

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
October 4, 2002
2:00 pm
Barnes Recital Hall

I. Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2002 Faculty Conference

Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was not present at the time, so a vote was taken to proceed with business. The motion to do business with less than 35% present was passed unanimously. The minutes of the August 23 Faculty Conference were approved.

II. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dr. Smith reported that while there has not been a Board of Trustees meeting since August, she has met with Mr. Robert Gahagan, Chair of the Board. The two shared perspectives and discussed various issues. General Education was one of these issues. Based on that conversation, she has developed some charts that illustrate the process concerning the changes in General Education. Dr. Smith will use this information at the November 8 Board of Trustees meeting to help explain the process of implementing a new General Education program to the Board members.

In regard to faculty salaries, Dr. Smith has explained to the President that most faculty are waiting to see what happens between October 15 and October 30, when the salary adjustment period is scheduled to begin, before providing feedback. She ended by reminding faculty of the November 8 Board of Trustees meeting and inviting them to send her any comments.

III. Report from the President

Dr. Smith reminded faculty of President DiGiorgio's email that explained his absence from today's meeting.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Melford Wilson began his remarks by noting that we have had a very good start this academic year. Despite problems with space and finding additional faculty, he stated that we are doing "extremely well." Also, he noted that the number of students who have enrolled have been considerably greater than the 1000 that were hoped for this semester. This increased student population is also due to more graduate students, better retention rates, and more transfer students.

One other positive sign is that Winthrop will be receiving some of the state lottery money. Eleven millions dollars have been set aside for this sector of the state for technology. Two grants have been submitted requesting 1.8 million dollars; 1 million dollars of this money has been requested for SMART classrooms. This state money also will be available for competition year after year.

Next, Dr. Wilson noted the FIDER visit (an accreditation agency for Interior Design). While we do not have the official results, Dr. Wilson feels like we were very successful.

Also, the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) will be coming to the Mass Communication department at the end of this month. Dr. Wilson will not be here for this visit because he will be chairing a SACS visit to the College of Public Administration in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Wilson concluded by informing faculty that Sarah Stallings is doing well in China. Also, he told faculty about a program offered by San Diego State that offers a week-long intensive study of Japanese language and culture.

V. Committee Reports

Before introducing Dr. Ginger Williams, Chair of Academic Council, Dr. Smith explained that Academic Council had had two meetings in September, a schedule that did not allow for the minutes to be distributed in time for the Faculty Conference to vote on some items today.

Dr. Ginger Williams covered several Academic Council matters from the September 6 and September 20 meetings. She referred to a sheet that had been distributed that details items passed by Academic Council. (Please see Attachment A). These items will be voted on at the next Faculty Conference meeting.

First, Dr. Williams reported that Dr. Jonathan Marx, the chair of the Curriculum of Undergraduate Instruction (CUI) Committee, first reported to Academic Council at the September 20 meeting because the group had met for the first time on September 12. The Committee had approved a proposal from the department of Human Nutrition to add two new courses: Geography 303 Geography of Africa and Geography 304 Geography of the Middle East. Also, they approved a title change for Geography 306, which was formerly Geography of Middle America. The new title is Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean. There were no CUI items that required Academic Council action since there were no program changes.

Second, Dr. Williams reported that at the September 6 meeting the Cultural Events Committee wanted feedback from Academic Council about changing the definition of cultural events. This was an internal request that resulted from a dilemma over approving certain lectures for cultural events credit; consequently, the committee was interested in broadening the definition of cultural events. A revised definition was presented at the September 20 meeting. Faculty Conference will vote on this item at the next meeting. (See Attachment A, Item 2)

Third, a Course Overload policy had been submitted by the Grade group last spring and was approved at the September 6 meeting. The criteria for determining eligibility for taking 19-21 hours would be a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Faculty Conference will vote on this proposal at the next meeting. (See Attachment A, Item 1).

Fourth, Dr. Williams explained that at the September 6 meeting, Academic Council was presented with a proposal for a new Intellectual Property Rights policy. However, it was discovered that a 1992 policy had, in fact, existed on this topic but had not been included in the faculty manual. As a result of this discovery, a subcommittee was formed at the

September 20 meeting to look at the 1992 policy and the current proposal to determine which policy would be more appropriate or if a combination would be better.

Fifth, on September 20, the General Education Committee brought seven reports for Academic Council approval. Academic Council approved the Oral Communication component, the Global Perspectives component, the Natural Science component, the Constitutional component, the Technology Component, and the Writing component. The Gen Ed Committee did bring a proposal for a Gen Ed 102 course, but it was tabled until administrators and faculty could resolve issues of sequencing. That proposal will come up for vote at the next Academic Council meeting. Academic Council has decided to bring the entire General Education proposal all at one time to Faculty Conference.

Sixth, Academic Council approved a Class Attendance policy. Dr. David LeTourneau explained that the proposal was prompted because some athletes had failed courses because professors would not allow students to make up work, even though they were representing Winthrop. This new policy is designed to give students some recourse if professors will not let them make up work. Dr. Gloria Jones later clarified that this policy is applicable to more than just athletes and extends to anyone officially representing the University. This policy will be voted on at the next Faculty Conference meeting. (See Attachment A, Item 3).

Faculty members did pose some questions about these proposals. One faculty member requested clarification about the meaning of “universal appeal” in the proposed definition of Cultural Events. Clarification was also requested in the Class Attendance Policy to read that the grades would be “determined by instructor.” Finally, a question was posed about the Class Attendance Policy and students who miss an extensive number of days for medical reasons. In that case, the assumption would be that the student would take a medical withdrawal.

After Dr. Williams’ presentation, Dr. Smith underscored the point that the General Education proposal would be voted on as an entire package. Academic Council is approving it piece-by-piece, but Faculty Conference will be voting on it as a complete package. Dr. Smith suggested that faculty follow the process as it develops. Dr. Williams earlier had also reminded faculty that Academic Council minutes are posted on the website: www.winthrop.edu/acad_aff/Minutes/minutes.html#Academic%20Council

Dr. Alice Burmeister, chair of the Faculty Concerns Committee, said that she did not have an official report except to say that the Committee was still taking submissions of concerns. Their first official meeting will be in about a week to prepare the agenda for their meeting with the President on November 13. She also thanked faculty for sending their concerns to the Committee.

Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan, chair of the Budget Priorities Committee, reported that the group had met on September 6 and September 27. He said the Committee is getting organized and is preparing a report on the University’s short and long term budget priorities.

Dr. Jim Johnston, chair of the VPAA Search Committee, next spoke. He explained the Committee's composition: Dr. Jim Johnston and Dr. Debra Boyd from the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Marilyn Smith and Dr. Gary Stone from Business Administration; Dr. Mark DeWalt and Dr. Sue Peck from the Richard W. Riley College of Education; Alf Ward and Annie Laurie-Wheat from the College of Visual and Performing Arts; Gloria Kelly from the Library; Brien Lewis and Frank Ardialo from Administration; Andrew Markners, the President of the Council of Student Leaders; and Karen Jones, who is the support staff. He noted that ads for the VPAA position have been or would be placed, including in publications such as *The Chronicle Of Higher Education*, *Black Issues in Higher Education* (which also lists 19 other University positions), and *Hispanic Outlook*. November 8 is the deadline, and campus interviews are scheduled for January 20 – January 31. The targeted completion date is February 15, 2003. Dr. Johnston also requested that if anyone is interested in nominating someone for the position, s/he should have that person directly apply for the position.

Dr. Bill Naufftus, Chair of the Personnel Committee, next introduced the candidates in the election of a new faculty member to attend the Council of Student Leaders meetings. The nominees were Dr. Frank Pullano and Dr. Michael Lipscomb. Faculty not present could vote in the library by Monday at noon. The ballots were counted on October 10. Dr. Pullano won.

Brien Lewis followed the election with some comments clarifying the purpose of the new President's Task Force on the Nature and Character of the University. The committee seeks to outline values, characteristics, and goals of an ideal university. He also reminded faculty that more information is online.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

There was an announcement that there would be a Graduate Faculty Assembly immediately following the Faculty Conference meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary