

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
18 November 2005
2:00 pm
Plowden Auditorium

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Timothy Daugherty, chair, called the meeting to order. With more than 20% but less than 35% of the conference present, those present agreed to proceed with business knowing that, per the faculty manual, a supermajority was needed to pass motions.
- Minutes of the September 30, 2005 meeting were approved without correction.

II. Welcome & Introductory Remarks

- Dr. Daugherty introduced Chad Kee, from the University Diversity Team. Mr. Kee reported on existing partnerships between the Multi-Cultural Center, Campus Life, and the Diversity Team to provide safe-space & workshops on race issues. The aim is to facilitate positive discussion that furthers the freedom of all members of the university community to engage in open discussions. Mr. Kee reminded the faculty that members of the Diversity Team are available to visit classes as well.
- Dr. Daugherty reported on the November 11 Board of Trustees meeting. The Trustees passed three resolutions: endorsed the vision of distinction, honored trustee Mary Jean Martin, and endorsed Agency Head objectives. The trustees also evidenced a strong positive sentiment for the university's ongoing discussion of deep learning, the growth and development of graduate programs, the new Information Design major, and Winthrop's pursuit of a Title III grant. The finance committee found no weaknesses in Winthrop's internal controls, but expressed concern that rising energy costs and shrinking lottery dollars must be dealt with. Finally, the University Relations Committee discussed the completion of an NCAA self-study with no incidents, as well as the culmination of Winthrop's first capital campaign resulting in 28.3 million dollars of pledges. They are now gearing up for the next capital campaign (in 2011) to commemorate Winthrop's 125th anniversary.
- Dr. Daugherty also referred members of Faculty Conference to President DiGiorgio's email.

III. Report from the President

Dr. DiGiorgio was unable to attend today's Faculty Conference, but distributed his remarks in detail to the faculty by email on Thursday, November 17.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Moore urged all faculty to review Dr. DiGiorgio's e-mail. He commented briefly on our completion of the NCAA visit and review. Winthrop is the first school with zero issues in the history of Division I.

Other Academic Affairs issues:

- Reaction to a controversial article in the Johnsonian was handled well. We gave every voice an opportunity to be heard. We want to encourage all voices, and ensure that no voice is stifled. All open opportunities to express your voice, including upcoming forums on Title III and the Nature & Character of the University should be made use of. With growing trends of partisanship in our culture, veracity is sometimes underrated and should be pursued with vigor. Opportunities to freely express & exchange ideas are fundamental in

our pursuit of veracity at the university and throughout our culture. Veracity should be at the heart of what we do.

- Dr. Moore reminded faculty of the importance of comprehensive final examinations to academic responsibility.

- Dr. Moore thanked the faculty for their work in the ongoing discussion centered on deep learning.

- The Vice President of Academic Affairs also stressed the importance of getting grades in on time with the new graduation policy.

V. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Concerns

The report of the Faculty Concerns committee had been distributed by email earlier in the week. Concerns included mold in Withers, the 'voice' of and benefits for part-time faculty members, the 'outside employment' policy, and policies for university athletic facilities. Drs. Pantuosco and Smith were available for questions.

B. Budget Priorities

Dr. Jo Koster reported on the committee's recommendations to augment the current Quality Enhancement Initiative. Currently that initiative has three primary elements: capital improvements, merit-based salary raises, and a long-term technology plan. The committee identified several "unfunded" mandates that are significant parts of Winthrop's overall plan for improving academic quality. These include (but are not limited to) such things as service learning, culminating experiences, expanded honors programs, graduate program reviews, and deep learning. All of these have a tremendous impact on current faculty and the quality of faculty we can hope to attract and retain. The committee recommends adding a fourth element to Winthrop's Quality Enhancement Initiative: "Investing in improving the quality of academic programs and student development." If Winthrop University makes a commitment to develop such programs, we should also make a commitment to funding for the requisite resources.

C. Rules Committee

Dr. Beth Costner submitted the Rules Committee's three motions to change the faculty manual. All motions carried. Additionally, a motion to place 4 items (clarification of Special Meetings Procedure, summer meetings, General Education, and Cultural Events Committee chair) on the agenda for the January 27, 2006 agenda also carried.

D. Academic Council

Dr. Frank Pullano presented the Academic Council's four motions for consideration by the Faculty Conference. The first identifies the goals for the Natural Science Component of the General Education program. The second modifies Winthrop's policy for withdrawing from an individual course. The automatic "N" date would be moved to 60% of the semester, course withdrawals after that time would be handled by the dean of enrollment management. The third motion modifies Winthrop's attendance policy to accord with the proposed changes in the second motion. The fourth motion proposed changes to the policy regarding complete withdrawal from Winthrop to make it consistent with the changes proposed in the second motion. After much discussion, all motions carried.

E. Admissions Advisory Committee

Dr. Chlotia Garrison reported that for the current academic year, 1017 freshmen enrolled, with an average SAT score of 1080. We have 369 new transfers, and 35 new international students. The Admissions office is currently working with 35,000 prospective students, and freshmen applications are up 17.4%.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

Due to the length of today's meeting, Dr. Adolphus Belk's presentation on a "Two Minute Drill" was respectfully postponed until the 27 January 2006 Faculty Conference.

VIII. Announcements

Registrar Timothy Druke announced that the last day to withdraw from classes is Monday, 28 November 2005. He also reminded faculty that this is the first semester with the new policy permitting students to participate in commencement only if they have completed all requirements prior to the ceremony. He also stressed the importance of getting final grades submitted in a timely fashion. The registrar's office is still finalizing applications for May graduation.

Dr. Daugherty announced that two forums on the Nature & Character of the University remain. He also announced the dates for the two Title III Grant Proposal Forums.

IX. Adjournment

Conference was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. David Meeler, on behalf of
Dr. Peter J. Judge
Faculty Conference Secretary