

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
March 3, 2006
2:00 pm
Recital Hall
Minutes

I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Dr. Timothy Daugherty called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. Minutes from January 27, 2006 Faculty Conference were approved as distributed.

II. Welcome & Introductory Remarks

Dr. Daugherty reported on the February retreat of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees. The retreat started with a discussion of the implications of “flattening” (see Thomas Friedman’s recent book) and a presentation regarding Winthrop’s Portal Project – individualized virtual interfaces through which students can make meaningful connections with the university. David Spense, President of SREB, was the keynote speaker for the retreat. Dr. Daugherty encouraged faculty members to become familiar with material presented on the web site for the Southern Regional Educational Board (www.sreb.org). On Saturday, the board authorized a 6.5M bond issue for Owens Hall. That day, Dr. DiGiorgio led the board in a thorough discussion of students living, learning, and leading at Winthrop. The board met in executive session on Sunday. Dr. Daugherty reminded faculty that – consistent with Dr. Spense’s message regarding attention to the pipeline of students – faculty efforts to assist the admissions professionals are an important element in building academic excellence.

III. Report from the President

Dr. Anthony DiGiorgio called attention to the detailed email he sent out the previous day with regard to the university’s external relations, particularly with state government. The President then launched a Powerpoint presentations outlining Winthrop’s “Education by Design.” Reviewing current and future elements of living, learning, and leading, the president emphasized interacting developments of both curricula and campus facilities. A link to the presentations will be posted on the President’s web page for consideration and comment.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Tom Moore reported that Dan Weinstein will begin April 1 as the new Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness. He also noted that the selection of the new Dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts was in its final stages, and that the search for a Director of the International Center was getting underway. He thanked the members of the respective search committees for their work toward filling each of these positions. He also indicated that implementation of the plus/minus grading system will begin with a year of study to identify and deal with all the issues and implications for departments and colleges. Third, the LEAP program is being restructured to a year-long program with increased academic support. The two-week summer component will be eliminated. More information on this will be forthcoming. Fourth, he has received the Deep Learning reports from the colleges and expects to respond in the next week. It is apparent that this is important to faculty; good conversations are going on in the various departments and

colleges. Finally, he announced and encouraged participation in the workshops by Dr. L. Dee Fink on *Creating Significant Learning Experiences* to take place on Friday, April 7.

V. Committee Reports

A. Rules Committee

Dr. Beth Costner notified Faculty Conference that the rules committee had voted to update the FC By-Laws to reflect the current structure of student government. Three references to past student government structure remain in the current By-Laws, including mention of a student body vote, student government, and the student senate. All of these references were changed to read the Council of Student Leaders. Dr. Costner also presented a motion to reorganize Appendix I of the Faculty Manual. The motion was adopted.

B. Academic Council

Dr. Frank Pullano notified Faculty Conference that Academic Council accepted the final report of the University Task Force on Academic and Institutional Integrity. Academic Council also accepted a report from the Grading Subcommittee; this report has been distributed to all members of Academic Council, Deans, and Department Chairs. Dr. Pullano notified faculty of changes in the following departments: Health and Physical Education, Computer Science and Quantitative Methods, Accounting, Finance and Economics, Management and Marketing, Music, Theater and Dance, & Philosophy and Religious Studies. No action from Faculty Conference was required and no objections were raised.

Dr. Pullano then brought forward an action by the Committee for Undergraduate Instruction from the **Department of Theatre and Dance** to create the new designator: DCED – Dance Education. The motion was approved. Faculty Conference also approved the following actions by the General Education Committee:

- i. include CSCI 101 in the list of courses that meet the Technology requirement, include AAMS 300 in the list for Historical Perspectives, and include RELG 220 in the list for Humanities and Arts;
- ii. Change the wording of the Winthrop University Undergraduate Catalog: Modify the paragraph on p. 38 entitled General Education Distribution Requirements by adding the sentence in boldface:
The general education program is based on three concepts: mastery of competencies, integration of experiences across disciplines, and exposure to a variety of intellectual and social perspectives. The program is composed of three core areas: the critical skills, skills for a common experience and for thinking across disciplines, and developing critical skills and applying them to disciplines. **Courses used to complete major or minor requirements may also be used to complete General Education Distribution Requirements.** Students should see their degree program for specific course requirements.
- iii. Remove the asterisks (*) from the Social Science, Humanities and Arts, and Natural Science Core Skill Sub-Areas within the General Education Distribution Requirements description on pages 38 – 39 of the Undergraduate Catalog. Replace the current asterisk (*) footnote with the

following asterisk (*) footnote: *These requirements may be met by courses which also meet other General Education Distribution Requirements.*

C. Faculty Personnel Committee

Dr. Sandra Wilson brought forth the Personnel Committees nominations, took nominations from the floor, and conducted elections for faculty committees for the 2006-2007 academic year.

D. Admissions Advisory Committee

Dr. Chlotia Garrison reported that the admissions office has responded to more than 37,000 inquiries and has processed 4860 applications. The target for next year's freshman class is 1100. The admissions Office appreciates the efforts of faculty to help with recruitment. Four searches have been conducted for an associate director and a new search is currently underway. Some interim counselor positions in admissions have been converted to permanent positions, and there is a current search for a webmaster. The consulting firm Noel-Levitz is being used to help target students.

VI. Unfinished Business – none.

VII. New Business

A. Revision of the University Copyright Policy - Dean Mark Herring reported on the activities of the Copyright Committee. Dean Herring is joined by Jo Koster, Gerry Derksen, and Alicia Marstall on the committee charged with revising the university's copyright policy to address questions posed by advances in technology. He asked faculty to send questions to committee members. The committee expects to complete its work later this spring.

B. Two-Minute Drill - Antje Mays of the Library gave a presentation on the challenges of evaluating websites for research.

VIII. Adjournment – 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter J. Judge, Secretary