

Winthrop University – Faculty Conference
Friday, February 27, 2026
2:00pm
Whitton Auditorium

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover)
2. Approval of Minutes from the December 5, 2025 Meeting (Appendix A)
3. Report from the Provost (Sebastian van Delden)
4. Update from Registrar (Gina Jones)
5. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Council (Cody Walters)
 - b. FCUP (Danko Tarabar)
 - c. Rules (Martha Smith)
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Faculty Elections
9. Announcements
10. 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.

Agenda

11. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover)
12. Approval of Minutes from the October 17, 2025 Meeting (Appendix A)
 - a. Approved
13. Report from the Provost (Sebastian van Delden)
 - a. Shared photo album from recent events attended
 - b. Please invite Provost van Delden to whatever you've got going on. He would love to attend and see what's going on around campus.
14. Report from Academic Affairs (Meg Webber)
 - a. Final report for the Faculty Ready Component of Flight Ready
 - i. At least 1 person from every department
 - ii. Have 200 trained faculty across all ranks
 - iii. CBT: all chairs
 - iv. CBT and CESHS had at least 3 faculty completers
 - v. Confidence measures: after training, 80% or higher
 - vi. 31 employees that earned the full certificate
 - b. What's next?
 - i. Launching ACUE commons for 2 semesters
 - ii. If you started a course and finished it and you didn't download the materials, you'll have the opportunity through the commons.
15. Update from Registrar (Gina Jones)
 - a. Grades due for all GR degree candidates Wed, Dec. 17 by 3pm
 - b. Grades due for all UG degree candidates Thurs, Dec. 18 by 9am
 - c. Grades due for all students Friday, Dec. 19 by 5pm
 - d. All students have to be cleared to participate in commencement.
 - e. Anticipate 222 undergraduate, 73 graduate students at commencement, about 44 more than we had last December.
16. Update from Financial Aid Michelle Hare (Financial Aide)
 - a. New limits for parent plus loans: annual \$20,000, lifetime limit \$65,000
 - i. Current borrowers are about \$5.2 million
 - ii. 357 students have parent plus
 - iii. 32 students currently above the new lifetime limit

- iv. 3-year grace period for current students
- b. Loans pro-rated when enrolled less than full-time
 - i. This will affect approximately 7% of students
- c. Graduate PLUS loan eliminated
 - i. 3-year grace period for students who borrowed a federal loan before 7/1/26 and remain in same program
 - ii. Increasing unsubsidized loan limits
 - iii. We have 1 million a year in grad PLUS loans
 - iv. 9% of grad students affected
- d. Repayment Plans reduced to 2 options
- e. No longer allowed to defer loans for economic hardships
- f. Does transferring college end the 3-year grace period? Yes.
- g. Does changing majors eliminate the 3-year grace period? No
- h. Next steps
 - i. Advise leadership
 - ii. Advise faculty

Q: Will information show up on the website somewhere?

A: Yes, we will do updates.

Q: Normally I advise students about their classes, but recently students have been asking about their financial aid and I'm not sure how to advise.

A: Never hesitate to send students to the Financial Aid Office.

Q: In Human Nutrition we have grad students that enroll in undergraduate courses, what will happen with those students?

A: Are they taking them at the same time?

Q: Yes.

A: Then they're all counting toward their master's degree.

- 17. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
 - a. Academic Council (Cody Walters)
 - i. Four Courses for GNED inclusion
 - 1. Motion carries
 - ii. 19 degree action items
 - 1. Motion carries
 - iii. 1 new minor
 - 1. Motion carries
 - iv. Cultural event credit for dual enrollment students
 - 1. Change language so that students that bring in credit will have their CE credits adjusted accordingly.

Q: Would that apply to students that come in with AP credit.

A: We would treat transfer credit and AP a little differently because AP credits are truly high school credits. In Dual Enrollment, you're taking college work, but that becomes an interesting thing, because do we count our own classes? There are some logistical things that we need to work through so it's not a final proposal yet.

Q: How do they know how many they need to complete to graduate. It seems like it could change, so how would we track that?

A: We would treat it like transfer credits, so how many credits it would take to reach 120 hours. That's the only thing we have to work out, and we do that their first semester in Degreeworks so they know how many they need.

- b. Rules (Martha Smith)
 - i. Adjust the GEN-ED committee requirements so that there is a committee member from each attribute area.
 - 1. Motion carries

- 18. Old Business

- 19. New Business

- 20. Announcements
 - a. Andrew Bessmer, new chair of FCUL
 - i. Plans to develop an online tool to report issues
 - b. Heather Lishartke
 - i. Launching grant writing fellows program in the department of English.
 - c. Stacy Martin
 - i. Opportunities for faculty to connect with Athletics
 - 1. Want to pair with faculty who might be interested in analyzing data about strength and conditioning
 - 2. Internship opportunities
 - a. Match with a team for various roles
 - 3. January 14th: Academic Success Night
 - d. Martha Smith
 - i. Changes to EBSCO e-book, so please reach out to the library so you don't lose access.
 - e. Tim Drueke
 - i. Commencement is Saturday the 20th

- 21. Adjournment
 - a. 2:49pm

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