

Faculty Conference Minutes April 23, 1999

I. Minutes

Minutes of the March 19 Faculty Conference meeting were approved as distributed.

II. Opening Remarks -- Dr. Thomas Moore

Dr. Moore expressed thanks for his recent re-election as faculty conference chair, adding that faculty comments and ideas were welcome.

At the April Board of Trustees meeting the board adopted the strategic plan and the procedures for post-tenure review.

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

Dr. DiGiorgio described the preceding year at Winthrop as exceptional, citing as examples: reaching the \$16,000,000 mark of the Capital Campaign's \$26,000,000 goal; the "taking shape" of the Close Scholar's Program; the Martin Luther King celebration negotiations; the new life sciences building; successful program accreditation reviews in dietetics, social work, and computer science; the initiation of card key access to campus buildings; the wellness and fitness center at Wofford Hall; the achievements of both the men's basketball and baseball teams; the release of the Music Department's CD "Lift Your Voices" and the upcoming release of the Jazz Ensemble's CD; the continued recognition of Dinkins Student Union; and the second year of devoting \$500,000 to technology on campus.

Dr. DiGiorgio congratulated Professors Debra C. Boyd and Gary T. Brooks for becoming chairs of the English and Mathematics Departments, respectively. He thanked Professors Nick Ross and Sarah Stallings for their "wonderful work" in organizing the SACS self-study.

The President cited ongoing legislative issues for Winthrop: faculty salaries; science equipment; capital projects including renovations to Peabody Hall; proviso for lowered graduate tuition passing the Senate; and performance funding.

Dr. DiGiorgio also recognized Karen Kedrowski of Arts and Sciences as Outstanding Junior Professor and Darrell F. Parker of Business as Distinguished Professor.

The Faculty/Staff awards and retirement ceremony is next Wednesday, April 28.

IV. Report from the Vice President -- Dr. Melford Wilson

Dr. Wilson affirmed that Winthrop had enjoyed an exceptional year, pointing particularly to the "numerous intangibles" such as

helping recruit students and solid teaching and working with our students. He added that committees will meet after the faculty conference and elect new chairs.

V. Reports from Committees

A. Academic Council. Marsha Bollinger, Chair. Faculty voted to approve the Academic Council's recommendation that Spring Semester 2000 begin on Tuesday, rather than the usual Wednesday to accommodate class rescheduling for the Martin Luther King Holiday, January 17th. On Tuesday, January 11th, students will attend all Monday classes in order to make up for not having classes on Monday January 17.

After lengthy discussion, faculty voted to table the Academic Council recommendation for an intervention policy for students placed on probation.

Faculty voted to approve a new category of honor graduate for students whose performance at Winthrop warrants honors, but whose earlier performance at another institution brings the combined grade point average (which is used for honors designation) below the honors level.

Dr. Bollinger said that the SGA has requested that Winthrop's grading policy be changed to include pluses. Dr. Bollinger said the council will study the proposal and discuss changes in the upcoming academic year.

B. General Education. Marilyn Sarow, Chair. Professor Sarow reported that the General Education Task Force has developed and distributed several models for a general education program. The task force desired feedback and opinions of these models.

C. Budget Priorities. Steve Million, Chair. Dr. Million reported that the Budget Priorities Committee had met several times through the spring semester. The committee is working to clarify and implement procedures by which they can participate effectively in the budgeting process.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

The Graduate Faculty meeting to follow Faculty Conference was announced.



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