



THE SBC ALLY



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BUSH VISITS SEBTS

Dr. L. Russ Bush, III, visited the Southeastern Seminary campus on Friday, January 27, to discuss with faculty and students his nomination as the new Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. If anything came from the visit, it was certainly an increased sense of apprehension on the part of faculty members and moderate students who met with the proposed administrator.

Dr. Bush spoke with the SEBTS Student Council and the leaders of both the SEBTS SBA and the SEBTS Conservative Evangelical Fellowship. During the meeting the Steering Committee of the SEBTS SBA sought to stand with the SEBTS faculty by issuing a statement to Dr. Bush requesting that he withdraw his name from consideration for the administrative position. A full copy of this statement has been released to each SEBTS SBA member.

Dr. Bush was quite candid about his views, according to students who attended the meeting. He made known his conviction that only "Southern Baptist Biblical inerrantists" should be allowed to teach at Southeastern. Despite increasing opposition to his coming, Dr. Bush assured the students that it was "God's ultimate will" that he come to Southeastern.

Dr. Bush continually commented that Southern Baptists are above all a "Confessional people." Don't you mean creedal, Dr. Bush?

FUTURE OF THE SBA

Rumors abound of late concerning the future of the Southern Baptist Alliance. Many students seem to believe that the Alliance will soon become a new Convention. This may, indeed, occur at some point if the Southern Baptist Convention continues to become increasingly more rigid and exclusive. A break will apparently not occur in the near future, however, and Alliance members currently seek to function as participants in the SBC. From its beginnings, the Alliance has existed to pro-actively support traditional Baptist principles.

In a recent meeting with the SEBTS SBA Steering Committee, newly appointed SBA Executive Director Dr. Stan Hastey stated: "If the Southern Baptist Convention is able, by God's grace, to rectify its course from the recent headlong dive into authoritarianism, it may yet be spared from self destruction."

"With such reform, for the foreseeable future the SBA would remain essentially what it is today - a fellowship of Southern Baptists determined to preserve and pass on to the next generation our common heritage of freedom. . . Should such revision not occur, however, it is certainly true that there are some believers who are simply unwilling to cease being truly Baptist in order to remain Southern Baptist."

ACCREDITATION?

One of the most pressing issues currently facing Southeastern Seminary is the question of academic accreditation. Both of the agencies that currently accredit Southeastern sent task forces to the campus during the fall semester to investigate alleged violations of policies governing academic accreditation.

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) issued an unfavorable report sighting an obvious lack of compliance with its policies by the Southeastern trustees and administration. Yet, the most scathing reprimands were issued by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in a report issued in early December. That report was conspicuously withheld by the SEBTS administration until well into the Christmas break, when most students were away from the Southeastern campus for the holidays.

In the report, SACS noted infractions by SEBTS in four areas: faculty selection, academic freedom, organization, and administration. Most of the citations related to the improper involvement of the Board of Trustees in the administrative process.

The report states that "The trustees have sought to bring changes about by rather arbitrarily infringing upon the established traditions of the school and ignoring its integrity," which has been "deleterious to the life and well-being of the seminary."

An especially harsh indictment was dispensed in the section on the issue of academic freedom at Southeastern. The report states that the seminary "is not functioning effectively as a scholarly community at present; nor is it functioning in conformity with the accreditation criteria. . . There has been a lack of regard for due process, institutional traditions, and principles of academic freedom."

In the area of faculty appointment, SACS noted that the Trustee Committee on Instruction had improperly assumed the joint role of the faculty and its Dean in recommending faculty candidates. The

report noted that this same violation was occurring in the selection of a new faculty Dean.

This raises a particular concern at the moment considering that L. Russ Bush will apparently become Southeastern's new Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the faculty despite the faculty's unanimous ruling that he is the only one of a number of proposed candidates that is "absolutely unacceptable" for the position. Could this blatant disregard for the faculty and policy of Southeastern be the end of our accreditation?

Dr. Drummond reported to the Raleigh News and Observer on January 10 that the seminary has been given until December 1989 to meet accreditation standards. Dr. Drummond called this "good news for the seminary." Perhaps he knows something we do not!?

THE ADVOCATE VS. ACCREDITATION

From editorial in Jan. '89 issue of the Southern Baptist Advocate:

The Fundamentalist paper SBC Advocate is proposing to the 1989 SBC at Las Vegas that a committee be established to study the wisdom of discontinuing SBC affiliation with any outside accrediting agencies for our seminaries in favor of our own agency and accrediting standards.

SEBTS SBA EVENTS

Friday Chapter Meetings:

Every 3rd Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Ledford Multipurpose Room

Tuesday Evening Chapter Meetings:

Every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Ledford M.P.R.

Wednesday Luncheon Gatherings:

Wednesdays 11:00 to 1:00, in the back room of SEBTS Cafeteria.

NEXT WEEK IN THE ALLY

- (1) Notes from the Jan. 27 SEBTS SBA meeting with Dr. Morris Ashcraft,
- (2) Report concerning a visit to SEBTS by an investigative task force of the AAUP, and
- (3) SEBTS's endangered accreditation.