CAS Faculty Assembly
Meeting Minutes Agenda
August 18, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Richardson Ballroom

I. Welcome & Introduction of Officers – Casey Cothran
   a. Called to order at 9:07am
II. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2026, meeting (Appendix A)
   a. Motion and seconded, approved
III. Update from Academic Affairs – Sebastian van Delden
   a. Welcome to new academic year
   b. Reminder of ACUE training opportunities
   c. Campuswide AI policies, platforms, etc. under discussion
   d. Fundraising and enrollment have increased
   e. Facilities improvements continue; however, with old buildings issues can still arise. If workorders are needed work with Department Chair/Department Admin to submit work orders
   f. College reorganization continues to be under exploration.
   g. Moving to a shared advising model to enhance student retention. All freshmen will receive professional advising
IV. Admissions Liaisons to the CAS – Fátima Castro & Kyle Conrad
V. Celebration of College Faculty Award Recipients – Takita Sumter a.
   a. Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Award – Dr. Tony Hobert
   b. Scholarship Excellence Award – Dr. Jennifer Dixon-McKnight
   c. Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award – Ms. Elizabeth Weikle
   d. Lynn Harand Outstanding Advisor Award – Dr. Scott Werts
VI. CAS Committees
   a. CAS Curriculum Committee – Tom Polaski
      i. Curriculum Items
         1. New Courses
            a. SCWK342 Grief and Loss – Approved, pending correction of pre-requisites
         2. Course Edits
            a. MAED548 Second Math Curriculum/Pedagog - approved
            b. SPAN385H Topics in Spanish/Hispanic Civ – approved
            c. SPAN313H Advanced Spanish Conversation - approved
            d. SPAN305H Span Law Professions - approved
            e. SPAN250H Intermed Compostn & Conversatn - approved
            f. SPAN202H Intermediate Spanish II - approved
         3. Blanket Petitions
            a. BIOL 423 - approved
            b. MCOM - approved
            c. Comparative Constitutional Law 2026H - approved

d. Political Theory & Film 2026H - approved
e. UN & los 2026 - approved
f.

ii. Introduction of Officers

1. 2026-2027 Curriculum Committee Members -Tom Polaski, Heather Listhartke, Jessie Hoffman, Tony Hobert, Laura Glasscock, Duane Neff, and Samsara Soto
2. First meeting – Sept 1, Kinard 105, 11am – materials need to be submitted by 8/25/26
3. 2026-2027 Meeting Dates (11am in Kinard 105)- curriculum materials MUST be entered in CourseDog a week before the curriculum committee meeting to be considered
    a. September 1, 2026
    b. October 8, 2026
    c. December 8, 2026
    d. January 5, 2027
    e. February 23, 2027
    f. April 3, 2027

VII. New Faculty, Newly Promoted/Tenured Colleagues, Faculty in New Roles – Department Chairs

a. Dr. Renée Vincent, English
b. Dr. Gerri P. Martin, World Languages & Cultures
c. Ms. Gabby Bissonette, CAS Student Services
d. Dr. Jessie Hoffman, Human Nutrition, Tenure
e. Ms. Bonnye Stuart, promoted to Senior Instructor
f. Dr. Gregory Bell, promoted
g. Dr. Devon Fitzgerald, promoted
h. Dr. Kori Bloomquist, promoted
i. Dr. Victoria Frost, promoted
j. Dr. Kathryn Kohl, promoted
k. Dr. Sarah Reiland, promoted
l. Dr. Margaret Gillikin, promoted & new role as Associate Dean

VIII. Old Business

a. Zoom license – ends 8/29/26

IX. New Business

a. New Advising Model – Takita Sumter
    i. First Year academic advising academic advisors
        1. Dr. Adria Belk -belkal@winthrop.edu
            a. Majors: Individualized Studies, Mass Communication, Public Relations & Advertising (previously Integrated Marketing Communication), Social Studies Education, Social Work
        2. Ms. Gabby Bissonette - bissonetteg@winthrop.edu

a. Majors: Biology, Chemistry, Data Science, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies, Health Sciences, Human Nutrition, Mathematics

