

Winthrop University – Faculty Conference
Friday, April 25, 2025
2:00pm
Whitton Auditorium

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover)
2. Approval of Minutes from the February 28, 2025 Meeting (Appendix A)
3. Report from the Faculty Conference Chair (Adam Glover)
4. Report from the Provost (Sebastian van Delden)
5. Update from IT (Patrice Bruneau)
6. Update from Finance and Business Affairs (Kevin Butler)
7. Update from Academic Affairs (Meg Webber)
8. Update on Student Evaluations of Teaching (Jo Koster)
9. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Council (Kori Bloomquist)
 - b. Rules (Lauren Kohut)
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - a. Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from CAS (Jo Koster)
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment

Note: Quorum (35% of Faculty Conference membership faculty) is 107 faculty members. The minimum attendance required to do business (20% of Faculty Conference membership) is 61 faculty members. In the absence of a quorum, a vote of 75% of those present is required to conduct business.

Appendix A

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Faculty Conference Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Ozust, Associate Professor of Dance

We have quorum.

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover) 2:04pm
2. Approval of Minutes from the November 22 Meeting (Appendix A)
 - a. Motion to approve Minutes from November 22, 2024 Meeting
 - b. Minutes approved
3. Report from the Provost (Sebastian van Delden)
 - a. Flight Ready QEP Updates
 - i. 150 faculty have been trained and our Flight Ready goal is 200
 - ii. Meg Weber is now enrolling faculty for the last two courses in our current contract
 - b. Inaugural Honors Recruiting Weekend
 - i. 27 Top Flight Scholar candidates
 - ii. 100+ prospective honors students
 - c. Policy Update to the Tenure Policy Conditions and Procedures: Extension of Tenure Clock 2.2.33
 - i. All kinds of reasons of extension of tenure clock
 - ii. Extension may or may not include a leave of absence.
 - iii. Provost can approve up to a 2-year extension.
 - d. Update to Sabbatical Policy/Procedures
 - i. Templates for proposals/reviews that will go into effect for next year
 - e. What if... Updates
 - i. Spring 2025 Activities
 1. Working on Bachelor's in Health Sciences *concept*.
 2. Designed Bachelor's in Manufacturing Engineering *concept*.
 3. What If... presented to BOT
 4. Doctorate of Social Work report out in March
 5. Gen Ed Task Force has met
 - a. Charged with looking at how other universities approach this to perhaps make changes at Winthrop
 - b. Perhaps simplifying, make it a marketing tool for the university, themes that are tied to certifications, etc.
 6. Donor/State support requested
 - ii. Fall 2026
 1. School of Health Sciences?
 - iii. Fall 2028
 1. College Reorganization?

Q: Does “medical reasons” include both physical and mental health?

A: Yes.

Q: It says regional and global disruptions...does that preclude local?

A: No. This is as wide open as possible.

Q: In terms of the engineering component, I know that some schools think engineering is their thing. Do you anticipate any push back?

A: The old school thinking is that Clemson and USC do engineering in SC, so why would we do it? But that's not the question that I would propose. Many other universities are offering it; engineering is becoming common. We do want to go in with something like manufacturing engineering that will set us apart. York Tech is excited because they offer pre-engineering.

Q: Where are the new faculty for engineering going to sit?

A: My hope is to seat it in the computer science department.

Q: How many students does the engineering program need to cover the costs?

A: I think it's about 60 or so to break even. Still working to put together the budget. We don't want to do anything, of course, to put Winthrop in financial trouble.

Q: The concept of executive orders, and teaching, and new programs has come up. Can you give us some broad strokes about how to address these with faculty?

A: The cabinet regularly discusses the goings on at our state capital and at the federal level. I know you're paying attention. Please let me know if you are hearing something; help keep me in the loop. We meet regularly about this. There is so much uncertainty; we're doing the wait and see approach. Some universities are being more proactive in terms of renaming things, etc. It's still very much evolving, so we're paying attention. No matter what happens, we will all be committed to providing a welcoming campus for everyone. No matter what happens, we will do everything to make Winthrop a welcoming environment for our students and faculty.

Q: Fall 2026 is not that far away, where would that space (School of Health Sciences) live?

A: School of Health Science is an umbrella structure, and it would need an executive director. But there's not a big physical component of it. The main investment would be to hire a professional advisor for pre-health. The umbrella structure would provide a connective tissue to help us recruit and raise the presence of everything we're already doing. Relatively cheap but still get a big visibility impact.

4. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
 - a. FCUP (Eric Birgbauer - link to FCUP Reports)
 - i. Policies for compensation of Internship Coordinators and Directors.
 1. Some colleges have policies, others do not, thus compensation is variable.
 2. Raised this issue with Provost and he is evaluating. Plans for policy in the future.
 - ii. New copiers and removing printer
 1. Logic of removing of printers, concerns of accessibility, toner already paid from budgets.
 2. Brought to President, will move forward, will allow very rare exceptions.
 - iii. Classification and Compensation future
 1. Current study ends 2025
 2. Concern about faculty who might have roles in more than one tier
 3. Brought to President
 4. There is a committee working on this: wanting to ensure pay equity, keep

- cost of living increases, etc.
 - 5. Right now, they handle multiple tiers by basing it on your home department
 - iv. Facilities
 - 1. Broken bathrooms in Thurmond, but also improve look of campus
 - 2. Brought to President
 - a. Huge backlog of deferred maintenance, staff shortages for all projects, requests from state, too much to maintain (space utilization study)
 - b. HVAC and heating are the priority
 - v. FCUP items resolved
 - 1. Process for applying for senior instructor status
 - vi. Other FCUP items in process
 - 1. Future of Zoom contract
 - 2. Intellectual rights policy
- b. Academic Council (Cody Walters)
 - i. Committee approved 4 new GNED courses, 28 new program action items, 8 new program minors
 - ii. Also discussed S/U deadline, course repeat policy (is there a max?)
 - iii. FC approves the 4 new GNED courses
 - iv. FC approves 3 new programs (BA Game Design, BS Applied Software Engineering, BS Aviation and Business Management)
 - v. FC approves all actions brought forth from the Academic Council
5. Faculty Conference Elections (see appendix A)
- a. Rules Committee needs additional nominee: Carter Wolf, Biology, CAS
 - b. Faculty Conference Chair needs additional nominee.
 - i. Move to nominate Dr. Glover by acclamation.
 - 1. Robert's Rules supersede the Bylaws in this case
 - ii. Paul Weigand nominates himself
 - iii. A link to vote in these elections will be emailed shortly.
6. Old Business
- a. None
7. New Business
- a. None
8. Announcements
- a. Withdraw and S/U deadline is March 25
 - b. Summer registration begins March 26
 - c. Fall registration begins April 9
 - d. John Bird Writing Residency May 19-25, 2025
 - e. SOURCE is April 11
 - f. Next FC is April 25, 2025
 - g. Graduate Faculty meeting will immediately follow this meeting.
9. Adjournment