

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Assembly

January 24, 2025

2:30 PM

Kinard Auditorium 018

Meeting Minutes

- I. Greetings and remarks from the Chair – Jo Koster
 - a. Called to order at 2:32
 - b. Quorum met with 52 + zoom
- II. Approval of the Minutes from the October 18, 2024, meeting – [Appendix A](#)
 - a. **Minutes approved**
- III. Report from the Curriculum Committee (*December and January meetings*) – Jenny Schafer – [Appendix B](#)
 - a. There's curriculum from both December and January.
 - b. New Programs- all approved
 - i. BA in Sociology-Pre-Law Concentration
 - ii. BA in Sociology- UX Research Concentration
 - c. Program Modifications- all approved
 - i. BS in Biology - removes freshman symposium and specifies Math course
 - ii. BS in Biology - Biomedical Research: same
 - iii. BS in Biology - Bio-Conservation: same
 - iv. BA in English - adds recently created courses to the major
 - v. Minor in Writing - adds recently created courses to the minor
 - vi. BA in Psychology - reduces hours in the experimental sequence & adds one hour to the major (36 to 37)
 - d. Course Modifications-All approved
 - i. BS in Biology - removes freshman symposium and specifies Math course
 - ii. BS in Biology - Biomedical Research: same
 - iii. BS in Biology - Bio-Conservation: same
 - iv. BA in English - adds recently created courses to the major
 - v. Minor in Writing - adds recently created courses to the minor
 - vi. BA in Psychology - reduces hours in the experimental sequence & adds one hour to the major (36 to 37)
 - vii. SCWK 541: change in course title (a number of other social work courses were referred back to the department and not brought for consideration)
 - e. Inactivated courses: Chem 531 (been replaced by CHEM 332), approved
 - f. New courses- all approved
 - i. ENVS 493: Creates an independent research option
 - ii. ENVS 494: Creates an independent research option
 - iii. SOCL 359 (cross listed with PSYC 359)

- g. Blanket petitions:
 - i. Student petitions from Dec 202r4 were discussed and approved by curriculum
- h. Next meeting Feb 25, @ 11am, materials must be in course dog a week before.
- IV. Rules Committee – Silvia Wozniak – [Appendix C](#)
 - a. **As a result of the faculty governance from the university, CAS bylaws had to be updated to account for changes as a result of the microcertificate programs introduced. They propose bylaw changes to add the microcertificate.**
 - b. **Discussion for adding to the agenda- none**
 - c. **Approved adding to the agenda for next meeting.**
- V. Report from the DEI Committee – Jennifer Dixon-McKnight & Katharine Hubbard
 - a. A conversation was started to discuss the actions and reactions we should take as a result of a potential bill from the house on revoking DEI in higher education decisions. Do we wait and see, and then react based on what happens, or pre-emptive
 - b. In light of POTUS executive orders for federal regulations, how do we react and predict as a state institution.
 - c. Overwhelming consensus of those speaking (Greg Oakes, M.Gil-history, sylvia, Jennifer-poli sci., Takita, etc) is to wait and see, and continuing doing our jobs well
 - d. Is the people on the committees related- vulnerable contingent
 - e. What to do when ICE comes to our classrooms—what administrative guideline do we have
 - f. Takita—what do we teach comfort with topics vs what we can teach now—credance to the acadmic content and expectations- the first job is to teach and teach well—our disciplines are already engrained and make pedagogical connections and foundations. With dreamers, etc: the likelihood is low of them coming to our classes, but it is likely we will have students affected by ICE, etc. Empathy and compassion with our students.
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Very brief update on Revisions of Student Evaluation process – Jo Koster
 - i. We’re now contracted with Watermark, and we’re now piloting with a group of students across every college with about 200 students.
 - ii. <https://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/facultyconference/agenda-minutes-2021-11-19.pdf> for more information.
 - iii. Full details coming next meeting
- VII. New Business
 - a. Greg Oakes, Degree Completion Proposal
 - i. Greg Oakes presented to the faculty a program being discussed and moving through curriculum process approvals for helping “students who have accrued hours at Winthrop and need a route to graduation. The population that we are targeting includes traditional, on-campus students and traditional transfer students.”

- ii. Committee: Casey Cothran (ENGL), Vicky Frost (BIOL), Arran Hamm (MATH), Lauren Kohut (ENVS), Mike Lipscomb (PLSC), Donna Nelson (PSYC), Julie Orme (SCWK), Ginger Williams (IDVS, HIST), Sherri Wilson (Student Services)
- iii. Committee sought to maximize use of existing courses, minimize further coursework, and prepare them for careers. Also provide disciplinary breadth with some depth, but less emphasis on a specific discipline.
- iv. There's three "buckets" students would choose from: STEM, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Students would pick a primary area with 27 hours and a secondary area with 18 hours. Would have a recommended capstone/summative experience.
- v. Specific courses for the buckets are listed in the meeting slides.
- vi. Students must have a minimum of 75 hours to completion in order to declare the major. No minor requirement and no language requirement.
- vii. Thoughts and such are invited before curriculum actions due by Feb 18th to CAS Curriculum Committee.

VIII. Remarks from the Dean – Takita Sumter

- a. Senior Instructor Promotions
 - i. New protocol was rolled out, and first submissions will be Feb 1. Going from Chair and then moved up beginning with a 3-party committee based on the applicant depts. Recommendations go to Takita, then to provost.
- b. Upcoming Search for IDVD Director
 - i. Individualized Studies, Ginger is stepping down, and they'll be replacing and taking that program forward
- c. Facilities update
 - i. Sims currently have a flood being cleaned up and mitigated. Sims and Dalton have plans for this summer for renovations. 9 million total
 - ii. Phase 2 Kinard updates start in couple of weeks and continue into Summer 2025- including new carpet in and cleaning and potential upholstery of chairs in Kinard 018—Kinard bathrooms are also getting a facelift. There's a new student study lounge on 2nd floor and one being considered on the 3rd floor
- iii. Faculty Kudos
 - 1. Kori Bloomquist has publication and presentation
 - 2. Sara English has two conference presentations
 - 3. Veronica Ahadzie has 2 publications
 - 4. Several others... check notes
- iv. Distinguished appts
 - 1. Sal Blair- undergraduate research director
 - 2. Hope Lima SC maternal health taskforce
 - 3. Kristin Kiblinger- book reviews editor
 - 4. Sara English-
- v. Noteworthy accomplishments

1. Model UN Conference Students took many of the top prizes-5 top awards
 2. Betsy Ryerson won a top award at Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Scientists
 - vi. Research Council Grants applications due January 28th
 - vii. CAS scholarship applications deadline extended to Feb 3rd
 - viii. EPIC competition with YCNGA
 - ix. Chester county gave money towards offering healthcare majors scholarships that are renewable each year
 - x. Emergency retention scholarships were awarded to keep students here for the spring
- IX. Announcements
- a. Graduate Faculty Committee meets immediately after adjournment
 - b. Research Council Grants Applications deadline – January 28, 2025
 - c. Elections are coming up for positions that are available
 - d. McNair applications deadline from first generation AND low-income backgrounds was extended
- X. Adjournment. Next (and final) meeting of the year is Friday, March 7, 2 PM
- a. Motion to adjourn, seconded. Ended at 3:53.

Note: Quorum (35% of full-time faculty) is 49 faculty members for Faculty Assembly.
The minimum attendance to do business (20% of full-time faculty) is 28 faculty members