

From: [McCormick, Adrienne](#)
To: [Faculty Conference](#)
Subject: Friday Features: Midterm (we made it) and Faculty Manual updates
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:44:12 PM

Hello All,

Congratulations on making it to mid-term! I know you are all coaching and supporting students through mid-term work and preparing to check in with advisees as we gear up for Spring 2021 course selection. I hope you can take a moment to appreciate that we've gotten to this point, that our campus policies have been effective in keeping COVID-19 case rates manageable, and that we are continuing the crucial work of educating and supporting Winthrop students.

I wanted to share with you some data provided by Associate Provost for Student Success and Dean of University College, Jamie Cooper. We have seen a doubling of students referred to the Academic Success Center this Fall compared to last Fall. As of October 5, 220 academically vulnerable students have been referred to ASC by faculty compared to 109 at this time last year. 42% of these students are first-time students. They are evenly distributed across the four degree-granting colleges. I mention this to alert advisors to the opportunity to check in with your students on their overall progress during your advising check-ins, especially with first-year students. A question from you on how they are navigating the challenges of this semester will bolster efforts in other areas to reach the most vulnerable students. Please encourage them to respond to any prompts from ASC or ACAD staff in terms of their first-semester performance. An advising session is a also great opportunity to remind students of some of the basics of a growth mindset, namely that early failures can be a solid platform for future learning and are not necessarily a sign that they aren't cut out for college, for example. Carol Dweck's research has been a great resource on the importance of encouraging students (of any age) to learn from productive failure and to see failure as an important part of the learning process. I encourage you to share this mindset with any of your students who may be struggling with early failures in their college learning experiences thus far. One website that does a good job of summarizing her work is <https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/>. This website documents the work Dweck has done with learning in P-12 contexts, but this work applies to college students just as well. Here's a link to an article by Ken Bain reflecting on Dweck's work in his book, *[What the Best College Students Do](#)*, (i.e. learn how to embrace failure and push past it to continue the process of learning).

Members of ALC and I remain busy working on our Academic Master Planning and policy review processes. I am excited to announce that the first phase of the [Faculty Manual](#) revision is complete. We have posted the updated Faculty Manual on the Academic Affairs website, even though we have additional updates to make, because the former document was so out of date. If you check back in the coming weeks, you will see additional updates as we add sections on Dacus Library and continue to add policies where there are gaps in the Policy Repository. I hope you are as excited as I am to see progress on things such as policy updates. While it's not very glamorous work, these updates are crucial to keeping our processes moving smoothly. I hope our efforts in this area will have at least a small impact on improving morale as we navigate the challenges of this academic year.

Have a great weekend.

Best,
Adrienne

Adrienne McCormick, Ph.D.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Winthrop University

115 Tillman Hall

Rock Hill, SC 29733

803/323-2220

www.winthrop.edu

mccormicka@winthrop.edu