

Chapter 5

Service

5.1 Overview

During my time at Berry I have been a committed institutional servant. At the department level this was, perhaps, unavoidable. With only three faculty supporting the physics major it was inevitable that I would be highly involved with a variety of department-level service activities, as are both of the other physics faculty. However, I have been very willing to serve at the School and College level as well. This service has primarily come in the form of committee work. I would like to emphasize, though, that I have done much more than simply show up for committee meetings. I have taken a very active role in each committee on which I served. In particular, I have been very involved in handling technology-related issues (including web design) for a variety of committees. I have served as the chair of two committees and the chair of a subcommittee. I have not shied away from committee related work and in many cases I have volunteered for particular assignments.

In addition to my committee work I have served in several other ways. Some of these other forms of service are formally recognized, such as academic advising and serving on panels. Others are less formal but still vitally important to the functioning of a small college, such as discussions with colleagues and active participation in School and Faculty Assembly meetings. In all of my service activities I believe I have illustrated a genuine commitment to the College and its goals. Table 5.1 summarizes some of my formal service activities.

Academic Year	Committees	Panels, Etc.	Advisees
2001-2002	None	None	0
2002-2003	Freshmen Seminar Book Selection Conson Wilson	Surviving the First Year	17
2003-2004	Conson Wilson (chair) Information Technology Georgia Academy of Science Mtg.	None	8
2004-2005	Conson Wilson (<i>ex officio</i>) Information Technology (chair) Planning Council Spring Topology & Dynamics Conf.	3 rd -Year Review	8
2005-2006	Planning Council Writing-Across-the-Curriculum	3 rd -Year Review Presentation to Board	31

Table 5.1: Summary of formal service activities

The sections that follow provide a detailed list of most of my service activities over the last five 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

- During the 2001-2002 academic year (my first year at Berry) I was an active participant in the five-year review of the physics major.
- Since 2002 I have had the primary responsibility for updating and maintaining the departmental web pages (see www.berry.edu/academics/science/physics/astro/ or printout in Appendix G).
- I planned and hosted the first Physnic, a picnic for physics students and faculty, in April 2002. I hosted the 2005 Physnic as well.
- I helped with renovations of Pew Observatory during Summer 2002.
- I wrote the information sheet for the physics major that is used by the Admissions Office (although some of the information sheet was adapted from material previously created by Dr. Paul Wallace). This information sheet is available in Appendix G.
- I have been an active participant in the redesign of the physics curriculum. In particular I have suggested the creation of new courses such as PHY 402 and PHY 490. I have also obtained WI certification for two courses (PHY 402I and PHY 430I) which had not previously been WI certified.
- I have served as the departmental representative on recruiting trips and at Discover Berry events.
- I compiled the NCATE matrix for the physics major as part of the NCATE review of Berry's teacher education program (see Appendix G for a copy of this document).
- I have been an active participant in the assessment of the physics major.
- I have written recommendation letters for graduate school and summer research programs for a wide variety of students (including several who are not physics majors).
- I have provided mentoring and advice to several physics majors, particularly those who plan to attend graduate programs in physics.
- I have given several presentations to physics students, mostly in conjunction with the Physics & Astronomy Seminar.
- I have arranged for two outside speakers (Dr. David Earnst and Dr. Richard Haglund) to come to Berry to give talks on physics.
- I negotiated the purchase of a *Mathematica* site license for use by the physics and math departments. I am also responsible for the ongoing renewal of this site license.

5.3 Service to the School of Mathematical & Natural Sciences

- I served as my department's representative to the School Sigma Xi committee. We were ultimately able to establish a chapter of Sigma Xi (the Scientific Research Society) at Berry.
- I served on the local arrangements committee for the Georgia Academy of Science meeting held at Berry in March, 2004. My primary contribution was the development of a series of web pages for this meeting (see www.berry.edu/academics/science/gasci/ or printout in Appendix G).
- I served as co-PI (with Eric McDowell, who was the Principal Investigator, and John Graham) on a \$40,000 National Science Foundation grant to host the 2005 Spring Topology and Dynamics Conference at Berry College. The approval letter from the NSF is available in Appendix G. I also served on the local arrangements committee for the conference. My primary contribution was the development of a series of web pages for this conference (see www.berry.edu/academics/science/stdc/ and email from Dr. Eric McDowell in Appendix G).

5.4 Service to Berry College

- I have twice taught BCC 100 (Fall 2002 and Fall 2005).
- I served at several SOAR sessions, including Freshmen and Transfer SOAR sessions.
- I have served as academic advisor to a total of 43 students.
- I have given two presentations to parents of incoming Berry students as part of the Parents College program during the Summer 2003 SOAR sessions. I also served on a question-and-answer panel for parents during Summer 2006 SOAR sessions.
- I served on the Freshmen Seminar Book Selection Committee during the 2002-2003 academic year. As part of this work I helped to evaluate several books for possible use as summer reading for incoming Freshmen.
- I served on the Conson Wilson Committee from Fall 2002 to Spring 2005. During the 2002-2003 academic year I developed a web page for the Conson Wilson lecture series (see www.berry.edu/cwlectures/ or printout in Appendix G). I served as chair of the committee during the 2003-2004 academic year and remained on the committee as an *ex officio* member the following year.
- I served on the Information Technology Committee from Fall 2003 to Spring 2005. During the 2003-2004 academic year I chaired a subcommittee to develop a user satisfaction survey for the committee. I served as chair of the committee during the 2004-2005 year. During my time as chair the survey was completed and administered to all faculty, staff, and students at Berry.
- I served on the Planning Council from Fall 2004 to Spring 2006. During this time most of my work came as part of the working group on ongoing faculty development. This working group created an important document that was presented to the Council in Spring 2006.
- I served on the Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Committee during the 2005-2006 academic year. My primary contribution to the committee was to update the WAC web pages and to add more content, such as a page highlighting course materials from previous WAC Faculty Award winners (see www.berry.edu/wac/award/AwardCourses.asp or printout in Appendix G). I will remain on this committee during the 2006-2007 academic year.
- I served on a panel entitled *Surviving the First Year* presented by the Center for Teaching Excellence during the 2002-2003 academic year.
- I have twice served on the Third-Year Review Panel organized by the Center for Teaching Excellence.
- In February, 2006 I gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees on inquiry-based instruction at Berry. This presentation was given at the request of the Provost and the Director of the CTE. An email relating to this presentation is available in Appendix G.
- I have given talks to several on-campus groups. I have participated in a staged debate on the Cantor Set with Dr. Ron Taylor for his MAT 105 class. We have also staged this debate for an open audience at Berry and again for a group of mathematics students at Lee University. In addition, I have given a presentation to the Berry Philosophy Club and to Dr. Jeffrey Lidke's religion and ecology course. Letters/emails about these presentations are available in Appendix G.
- I have organized a Faculty/Staff men's intramural soccer team every Fall since 2002.
- I participated in the Mountain Day Olympics in 2003 and 2005 and captained the Faculty/Staff team in 2004.

5.5 Service to the Discipline of Physics

- I have served as a manuscript reviewer for the *American Journal of Physics* (see list of AJP reviewers in Appendix G).
- I have served as a grant proposal reviewer for the Research Foundation of the City University of New York (see invoice for the honorarium I received for completing this review in Appendix G).