3. Ms. Sherri Wilson - wilsons@winthrop.edu
    a. Majors: Criminal Justice, English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy & Religion, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology

b. Blackboard security – Greg Oakes -Privacy, Security & Compliance in Higher Ed webinar - For more information, use QR code to view

i. How Blackboard thinks about security & privacy and the way we approach the evolving landscape
ii. Our full security program: Governance & Risk, Security Engineering, Application Security, and Security Quality Management
iii. An overview of FedRAMP, DoD IL4, GovRAMP, TX-RAMP, and all ISO certifications — what they are and why they matter to you
iv. A plain-language breakdown of the current U.S. federal and state privacy landscape, including what FERPA, COPPA, GDPR, and new AI laws mean for your institution
v. How Blackboard implements GDPR-level data standards globally, and what that means for your data processing agreements
vi. A behind-the-scenes look at Blackboard's Trustworthy AI Program: governance council, product impact assessments, transparency notes, and alignment to the NIST AI Risk Management Framework
vii. How to access SOC 2 Type 2 reports, HECVAT responses, penetration testing letters, and more through your CSM or the Blackboard Trust Center

c. Student Voter Engagement Initiatives – Tony Hobert

i. Student Voting Ambassadors (SVAs) available to Speak to classes and/or Attend events – to request a SVAs speaker - https://bit.ly/4fPqBNx or by using the QR code
ii. For more information, voter registration and voting by mail: Winthrop.turbovote.org

X. Remarks from the Dean – Takita Sumter

a. Shared academic growth across CAS programs/departments
    i. Addition of MLA Concentration (Criminology/Criminal Justice)
    ii. Online BSW proposal submitted
    iii. IMC-Public Relations & Advertising (name change)
    iv. BS in Criminal Justice (55 students enrolled)
    v. BS in Health Sciences – Fall 2026 launch; 5 students enrolled

b. Student Successes

i. 100% edTPA pass rates in English and Social Studies Education and all secondary programs
ii. First GIS Microcertificate graduates
iii. Multiple Presidential Scholars recognized

iv. $2M NSF S-STEM TIPS Scholars Initiative
v. School Psychology: 18th consecutive year with 100% Praxis pass rate and full placement

c. Faculty Achievements
   i. Over 100 faculty awards, publications and national media visibility
   ii. $7million extramural grants awarded
   iii. Three national faculty searches (Biology, English, and WLAC)
      1. Biology national search will relaunch in Fall 2026

d. Community Engagement
   i. Collaborations with Rock Hill Schools and industry partners
   ii. CAS Career Readiness Scholarships
   iii. Increases in friendraising and fundraising

e. Reminders/Updates
   i. Professional development funding disbursement protocol is underdevelopment but is anticipated to be $900-1200/faculty. Travel request deadline is Sept 15.
   ii. Faculty responsible for uploading course syllabi in Watermark
   iii. Convocation 8/24/26
   iv. Faculty Conference 8/21/26

XI. Announcements

a. Next Faculty Assembly Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 2pm, Kinard Auditorium 018. Agenda items need to be submitted by 9/4/26. Items for next meeting presentation are due by 9/9/26

b. Faculty Assembly meeting dates for 2026-2027

   i. Friday, September 11, 2:00 p.m., Kinard 018
   ii. Friday, October 23, 2:00 p.m., Kinard 018
   iii. Friday, January 15, 2:00 p.m., Kinard 018

c. Friday, March 5, 2:00 p.m., Kinard 018

d. Partnership with Santee Cooper – To learn more: September 20, 2026 @ 3:30pm Whitton Auditorium at Carroll Hall

e. Migration in a Changing World: An Interdisciplinary Approach will be February 25-27, 2027. For more information, to register, and/or to submit an abstract, see the QR code. Abstract deadline: November 1, 2026

XII. Adjournment – motion to adjourn @ 11:25am

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.