

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
March 21, 2003
2:00 pm
Plowden Auditorium

I. Approval of February 21, 2003 Faculty Conference Minutes

Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. 20% of faculty were present; a motion was taken to do business and was approved. The minutes of the February 21 Faculty Conference were approved with a note that some minor editorial items would be corrected.

II. Welcome

Dr. Smith reported that the Board of Trustees had not met since the last Faculty Conference but had been busy. Their next meeting will be held the second Friday in April, and Dr. Smith will bring a report to the next Faculty Conference.

III. Report from the President

Dr. DiGiorgio reported on three main items. The first dealt with the Future Development Plan for the University called "Seeding the Future." He stated that it was "forward-looking" in terms of the kind of development that was being planned for Winthrop over the next 10-15 years. He noted that we will "not grow for growth's sake," but would plan for future growth by having in place what would be needed. He encouraged faculty to visit the Facilities Design and Development website for further information about the overall plan and to email inquiries.

The second item concerned the state budget process. Dr. DiGiorgio reported that the House of Representatives had passed the majority of the items that would comprise their version of the budget for this year. It includes the anticipated 10% budget reduction beyond all those that have been taken to this point, a move that would put our state appropriation below the level it was when Dr. Giorgio arrived in 1989. A 50% reduction in the amount of technology money that we had been slated to receive (from a 20 million dollar pool split halfway between four-year teaching universities and technical colleges) also appears. Instead of receiving the projected 1.1 million, Winthrop will be receiving \$550,000 from the state for technology. Technology fees will still provide a revenue strain, however. No appropriations have been recommended for salary increases or for a capital improvement bond bill process. A tuition increase will occur; however, people understand that we need to be price sensitive. Dr. DiGiorgio explained that the General Assembly had set a new floor using the Higher Education Price Index plus 250 dollars. (This HEPI index is comparable to the Consumer Price Index for higher education). It is unclear yet how high the tuition increase will be. Finally, Dr. DiGiorgio reported that the HOPE scholarships had been restored to the House version of the budget.

The third item dealt with a potential issue for the future. The research universities in South Carolina (Clemson, USC, and the Medical University) have been taking steps to introduce legislation to separate from the current governance structure for higher education in the state. These schools argue that they are unique in their contributions to

the state's economic development. While the move did receive some support in the House of Representatives, there was less in the Senate. Despite this reaction, Dr. DiGiorgio believes that this movement will continue. He is currently working on a revision of the governance structure that would give individual schools some flexibility while still maintaining some kind of centralized accountability. A question was raised about Governor Sanford's proposal for a unified Board of Regents. While Dr. DiGiorgio noted that Governor Sanford likes such an idea, the feeling exists that his two key concerns—more centrality to institutional definition and mission as well as an authority to engage in program approval—can be addressed outside of a Board of Regents.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Melford Wilson shared five items. First, he encouraged faculty to participate in Joe Prus' Survey on Faculty Engagement as extensive representation will assist in creating a realistic picture. Second, he reminded faculty of two new positions for a General Education Director and a Director of the Learning Academy. These positions would be similar to the Honors program and the Teaching and Learning Center in that regular full-time faculty would be the ones to qualify and would receive release time and a stipend for their directing duties. Third, he thanked Gale Teaster-Woods for her excellent direction and leadership of the CISM program. Fourth, he asked faculty who were willing to give students extra credit write a policy statement in the syllabus. Last semester, a number of grades had been changed due to extra credit work; while there had been no student complaints, he could see potential problems if policy statements are not included on course syllabi. Finally, he noted that an announcement for a new Study Abroad Coordinator would be made in the next couple of weeks. The current coordinator, Mary Whittaker, is retiring.

V. Committee Reports

Ginger Williams, Chair of Academic Council, reported that Academic Council had met only once since the last Faculty Conference. Several items were covered during that February 28 meeting; the information she presented today was primarily a summary of that material as the items did not need to be voted on by Faculty Conference. For further details, she referred faculty to the minutes posted on the website. She reported that one CUI item had been voted on: to add a Human Resources Management option to the Department of Management and Marketing. This 18-hour program would be added to the B.S. degree in Business Administration and would be comprised of 5 existing courses: Management 325, 422, 523, 524, and 526. A sixth course would be MGMT 425, a new class focusing on training and development. This program would be the first in the state and the Charlotte area.

In terms of old business, Dr. Williams also shared that the CISM Review Committee Report had been presented by Dr. Jeannie Woods. This report concluded that CISM should be replaced with ACAD 101 "Principles of the Learning Academy." This report had been distributed to the faculty twice and was available on the Winthrop website. This measure was approved by Academic Council with a vote of 17 to 1.

Dr. Williams reported that the ad hoc Intellectual Policy Review Committee set up by Academic Council to evaluate the intellectual property policy had not yet finalized a new version; however, current drafts differ from the original in the following ways: a rationale is provided, clear and consistent definitions of policy appear, a clear distinction between intellectual property developed in the regular course of business and that which requires significant institutional assistance is noted, and the terminology has been standardized across the document. The most significant change deals with the profit sharing distributions over the range of income. The current version will be disseminated to the rest of the faculty for feedback once finalized.

Dr. Williams next noted that an ad hoc committee had been appointed by Academic Council to examine salary policies, particularly a merit policy. The policy that the ad hoc committee devised failed; however, the process revealed serious issues, particularly the definition of “merit raise.” Also, there has been no appeals process. Faculty and administrators will continue to discuss this issue in more detail.

In terms of new business, Academic Council had received and passed a proposal from the College of Education to allow students to take a four-hour load in Maymester. This change would enable students to register for READ 321 and 323. Also, this change would enable Physical Education to offer activity courses. Also, Academic Council voted to review the Intensive Written/Oral Communication component in light of the changes in General Education. The Intensive Writing/Oral Communication committee will meet and discuss if any changes need to be made. Also, something had been omitted from the Quantitative Report from General Education that needed to be reinserted: students who do not pass the quantitative skills requirement by the time they have completed 60 earned hours will be limited to a maximum course load of 12 hours per semester and will not be permitted to enroll in courses above 299 until they have satisfied the quantitative skills requirement unless the student is actively enrolled in a course to meet the requirement.

Next, Dr. Bill Naufftus, Chair of the University Personnel Committee, distributed ballots for Faculty Elections. He expressed the committee’s thanks to the individuals who had been willing to serve on committees. The Faculty Manual suggests that only two people be nominated for every available position, so they were not able to accommodate on the ballot everyone who was willing to serve. The opportunity for additional nominations was given, but none were made. Dr. Naufftus reminded faculty that they could vote through Monday in the library.

Mr. Brien Lewis presented information from the Committee on the Nature and Character of Winthrop University. He thanked the faculty for its input and noted that the process was still far from done. On Thursday, a committee group rewrite session had been held based on the current feedback. The overall trend that had emerged was that the original draft statement had been too general and not Winthrop-specific enough. People will have an opportunity to contribute feedback to the new version once it is distributed. He stated that he appreciated the interest and looked forward to the continuing dialogue.

Dr. Alice Burmeister, Chair of Faculty Concerns, noted that the committee was still soliciting concerns. The committee would hold a planning session to set the agenda for an April 17th meeting with President DiGiorgio. She also noted updates on two important initiatives. A subcommittee of Faculty Concerns had been created to work with Career Services. Also, planning sessions for a forum on Academic Integrity are taking place.

There were no other committee reports.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

Will Thacker reminded faculty of an email containing information and forms about placing courses in the new General Education program. He also encouraged the faculty to develop intensive writing requirements within the individual majors in order to fulfill the Intensive Writing Requirement called for by the General Education program.

Charles Alvis, co-Chair of the Faculty and Staff Capital Campaign, announced that the campaign was underway. While Winthrop has set a goal of 26 million dollars and while we have over 25 million dollars collected already, he explained that the key is to reach 100% participation in the drive. That kind of faculty support will be an important sign to outside donors.

The Chair of Environmental Sciences and Studies announced that the first annual Environmental Symposium would be held April 2 at 7 p.m. in Plowden Auditorium. On April 3, a symbolic bike/walk event would also be held.

Tim Druke reminded faculty about advising. A question was asked about when students would be able to access their audits using OnCourse. Parts of the current phase need to be finalized before the students gain access.

Finally, Dr. Smith reminded the group that the newly elected committees would elect chairs at the next Faculty Conference on April 25.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary