

**Winthrop University Faculty Conference Minutes**  
**September 28, 2001**  
**Frances May Barnes Recital Hall**

I. **Quorum and Approval of the Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 2.05pm with 83 faculty members attending. A motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum was approved. The minutes from the August 17 Faculty Conference were approved as submitted.

II. **Opening Remarks**

The Chair called for a moment of silence in memory of the victims and families of the September 11 terrorist attack.

The Chair asked the faculty to familiarize themselves with the various goals and objectives of the Vision of Distinction and encouraged them to get involved.

He proposed that, in future, the minutes be distributed by e-mail. After some discussion, a motion was unanimously approved authorizing the Chair of Faculty Conference to distribute the minutes electronically and that he use his discretion as to how this would best be done.

The next faculty Conference is November 9th, a week after the Board of Trustees meeting.

III **Report from the President**

Dr DiGiorgio talked about the appalling events of September 11. He thanked the faculty for the many ways in which they had helped the students through this difficult time, retaining a sense of normality. He thanked the Political Science department for initiating the recent forums on terrorism, providing an opportunity for the Campus and the Community to come together.

The President indicated that Congressman John Spratt had described the national economy as being in a state of 'free-fall of deficit spending'. The recession was described as a 'bath-tub' recession, i.e., sharply down, extended on the bottom and then sharply rising. There will, very likely, be a recession of 2 - 4% and Winthrop would have to prepare itself in 2 ways:

1) utilizing resulting resources from increased student enrollment, not yet allocated

2) through a possible reduction in the operating budget

The President pointed out that Capital (building) projects will continue, as they come from a different source of revenue, but it was not possible to estimate the effect the economy would have on such projects. Sims renovation was almost finished and should be ready for classes in Spring 2002.

The Capital Campaign was very slow at the moment due to the economy. Winthrop is 2 - 2 1/2 million dollars away from the goal.

Dr DiGiorgio asked the faculty to help dispel rumors that abound when circumstances are difficult. He mentioned that approximately 27 students are eligible for military call-up although none had yet been called.

On closing, he invited questions and/or comments from the floor.

IV **Report from the Vice President**

Dr Wilson added his thanks for the calm way in which the faculty had handled the recent terrorist situation, pointing out that this would be the first time this generation of students has had to face up to any such national crisis. He mentioned that this could be a very 'teachable moment' in that, in a free society, it is perfectly normal for educated people to disagree.

The recent 'National Survey of Student Engagement' has been completed and Dr Joe Prus was to send it out on e-mail to faculty.

Dr Wilson spoke of 3 recent reports, all of which were good. They were:

(1) faculty/student involvement in undergraduate research was very impressive

(2) the increase in the number of foreign students attending Winthrop. He commended Tara Brown of the International Center for her work in this regard.

- the increase in the number of students studying abroad. This had greatly increased from the one student of 15 years ago. He praised faculty for taking short trips abroad with students.

(3) student engagement in 'service learning' was growing at a tremendous rate. Dr Wilson credited faculty for this success.

V

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Rules Committee**

Pat Ballard reported with appreciation that, regarding the election tallying procedures investigation, Frank Pullano of the Mathematics department and Kent Foster, Chair of Computer Science & Quantitative methods, had been working with the Rules Committee to resolve the discrepancy in election results with the Kerley method of voting.

Frank Pullano demonstrated to the faculty how the Kerley method works, stressing the importance of completing the ballot. A faculty member asked whether the Kerley method might be replaced with another system of voting and was referred by the Chair to the Rules Committee, as being the appropriate body to entertain any such recommendations.

The Rules Committee hopes to have a recommendation ready by the next faculty conference.

#### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee passed out ballots for an election to complete the 2001-2002 term of Sue Lyman on the Faculty Concerns committee. There were no nominations from the floor. On the following Monday (Oct. 1), the Faculty Conference secretary collected an additional 5 ballots from Library. Following tabulation of the votes by the Kerley method, Haney Howell, Arts & Sciences won the election.

#### **Academic Council**

Julian Smith reported that Academic Council, in its meeting of Sept 14, had approved 2 proposals from the General Education Committee and had discussed a third. The first proposal approved was the piloting of GNED 201X Human Experience II 'Ways Of Knowing'. The second proposal, to make GNED 101X & 102X permanent courses was withdrawn as it was decided that the proposal was premature. After substantive discussion, Academic Council unanimously approved the third proposal, to pilot GNED 101X and GNED 102X for another 2 semesters (02S & 02F).

Regarding the report from Gale Teaster on the CIS Program Review, it was decided that the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Chair of Academic Council would review this and make recommendations to Academic Council and to the General Education Task Force.

#### **General Education Task Force**

Marilyn Sarow announced that the committee would be meeting with the President and issues regarding the latest proposals would be brought to the faculty as a 'total package'.

#### **Faculty Concerns**

Janice Chism announced that the committee had a scheduled meeting with Dr DiGiorgio on October 31st. A sub-group would be meeting with Frank Ardaiolo and LeeAnn Johnson to discuss issues related to the Bookworm. She extended an invitation to any faculty interested in participating in the dialogue to attend. Faculty should e-mail her or Alice Burmeister, co-chair of the committee, their concerns.

VI

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business

VII

#### **New Business**

There was no new business

VIII

#### **Announcements**

Jim Johnston announced that the Graduate Faculty Assembly would be meeting directly after Faculty Conference.

IX

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3.05pm

Respectfully submitted, Marge Moody