

**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY**  
**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES**  
September 1, 2000

Academic Council met on Friday September 1, 2000 at 2:00 pm in 302 Tillman Hall.

**Members:**

William Thacker	<i>Computer Science</i>	Angela Letourneau	<i>Business</i>	Gale Teaster	<i>Library</i>
Ray Dockery	<i>Education</i>	David Letourneau	<i>Finance</i>	Jonatha Vare	<i>Education</i>
Anne Fletcher	<i>Theatre and Dance</i>	Paul Martyka	<i>Art &amp; Design</i>	Lois Walker	<i>Library</i>
Kent Foster	<i>Computer Science</i>	Jonathan Marx	<i>Sociology</i>	Virginia Williams	<i>History</i>
Karen Kedrowski	<i>Political Science</i>	Jean Silagyi- Rebovich	<i>Human Nutrition</i>	Rodney Brown*	<i>SGA</i>
Katherine Kinsey	<i>Music</i>	Julian Smith	<i>Biology</i>	Tim Druke	<i>Secretary</i>
Heakyung Lee	<i>Mathematics</i>				

\* Absent

**Guests present:**

Melford Wilson	Debra Boyd	Marielon Ratliff
Karen Jones	Bud Catter	Jo Tarvers
Andrew Svedlow	Alice Burmeister	Wanda DeLeo
Betsy Brown	Tom Moore	Alan Huston
Margaret Williamson	Jeff Sinn	Marilyn Sarrow
Kathy Lyon	Seymour Simmons	

**I. Minutes from the April 7, 2000 meeting were approved.**

**II. Report from Academic Affairs**

Dr. Melford Wilson reported on the retreat at Bethelwoods, indicating there was a good presentation by the general education task force regarding the two courses in development and the various competencies. There was good debate and was a good kickoff for the year. Janice Chism has been appointed the chair of the Science Competencies committee and Dr. Wilson will send out an e-mail indicating the other members of the committee. Last year Winthrop requested 4 new faculty FTE positions, which were granted this year. Dr. Wilson also reported Winthrop once again received an "Exceeds" rating in performance funding. This coming year, though, the rule will be changed so it will be very difficult to once again receive an "exceeds" rating. Dr. Wilson also informed the council that 25 new faculty started this fall semester.

**III. Committee Reports**

**A. General Education Task Force**

Ray Dockery provided a short synopsis of the last three years of work by the General Education task force. Over the summer two groups of faculty worked to develop the first two pilot courses: Critical Thinking and The Human Experience I. Wanda DeLeo

chaired the Critical Thinking development group, and Tom Moore chaired the Human Experience I group. Ray asked the Council to review the materials and provide any comments and concerns prior to bringing the proposed pilot courses to Faculty Conference.

Tom Moore and Wanda DeLeo made a few comments regarding each course and referenced the memo included as part of the materials provided to the council. Tom Moore indicated the course development groups would like the Council to approve offering three sections of each course over two semesters.

The Council agreed to discuss each course separately starting with GNED101X – Critical Thinking. Discussion began on GNED101X.

It was moved and seconded to remove the X designation on GNED101X and limit the course be offered for one year only. After discussion covering the meaning of the ‘X’ designation and concerns regarding the use and evaluation of the course, the motion failed.

It was then moved and seconded to suspend the rules to allow for a two semester X designation. After discussing the number of available sections and the need to offer the class over two semesters to get enough good data for evaluation, the question was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued on how to include the course in the current general education program to encourage student registration. The course development groups suggested the courses be included as options in areas III, IV, V and VI unless the student’s degree requires specific courses. The development groups indicated the usage of the courses in several areas in the current general education program would encourage more students to register for the pilot courses. The council expressed concerns regarding using the courses in too many areas in lieu of courses currently included in general education. The council also discussed the need for specific courses in certain degree programs and for accreditation purposes.

It was moved and seconded that this approval will not preempt any program, accreditation or the constitution requirement. The motion passed unanimously.

It was then moved and seconded that any GNED course may not be used to meet any area where English or History courses are required. After discussion the motion failed.

It was then moved and seconded that GNED101X may not be taken by anyone other than freshman, sophomores and new transfers. The motion passed.

It was then moved and seconded that both courses may be offered for up to 3 sections of 18 to 24 students during the Spring and Fall of 2001. The motion passed unanimously.

It was then moved and seconded to approve an identical set of motions for GNED102X. The motion passed unanimously.

It was then moved and seconded to approve the courses as presented to Academic Council with the approved changes and forward to Faculty Conference for approval as experimental courses for Spring and Fall 2001. The motion passed.

### **B. Committee on Undergraduate Instruction**

Jonatha Vare, chair, introduced the new members of CUI: Dave Letourneau, Jonathan Marx and Katherine Kinsey; and the fall meeting dates: September 27, November 1, and November 29.

### **V. Old Business**

The report from the rules committee will be presented at the next meeting.

### **VI. New Business**

Chair Will Thacker requested anyone who has any specific tasks for the new year forward them to him.

### **VII. Elections**

Jean Silagyi-Rebovich was elected Vice-chair of Academic Council and Chair of the Financial Exigency committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.