

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
August 20, 2004
2:00 pm
Plowden Auditorium

I. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2004 Faculty Conference

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the April 23 Faculty Conference were approved.

II. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dr. Smith introduced herself and welcomed faculty to this year's opening meeting.

III. Report from the June 10-11, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting

Dr. Smith reported that the Winthrop University Board of Trustees met in Executive Session on June 10, 2004 to discuss the annual performance evaluation of the President, recognize this year's accomplishments, and approve goals for next year. The faculty and student representatives were invited to attend and participate. Dr. Smith described how the standing committees of the Board met in the morning of June 11. A budget workshop was then held, during which Dr. DiGiorgio reviewed the national and state trends of decreases in higher education funding, as well as the HEPI and CPI. Dr. Smith reported that he suggested the Board must "keep its commitments to" the following:

1. the quality enhancements approved in 2002 (salaries, facilities, and technology),
2. other Board-endorsed priorities (General Education, University College, and consideration of Nature and Character recommendations),
3. new initiatives such as need-based student aid and changes in enrollment management strategies, and
4. the quality of auxiliary operations, such as housing.

Dr. Smith stated that the Board of Trustees meeting began with the approval of resolutions to give Dr. DiGiorgio a performance rating of exceeds expectations, recommend to the S.C. Agency Head Salary Commission the highest possible salary increase (which probably will not be funded because of state budget issues), and extend his contract to 2006. Dr. Smith then noted that the Board recognized Bob Gahagan and Brien Lewis for their service, since both are leaving their respective Board positions to pursue new endeavors.

Dr. Smith next shared that the Academic Affairs Committee Chair reported that the Committee had been briefed on the progress of plans for an interdisciplinary program involving computer science, mass communications, and graphic design. The Committee also reviewed the report on undergraduate research and commended the work done in this area. Mr. Thompson noted that the College of Business Administration had reported on a new approach in the Finance program that will prepare students for the role of certified financial planner and cited this as another example of the university responding to meet growing market needs. The Committee next received a report from the College of Education on the Teaching Fellows' trip to the Dominican Republic. The report also noted that the new Counseling cohort is in place and that there continues to be a strong

supportive relationship with the Professional Development Schools. The Committee had also been briefed on the campus summer programs for middle and high school students offered by the College of Visual and Performing Arts, a trip to France for Winthrop students to study painting, and the growth of the music program to over 200 majors. The Committee also heard the Dacus Library Futures report and recognized the importance of the library to the qualitative growth of the university and the plans for greater use of contemporary technology to support research needs, including the PASCAL project for a state-wide digital library, which has finally received an initial funding of two million dollars from the General Assembly.

Dr. Smith reported that based upon the Budget Workshop and the review and recommendations of the Finance Committee, the Board approved a resolution to increase tuition and fees for on-campus in-state students 13.53% or \$581 for required fees and \$181 in room and board charges per semester. Next, the University Relations Committee reported their briefings from the Advancement Division, the Athletics Division, and the Division of Student Life, including Orientation, Multicultural Student Life, and the Service Learning Center.

After announcing that the Board officers for the coming year will be Winthrop alumni Mary Jean Martin as Chair, Karl Folkens as Vice Chair; and Glenda Owens as Secretary, Dr. Smith stated that her report to the Board noted the following topics: a review of the Cultural Events program, a description about the process that had been put in place for reviewing the General Education curriculum in an on-going way, the Rules Committee's review of the Faculty Manual, the Academic Integrity survey, and the Research Council distribution of \$125,000 over the past year for faculty research projects.

Dr. Smith also shared that the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) Chair, Rich Fowler, reported to the Board that he was working on a presentation about the CSL for a national conference, where the Council may serve as a model for other universities who are struggling with effective student governance. He also noted that the major goals for CSL for the coming year are to address voter registration, continue work on the campus center design and program, and to follow up on results from the Academic Integrity survey.

Dr. Smith noted that in his comments to the Board that Dr. DiGiorgio emphasized the advances in our reputation this year by summarizing the numerous accolades we have received from outside organizations, such as *Princeton Review*, before discussing athletics and parking.

IV. Report from the President

President DiGiorgio welcomed the faculty and reminded them of the full agenda for the year as outlined in his Opening Address and this year's *Vision of Distinction*. (The Opening Address is available on the President's website, and copies of this year's *Vision of Distinction* will be forthcoming.) After inviting feedback on these ideas, he stated the difficulty of characterizing the upcoming year. While we are not in an economic decline and are working to replenish supply funds, because of leadership in the state, he is concerned that revenues may not be spread around as they have been in the past. He

stressed that this was just speculation at this point, but he noted that we are being asked for more specific information than he has ever seen from the state. Dr. DiGiorgio next made several announcements about the opening of the school year, including reminders about Monday's Convocation ceremony and Friday's party for Faculty and Staff in McBryde Hall. He also noted that Mr. Brien Lewis has moved on to head University College as Dean and introduced his new Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Kimberly Faust.

V. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

After welcoming the faculty, Dr. Tom Moore began by focusing on some of the initiatives in this year's *Vision of Distinction* for the Academic Affairs unit. He noted that two important initiatives this year will be delivering the General Education program as well as reviewing the faculty roles and rewards here at Winthrop. In terms of the latter goal, he noted that the review may lead us to consider if we need to make changes in our reporting since our annual reports focus so much on disciplinary work. Dr. Moore stressed that he has no intention of devaluing disciplinary programs and scholarship; rather, he believes that the work will enhance and enrich disciplinary programs. He also noted that a review of graduate programs will be conducted, and reports will be due in October and then shared with the Academic Leadership Council. This review will help us consider if our focus on undergraduate education has been devaluing graduate programs. In addition to these two goals, Dr. Moore stated that we will maintain 100 % accreditation and noted a self study project for School Psychology and Computer Science this year. He mentioned the implementation of the Common Book Project as well as the possibility of a culminating senior research experience. Also, as CHE has done away with regular review of all programs, Karen Jones will be looking at a systematic review of programs that do not have outside accreditation agencies. Vice President Moore concluded by reminding faculty that he knows that we are the ones who deliver what we do here, and that the way we interact and live on a daily basis brings Winthrop's idea of academic excellence into being.

VI. Introduction of New Administrators and Faculty

Dr. Moore next introduced each of the Deans, who then introduced new faculty from their respective areas:

College of Business Administration: Dr. Stephen Dannelly; Dr. James C. McKim, Jr.; Dr. Hemant Patwardhan; Dr. Cara L. Peters; Dr. Glenn L. Wood; Ms. Patrice C. Burleson; and Mr. Ivan M. Lowe

College of Visual and Performing Arts: Ms. Jennifer L. McDaniel, Ms. Karen A. Stock, and Ms. Terri L. Winchell

Dacus Library: Mr. Douglas E. Short

Richard W. Riley College of Education: Dr. Lisa E. Johnson, Dr. Mary B. Martin, and Ms. Roberta J. Polizzotto. Dean Graham also noted that Dr. Sue Peck will be chairing Counseling and Leadership as well as Curriculum and Instruction. She also thanked Dr.

Wilhelmenia Rembert for her direction of the COE's South Carolina Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Professional Development.

College of Arts and Sciences: Dr. Michael S. Aradas; Dr. Leigh D. Armistead; Dr. Harold C. Arvidson, III; Ms. Cassandra M. Bell; Dr. Takita Felder Sumter; Dr. Cynthia J. Furr; Ms. Clara Kulmacz; Ms. Marilyn L. Montgomery; Mr. Mark S. Nortz; Ms. Marian P. Setien; Dr. David P. Sleeth-Keppler; Ms. Bonnye E. Stuart; Dr. Aaron M. Hartel; and Professor Lu Yuan

Before moving on to the committee reports, Dr. Smith explained the three types of business that Faculty Conference usually conducts: 1) those items related to curriculum, programs, and bylaws—these fall under Faculty Conference's control, 2) items that are administrative matters for which Faculty Conference is being asked to provide an opinion, and 3) items that are administrative matters for which Faculty Conference provides its unsolicited opinion. Dr. Smith felt this clarification was important as each of the following three items on the agenda illustrated one of these areas. She also informed the faculty that she and Dr. Moore are working on a feedback system to keep faculty informed of the progress of items once they leave Faculty Conference.

VII. Introduction of 2004-2005 Committee Chairs and Committee Reports

Dr. Frank Pullano, Chair of Academic Council, announced this year's meeting dates for Academic Council: September 3, October 8, November 5, January 14, February 18, and April 8. He then presented the proposal for the Merit Pay policy, which passed unanimously.

Dr. John Robbins, Chair of the Rules Committee, brought forth four amendments to the bylaws. These had been presented at the April 23 Faculty Conference and had been re-distributed with this meeting's agenda. These were approved unanimously.

Dr. Alice Burmeister updated faculty on the Academic Integrity survey. Since only about 100 faculty responses had been returned, additional surveys will be made available before the results are tabulated. The committee continues to develop resources for faculty and staff, including a website.

Dr. Smith then introduced the chairs of all the standing committees of Faculty Conference.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

X. Announcements

Dr. Karen Kedrowski announced the Congress to Campus program, which will bring two former members of Congress to Winthrop.

Dr. Jennifer Solomon reminded faculty of the Common Book Project and invited suggestions for panel discussions, presentations, Residence hall programs, etc. She also invited the participation of local book clubs, and reminded faculty that the University College website had more information about the Common Book Project.

Dr. John Bird announced that there would be a Graduate Faculty Assembly immediately following the Faculty Conference meeting.

Dr. Sue Spencer noted that the Best Buddies project will host its fall membership meeting at 7:30 on September 8 in Plowden Auditorium.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary