

Winthrop University Faculty Conference

October 10, 2003

2:00 pm

Plowden Auditorium

I. Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2003 Faculty Conference

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the August 22, 2003 Faculty Conference were approved.

II. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dr. Smith welcomed the faculty and stated that the Board of Trustees had not met since the last Faculty Conference. The next scheduled meeting is the first weekend in November.

III. Report from the President

Dr. Smith reminded faculty of President DiGiorgio's email that he had distributed to faculty since he was unable to attend today's meeting.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Tom Moore, Vice President for Academic Affairs, opened by noting the good start to the semester. He next congratulated Dr. Susan Green for being awarded the Singleton Chair before updating faculty on a number of items. First, he announced a forthcoming appointment of a Task Group on Institutional Integrity. This initiative derives from different sources: Faculty Concerns, Academic Council, and the Council of Student Leaders' Task Force on Student Academic Integrity. He asked that faculty contact him if they are interested in serving in this work.

Dr. Moore next noted that another issue that has been discussed at Academic Leadership Council and Academic Council is whether or not students who have not met degree requirements can participate in commencement. Academic Leadership Council will continue to talk about this, but he feels that we are moving toward a tighter policy on this rule. He invited faculty to share concerns with the deans to share at the next Academic Leadership Council meeting.

Next, Vice President Moore announced the status of two accreditation reviews. National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) has visited the campus, and he anticipates a good review from that group. He also reminded the faculty of the upcoming NCATE visit and its institutional impact. Dr. Moore praised the College of Education's preparation, noting that he thinks that their work will serve as a model for accreditation. Dr. Moore concluded by praising faculty for their good work with the real work of the university—direct engagement with students.

V. Committee Reports

Dr. Jo Koster, Chair of Academic Council, reported that the group has met twice since Faculty Conference's last meeting, on September 5 and October 3. Their activities have been in four areas. First, they brought one curriculum action before Faculty Conference for a vote: a proposal to create a minor in Environmental Studies. This minor consists of 18 hours: ENVS 101 and 15 hours from ANTH 540, CHEM 101 or 117, ECON 343, ENVS 510, GEOG 500, HIST 530, PHIL 340, PHYS 105, PLSC 325, and SOCL 310. This proposal was approved.

Second, Dr. Koster, building on Vice President Moore's earlier remarks, announced that Academic Council is working on the creation of a coordinating body to pull together all the groups who are talking about University integrity. She asked faculty to let her or Vice President Moore know as soon as possible if they are interested in this work, so that the appointment of this body can begin. The idea is that the group will first talk about academic integrity, but other issues touching on University integrity will also be brought to them. [Note: This Task Force is the same one that Vice President Moore discussed. Since this Faculty Conference meeting, appointments to the Task Force have been made; however, it will now be reporting to Vice President Moore and not Academic Council].

Third, Academic Council had heard a report from Karen Jones on a proposal to increase the minimum GPA required for academic eligibility. This proposal has been forwarded to departments, and Dr. Koster encouraged faculty to discuss it and make their opinions known to Deans, Chairs, and Academic Council representatives before the October 31 meeting. Institutional Research will be providing additional information on retention to Academic Council in advance of the October 31 meetings, and Academic Council representatives will be able to share it with Faculty Conference.

Finally, on the subject of General Education, Dr. Koster thanked all the individual faculty members, departments, and college curriculum committees for all their hard work so far in getting courses nominated for GNED and for beginning the process of moving revised programs of study through the curriculum process. She publicly thanked the members of the GNED committee: Sue Peck, Gary Alderman, Paul Martyka, Antje Mays, Marilyn Sarow, William Seyfried, Julian Smith, and Marilyn Smith for all their hard work.

Dr. Koster next summarized some of the issues that Academic Council has dealt with with GNED. Courses will continue to be added to this list of approved GNED courses, and a few may be removed; this is an ongoing process. If a department has moved to add a new course (or change an existing one), it can go ahead and send that new course on for conditional GNED approval. It will not be posted on the web site until the course has made it through the curriculum process. Academic Council has also determined that course content, not designator, will be used to determine in which category a course should be listed. Thus, simply because a course is offered under a particular designator does not mean that it will automatically be

included or excluded from a particular category. Next, she noted that to ensure that students experience a variety of disciplinary perspectives in their GNED programs, Academic Council has asked the GNED committee to consider whether or not the number of courses from a student's major that can be used to meet GNED requirements should be limited.

As for approving courses to be used in the new GNED program, Academic Council has approved the following:

- 7 courses to meet the Constitution requirement
- 52 courses to meet the Global requirement
- 67 courses to meet the Historical requirement
- 184 courses to meet the Arts and Humanities requirement
- 31 courses to meet the Natural Sciences requirement
- 14 courses to meet the Oral Communication requirement
- 52 courses to meet the Social Sciences requirement
- 9 courses (or combinations of courses) to meet the Technology Requirement

She concluded by fielding questions; there were no questions.

Dr. Sue Peck, Chair of General Education, announced that the next GNED meeting will be held on October 24. She asked faculty to provide electronic copies and hard copies with signatures for classes that they would like to nominate for GNED credit. These approved courses will be passed onto Academic Council on October 31.

Brien Lewis, Chair of the Nature and Character of the University Task Force, announced that the group is one meeting away from producing a draft report of the revised statement to distribute. It contains a significantly revised statement about the Nature and Character of the University as well as expository language detailing the revision process and a series of recommendations related to each portion of the draft statement. He asked faculty to read this approximately twenty-page document and provide feedback through attending one of the Town Hall meetings in October and November, contacting a Task Force member, or sending an anonymous email using the link on the website. A question was asked about the intention of the recommendations, and Mr. Lewis clarified that the direction of the work will be more "bottom-up" than "top-down."

Dr. John Robbins, Chair of the Rules Committee, announced that it had one item of business. The Rules Committee needed approval for one change in its bylaws: to add to Article 6, Section.4 about the General Education Committee composition that "The Director of General Education shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member." The item was approved.

Dr. Lou Pantuosco, Chair of Faculty Concerns, announced its November 5th meeting with the President, and he asked faculty to send on any comments.

VI. Old Business

Dr. Mel Goldstein announced that it was the intention of the Curriculum Committee to allow courses to be added to the Environmental Studies minor, and he asked for clarification about how to proceed. Tim Druke, Registrar, clarified that this kind of revision could be dealt with in CUI.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

Announcements were made about the *Twelfth Night* production and advising. One question was asked about when students would have access to the Course Audits; Mr. Druke replied that that had yet to be determined

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary