

CAS Faculty Assembly
March 7, 2025
2 PM
Kinard Auditorium (018)
Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and approval of minutes (Jo Koster) – [Appendix A](#)
 - a. Called to order at 2.
- II. Approval of minutes
 - a. Motion to approve, seconded, approved
- III. Committee business:
 - a. Curriculum Committee (Jenny Schafer) – [Appendix B](#)
 - i. BSW in Social Work- adding a foreign language requirement
 - 1. Approved
 - ii. Course modifications- both approved
 - 1. Geol 201 violent earth name change
 - 2. Math 370 adding applied calc as a prerequisite
 - iii. New course
 - 1. Plsc
 - iv. Blanket petitions notification for PLSC
 - v. Next meeting is April 15th, material must be submitted a week prior
 - b. Nominating and Rules Committee (Sylvia Wozniak)
 - i. Microcertificate Bylaws Changes
 - 1. Approved changes
 - ii. Curriculum responsibilities bylaws changes
 - 1. Approved changes
 - iii. Faculty Elections – [Appendix C](#)
 - 1. Faculty assembly chair- Casey Cothran English and Valerie Jepsen WLAC
 - a. Nominations closed
 - 2. Graduate Faculty Committee Chair- Julie Orme and Karen Monaghan
 - a. Nominations closes
 - 3. University Faculty Personnel/ Nominating and Rules--Sal Blair (biol) and Allan Nail (engl)
 - a. Nominations closed
 - 4. CAS curriculum--Lauren Glasscock (biol), jessie hoffman (nutr), tony Holbert (pprl), and Tom Polaski (Math)

- a. Nominations closed
 - 5. Cas Faculty Personnel—Aaron Hartel (chem), Aimee Meader (mcom), Trent Kull (math), Merry Sleigh (psyc)
 - a. Nominations closed
 - 6. CAS representative to Graduate Council--Dustin Hoffman (Engl) and Kori Bloomquist
 - a. Nominations closed
- c. Diversity and Inclusion Committee (Jennifer Dixon McKnight and Katharine Hubbard)
 - i. Presidents' meeting—there is no current consensus for how to handle federal or state level bills 3572 and 3927, concerning dei. Some pulling signs and closing down centers, in middle, and waiting to see. We've changed names of entities and pulled some things off the website for extreme dei leaning positions and how they market themselves. They're meeting again on Monday. Conversation is on-going.
 - ii. 3927- there was a public testimony this last week with overflow and standing room only with a lot of pushback. All speaking, spoke against it. There's not a lot of movement on the bills, likely because of the pushback.
 - iii. Proposing a resolution for how we stand on the proposed legislation—brought forth by the committee--approved
 - 1. Discussion: We need to be careful not to endanger students' federal funding. We already cannot allow "illegal" protests as a result of funding. Some colleges have already had their funding pulled, and needed to close various centers. Many dei related offices that were freestanding have had to enfold them into prestanding entities. Suggested that All colleges should do similar moves, but given our student diversity and background, perhaps Winthrop is more situated for working with other colleges to do this. Considering the accessibility for students overall. Some strong support for expanding resolution to include federal funding effects on students continuing their education. Show strong support for students overall. Upholding academic freedom as a safety guard for faculty, etc. Focus on how we say it by framing what we do positively to serve All our students—our students are first generation, low income, etc—how students enhance their communities while

they are Winthrop students and well after. Proposed to have it drafted and presented to full faculty conference in April.

- iv. calling a special meeting dedicated to resolution—approved
 - 1. schedule forthcoming

IV. Old Business

- a. Update on Student Evaluation of Learning Process (Jo Koster and Ginger Williams)

- i. See slides for previous notes.
- ii. Limiting questions to issues on which they have the perspective and ability to answer focused on their experience in the class and what they learned
- iii. Elected use of the watermark system for evaluations as an add onto Blackboard, will be fully online December 2025
- iv. Focus groups during spring 2025 to review questions and discuss roll-out and pilot in limited # of classes
- v. Fall 2025 will have information sessions and training for faculty and implemented across campus.
- vi. Spring 2026: more training and adding ability for custom discipline specific questions
- vii. 2026-2027: full utilization for tenure.
- viii. We can engage more with students and have number data on completion in time, and then blackboard will create pushes to suggest evaluation completion and then require it. Reduces potential for inappropriate comments and increases the chance for more formative feedback from evaluators. Many other benefits across all levels.
- ix. Need for volunteers to pilot the survey this semester! Email Jo Koster
- x. Suggestion for university wide incentives--Drawings for technology or early release of grades.
- xi. April Mustian, Alex Tsiukes, Ginger Williams, Kat Wilson, April Mustian, Alex Tsiukes, Ginger Williams, Kat Wilson

V. New Business

- a. CAS Senior Instructor Policy (Greg Oakes)

- i. Made available in the faculty handbook for College of Arts and Sciences and mimics the university policies under roles and rewards and tenure and promotion policy

- b. Tenure & Promotion application modification (Greg Oakes)

- i. Student evaluation of courses, there's not a prompt in the instructional documents

VI. Remarks from the Dean (Takita Sumter)

- a. Searches underway: 5 offers were made: 3 accepted, 1 pending, and 1 turned down. Next round will start over the summer.
- b. Grant to Mellon Foundation for students in the Humanities—not selected for a full proposal. The elements for internships is a priority. Katarina was hired for helping us establish partnerships for internships in the humanities. Website is also being built. Working to complement CDI work.
- c. Tenure and Promotion- covered by Greg
- d. Fundraising and Formal asks- received 500k in the last few months including scholarships for students- TW microcertificate, PoliSci, and several others received funding
- e. 88 dual enrollment language emersion students are completing and graduating from their programs. Going ahead for a middle college initiative for a slate of courses for a fall 25 pilot. Refining expectations. Adding another 50 students across a broader option.
- f. Budget updates: SC Budget- 2% increase for COL for most state employees, WU Budget will be presented to senate next week, \$3.6M in reductions for FY26 requests needed for academic affairs, a good bit of cost in interim faculty, there is a good bit of funds in contingency for enrollment boosts if they happen.
- g. Enrollment—steady enrollments in most programs, overall enrollment is down 20% since 2015, select program plans submitted on 2/1
 - i. Low enrollment- email- was a charge to look at Masters programs across several programs, and some select low-enrollment programs. Recommendations were made to the board, and the meeting on Monday is about the findings at 11 am.
 - ii. Recruitment- HNRS weekend was in February, Open house is on 3/8; WU day is 4/5
- h. Kinard is currently without an elevator due to
- i. Kudos
 - i. Dr. Gillikin and Stacy P. Martin (February, 2025) "Leadership in Action: Empowering School Administrators to Tackle Bullying Through Targeted Training" accepted by The Clearing House.
 - ii. Dr. Dixon-McKnight (October, 2025) We Paved the Way: Black Women and the Charleston Hospital Workers' Campaign out of the University Press of Mississippi, released October 15th, 2025.

- iii. Dr. Heather Listhartke (2025). Presentation: "Advocating and Building Our Programs in Times of Lean Decision-Making" at Carolina Writing Program Administration Meeting in the Middle Conference
- iv. Dr. Amanda Hiner (2025). Presentation: "Satirizing Masculine Education in the Eighteenth Century: Mary Alcock's and Alicia D'Anvers' University Poems," The Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Savannah, GA
- v. Dr. Tony Hobert published "Effects of Decision Fatigue on Judicial Behavior: A Study of Arkansas Traffic Court Outcomes," with R. Hemrajani. 2024. J. of Law and Courts 12(2): 435-443.
- vi. Dr. Tony Hobert published "Locke's 'Wild Indian' in United States Supreme Court Jurisprudence." 2024. American Indian Law Journal 12(2): 1-38.
- vii. Dr. Bill Schulte, Discussant and Moderator at the AEJMC MidWinter Conference. Also serves as Research Chair and Conference Chair for Entertainment Studies Interest Group
- viii. Drs. K. Hubbard and J. Kasko created the 1763: The Palmetto Journal undergraduate journal for media and pop culture. (SUBMISSIONS ARE LIVE)
- ix. Drs. Oakes and Kiblinger, "Aristotle (384-322 BCE)," The Whitehead Encyclopedia, Brian G. Henning and Joseph Petek (eds.), <<http://encyclopedia.whiteheadresearch.org/entries/bios/historico-speculative-context/aristotle/>>.
- x. Dr. Sandy Rogers published "Sabbath as Creation Care," Review and Expositor 119 (2024): 237-244.
- xi. Dr. Kori Bloomquist Evaluation of MSW Students' Knowledge: Using Community Engaged Applied Research as Innovative Pedagogy. Paper accepted at the 2025 United Macro Conference.
- xii. Dr. Julie Orme and Ben Barr (student) Indigenous Knowledge to Assess Emotional Well-Being 7 Restore Balance. Paper presented at the 2025 Virtual NASW-SC Symposium
- xiii. Dr. A. Hill, A. Sejuitt and Jackie Carson (MSW) The Savvy Supervision: Best Practices for Social Work Supervision. Paper presented at the 2025 Virtual NASW-SC Symposium
- xiv. Dr. Dixon-McKnight took Winthrop students to the Gamma Beta Phi 2025 National Convention in Knoxville Tennessee this past weekend.
- xv. Dr. Dixon-McKnight won the 2024 National Advisor of the Year for the Gamma Beta Phi Society,

