.
- I am a reviewer for astronomy simulations submitted to the Open Source Physics collection.
- I served on panel discussions at the *Legacy of R. L. Moore Conference* and the *Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop*.
- I chaired a session at the *2009 European Science Education Research Association Conference*.