

## Faculty Conference February 12, 1999

### I. Minutes

Minutes from the November 20th faculty conference were approved as distributed.

### II. Opening Remarks -- Dr. Tom Moore

Dr. Moore reported on the Board of Trustees' February 5th meeting and subsequent weekend retreat. At the meeting, the board approved the Post-tenure Review Policies and Procedures as they were passed by the faculty conference. The board also approved the creation of a program for a Masters of Education in Middle-Level Education.

Dr. Moore described the weekend retreat as "as good an experience as I've been a part of with the Board." Richard Morrill, former president of the University of Richmond, spoke Friday evening on negotiating the conflicts between the academic values of the professorate and the instrumental values of the institution in order to achieve a "shared governance." Dr. Moore said, "The nail he pounds is you must . . . come to some shared understanding of institutional identity that produces commitment to things that transcend the conflicts."

Professor Morrill's talk provided a segue to Saturday morning's discussion of distinctive directions and the role General Education has as Winthrop plans "to move from being a competitive institution to being truly distinctive." At the retreat, Dr. Moore presented various means of achieving the goals of integration and connections within the Winthrop curriculum, including cluster courses, interdisciplinary courses scattered through the curriculum, and a four-year sequence of thematic seminars.

The *York Observer* reported the board members' particular enthusiasm for the freshman-through-senior course sequence, Dr. Moore said, necessitating a clarification that any changes in General Education remain in the planning phase and that he had spoken only of personal ideas for possible changes.

Dr. Moore also reported the board's assessment of Winthrop resources and faculty/staff salaries as less than average. Winthrop's salaries are just at the Southern Association's requirement of no more than approximately 80% of the total budget. Dr. Moore said, "which says to the board and everybody else that we have some resource problems at Winthrop, that if our salaries are low and they comprise essentially the maximum allowed percentage of the budget, then the whole budget must be low." The board then discussed resource needs and potential new sources for revenue.

The board spent Saturday afternoon in a question and answer session with the Winthrop Leadership Team, comprised of various administrators, faculty, and staff. The opportunity for the board to ask specific questions about particular programs of the appropriate people was beneficial, Dr. Moore said, and the practice will likely continue.

Dr. Moore and Student Government Association president Trevor Beaufort participated in the board's discussion of the Association

Governing Board's Self Study which was done in executive session on Sunday morning.

### **III. Report from the President -- Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio**

The president affirmed the "very, very positive spirit" of the retreat, citing it as "one of our very best."

Dr. DiGiorgio reported on his presentations to the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee and to the Senate Finance Committee. The president said Winthrop will probably "see some new money" out of the \$63,000,000 available to higher education. Dr. DiGiorgio also said that Winthrop will command about 11% of the deferred maintenance budget. The president also spoke to the committees about both increasing scholarship money and the faculty/staff salary issue. Only three institutions (USC, Clemson, and Winthrop) cited low salaries as a concern in their presentations, the president said. Dr. DiGiorgio also reported that he has begun a movement to get interest in repealing sales tax paid by public entities in South Carolina. Only one other state shares this practice, he said.

The "largest prize in this year's legislation" is the progress made in a proviso giving support to graduate students in the Carolina Partnership Area. It has passed the Higher Education Subcommittee, Dr. DiGiorgio said, and must pass a "positively disposed" full House Ways and Means Committee. He predicted that the initiative will likely face more heated debate in the House of Representatives, where the initiative would then proceed.

The president noted that the Capital Campaign fundraising is "moving forward apace."

The president thanked all who participated in producing the post-tenure review document.

### **IV. Report from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs -- Dr. Melford Wilson**

Dr. Wilson described the ADA's accreditation visit to the Department of Human Nutrition as excellent: "it could not have been more positive."

Dr. Wilson said that searches to replace the Dean of the Library and the Dean of Education are going well and encouraged faculty to use word of mouth to assist in advertising the vacancies.

Dr. Wilson described the Strategic Plan, necessary for performance funding, as similar to the post-tenure review: "not everybody will be happy with it." He added that "lots and lots of compromises" were necessary within the seven committees that wrote it and that the document is not static or fixed, but subject to ongoing change. Suggested revisions to the Mission Statement and the Vision of Distinction within the Strategic Plan will be considered in a separate process in the spring, he said.

The Strategic Plan is distinguished by re-orienting a description of Winthrop as "learning-centered" rather "teaching-centered." The new phrasing shifts emphasis from the teacher to the relationship between the student and teacher. The document re-affirms Winthrop as a value-driven institution, Dr. Wilson said.

A motion was made to amend the Strategic Plan to identify the Winthrop Woods as part of the school's planning and to re-affirm the acreage as an instructional area for students and faculty. The motion was passed and will be added to the Strategic Plan.

Faculty then voted to endorse the Strategic Plan, recommending it to the Board of Trustees for their consideration.

## V. Committee Reports

A. Chairperson Marsha Bollinger reported that the Academic Council endorsed a proposal by the General Education Committee to resume general education testing with Winthrop seniors this spring in order to comply with SACS standards. The Vice-President for Academic Affairs will work with deans and chairs to identify a sample of seniors.

The council also endorsed the inclusion of Introduction to African American Studies (AAMS 300) in Area IV of the General Education Distribution Requirements.

Council also approved the immediate formation of a General Education Task Force to complete the creation of a new general education program. In addition to the present General Education committee, nine additional members were appointed by the chair of Academic Council: faculty members Seymour Simmons, Wanda DeLeo, Tom Moore, Houston Craighead, Dwayne Brown; administrators Betsy Brown and Karen Jones (as ex-officio members); and undergraduates Lia Newman and Cindy Bowman. The task force will report to Academic Council.

After Karen Jones of Academic Affairs presented data on academic probation and eligibility, Academic Council created a sub-committee to report on the following to Council: the number of enrolled hours for students on probation; the minimum cumulative GPA by class to be placed on probation and removed from probation; semester GPA required to continue on probation without being suspended; and hours required for classification into freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Dr. Bollinger encouraged quick responses from faculty approached for opinions. Comments on these topics can be directed to Kent Foster, Jean Silagyi-Rebhovich, or Jonatha Vare.

B. Marilyn Sarow, Chair of the General Education Task Force, reported that the committee's work to date culminated in a set of working principles that will shape the committee's work in the future. These principles are to be e-mailed to faculty.

Professor Sarow said that the committee has studied the General Education programs from Michigan State University, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, Portland State University, Sanford University, James Madison University, Milliken University, Wagner College, and Franklin Pierce College.

Professor Sarow reported a 52% faculty response to the General Education survey. These results will later be presented to individual colleges. Survey results showed faculty interests include integration, interdisciplinary studies, introductions to multiple disciplines that offer both breadth and depth.

The goal of the Task Force is to bring several working models by the end of March so that faculty can begin a dialogue on additions

and revisions. The Task Force hopes for a much more extended reworking process during the summer.

#### **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **VII. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **VIII. Announcements**

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:06.

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