- xvi. Cierra Haynes (PLSC/SOCL) won the 2025 National Student Member of the Year award
- xvii. Dr. Heather Listhartke - Professor for Affordable Learning Award from South Carolina Affordable Learning (SCALE) for OER integration in her classes
- xviii. Chris Ward, MSW--Graduated Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 2024 Class - Program Directors Academy
- xix. Dr. Adolphus Belk, Jr won the 2024 Anna Julia Cooper Teacher of the Year Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS).
- xx. Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney won the Gale N. DiGiorgio Woman of Distinction Award for the second time.
- xxi. Dr. Scott Huffman has two forthcoming publications in The Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy ; and Politics, Groups, and Identities
- xxii. Dr. Kristin Kiblinger has a forthcoming publication in Concilium: International Journal of Theology
- xxiii. Drs. Dixon-McKnight and Gillikin are taking Winthrop students to Charleston, SC, to visit the historic sites and museums there as a part of their travel course, HIST 350 (African American History Across South Carolina) and CBLN 351 (Telling the African American Story in South Carolina)
- xxiv. Dr. Amanda Hiner will be taking 18 student participants to the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA for a weekend of plays, workshops, and tours.
- xxv. Dr. Duane Neff Evaluation of MSW Students' Knowledge: Using Community Engaged Applied Research as Innovative Pedagogy. Paper accepted at the 2025 United Macro Conference.
- xxvi. The Johnsonian and Roddey McMillan Record won state awards: General Excellence at the South Carolina Press Association Collegiate Contest, Johnsonian won First place and Roddey McMillan Record won Third place in the Students Under 10,000 Division, The Johnsonian editor Clark Vilardebo was recognized as Collegiate Journalist of the Year.

VII. Announcements

- a. Graduate Council meets immediately following adjournment.
- b. Next meeting is TBD in August.
- c. Open House - March 8

- d. Nominations for the College Faculty Awards due March 31
- e. Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor
- f. Outstanding Adjunct
- g. Scholarship Excellence
- h. Lynn Harand Outstanding Advisor
- i. Medieval Studies Day event-April 1, 6:30 PM, Dina's Place
- j. Hornsby MLA Lecture Series event - April 2
- k. Winthrop Day - April 5
- l. Garden Plots available for those interested.
- m. Partnership with African American Studies and Brattonsville March 27th 6:30 pm in Kinard 016

VIII. Thanks and Adjournment for 2024-2025

- a. Thanks those serving for Cas Faculty Assembly: Jo Koster, Chair; Heather Listhartke, secretary; Tony Hobert, parliamentarian; committee chairs and members of the Curriculum, Nominating and Rules, Diversity & Inclusion, and College Personnel Committees; Amy Gonzalez, Maura Conway, Adria Belk, Greg Oakes, and Margaret Gillikin in the Dean's Office; Takita; and all of you.
- b. Motion to Adjourn and approved: 3:40pm

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.

