

Conference Minutes
Frances May Barnes Recital Hall
August 17, 2001

I. Approval of the minutes from the April 13, 2001 Faculty Conference

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm with 114 faculty members in attendance. The minutes of the April 13, 2001 Faculty Conference were approved with two changes. In the last line of section III, Report from the President, accommodations was changed to commendations. In section IV, Committee Reports, the correct spelling of the Kerley method was changed in the report from the Faculty Personnel Committee.

II. Opening Remarks

The chair announced that Marge Moody, Assistant Professor of Art and Design, agreed to serve as Secretary of the Faculty Conference. Dr. Ed Lee, Associate Professor of History, agreed to serve as Parliamentarian.

III. Report from the June 8, 2001 Board of Trustees Meeting

Since two months had passed since the June 8, 2001 Board of Trustees meeting, the chair did not want to repeat what had already been reported in the newspapers. The main business of the June meeting concerned resolutions passed by the board regarding the president's evaluation, salary recommendations and contract extension. The chair invited questions and urged anyone requiring more information to contact him.

The chair reported the main items of business from each of the three standing committees of the board. The Academic Affairs Committee dealt with conferring emeritus status on 13 retired colleagues, heard reports about tenure and promotion, and reviewed the SACS report. The Finance Committee resolved to increase student fees (since rebated for the fall, but not the spring, semester) and to sell land to the city of Rock Hill for a turn-lane in front of the Bookworm. The University Relations Committee had reports from the Capital Campaign, the Annual Fund, the Athletic Department (student athletes have a 71% graduation rate compared to a 54% rate for the rest of the student body) and that Aramark will continue to serve as food vendor for the next seven years.

IV. Report from the President

President Digiorgio welcomed everyone, especially new faculty. He said he would give updates and reminders about certain issues without repeating himself from his opening address given the previous Wednesday; he encouraged people to read his remarks on the web page. He said Winthrop was in for an "ambitious year" with a large number of important issues. The Vision of Distinction information was soon to be in faculty mailboxes. The President reminded faculty that residence halls would open at 9am the following day (Saturday, August 18) and mentioned that a new system to handle traffic was to be implemented. He also indicated that it had been a very ambitious summer regarding facilities upgrades and improvements. The President said that the actual enrollment figures would not be known for several more weeks, but that it appeared that the total number of students attending Winthrop this fall would be around 6,200 to 6,300 compared to 6,062 for the Fall Semester of 2000. The President gave an update on changes to campus parking, saying that the Life Sciences lot would be back in operation very soon and that a temporary lot would be created with the closure of Water Street to through traffic. Enforcement of parking regulations will be increased this year to include evening enforcement (4 pm – 9 pm).

In terms of state funding, the President commented that Winthrop got through last year better than had been anticipated. He said that it is likely, however, that this year will be a "very difficult year".

The President concluded his report by reminding faculty about Convocation on Tuesday, August 21 and also about the Welcome Back Party on Friday, August 24.

V. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Wilson welcomed the faculty, both new and returning. He gave special thanks for the work being done arranging and rearranging schedules, opening new courses, covering existing courses and finding and hiring new part-time faculty, especially in light of the number of positions left open last year. He and

others attended a conference dealing with sustainable innovations. Campus-wide discussions are to follow some of the themes outlined in this conference.

Dr. Wilson introduced each of the Deans, who in turn introduced new faculty from their respective divisions.

VI. Committee Reports

Dr. Julian Smith reported for Academic Council. He announced the following meeting dates for this academic year: Sept. 14, Oct. 26, Jan. 25, March 1, April 5. He went on to say that he expected General Education to be a dominant theme on this year's agenda.

Dr. Janice Chism, chair of the Faculty Concerns Committee, reported that there were many issues last year, but that this year the committee would attempt to focus on a few key issues. She also noted that there were three meetings with the President last year and hoped to have the same number this year. She will be sending out an email inviting questions and concerns from the faculty for discussion.

Gale Teaster, chair of the Budget Priorities Committee reported that she attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees Finance Committee on the June 8, 2001. She indicated that the Budget Priorities Committee planned to hold monthly meetings this academic year and that she would send out an email to solicit input from the faculty.

Pat Ballard, chair of the Rules Committee, reported that the committee would be taking up a question about election tallying procedures. Specifically the committee will address concerns over the proper application of the Kerley method of voting. She indicated the committee hoped to have something to report to Faculty Conference before the end of this semester.

Dr. Will Thacker, chair of the General Education Committee, introduced Marilyn Sarrow who gave an update on recent general education initiatives. Bud Katter reviewed the student evaluations of the general education pilot courses from last semester.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business

VIII. New Business

There was no new business

IX. Announcements

Jim Johnston announced the next faculty conference would be on Friday, September 28, 2001 and that there would be a Graduate Faculty Assembly immediately following adjournment.

Tim Druke announced that the exam schedule for this semester was posted on the web page. He also indicated that his office was working to complete a new initiative that would allow faculty to conduct on-line audits for their advisees.

Roger Baumgarte announced that there were 46 new international students this year representing 33 different countries. He urged faculty to encourage students who wish to enter study abroad programs to do so before the end of their sophomore year rather than later in their college careers.

Antje Mays announced that Dacus Library would be holding a book sale on Monday, August 20 at the library.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Moody