Winthrop University – Faculty Conference
Friday, October 17, 2025
2:00pm
Whitton Auditorium

Agenda

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover)

2. Approval of Minutes from the August 22, 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 the Ombud (Tammy Burnham)

7. LEAP Program (Jennifer Everhart)

8. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
    a. Academic Council (Cody Walters)
    b. FCUP (Eric Birgbauer)

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Announcements

12. 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
Winthrop University – Faculty Conference
Friday, August 22, 2025
2:00pm
Whitton Auditorium

Faculty Conference Minutes
Prepared by Kelly Ozust, Associate Professor of Dance
We have quorum.

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Adam Glover) 2:00pm

2. Approval of Minutes from the April 25, 2025 Meeting (Appendix A)
   a. Motion to approve, minutes approved

3. Report from the Faculty Conference Chair (Adam Glover)
   a. Nothing to report

4. Remarks from the President (Edward Serna)
   a. Great welcome back, Ribbon cutting at the Thread Interior Design Facility
   b. Monday Convocation in Byrnes, 11am with picnic following
   c. Facilities update
      i. For many years, facilities has largely had to be reactive because previous plans weren't anchored in all the information that surrounds and affects facilities maintenance and updates.
      ii. New plan: a contracted company will present a plan on how to attack the facilities issues.
      iii. Less concerned with a cost number, more concerned with getting facilities up to the point that we can provide the education we want.
      iv. University asking the state for more money for HVAC systems because we were previously denied.
   d. Facilities staffing
      i. The university can't attack facilities issues when running at high vacancy rates.
      ii. The outsourcing solution was the best solution.
      iii. Hope to see contractor that has us fully staffed, has service agreement in place, and has accountability measures.

5. Report from the Provost (Sebastian van Delden)
   a. Introduction of New Faculty
   b. Updates of Summer Projects
      i. Book club recognition
      ii. Melissa McCartney welcome: new dean of the school of Graduate, Continuing, and Online Education
      iii. What if…
         1. Worked on the bachelor's in health sciences and bachelor's in advanced manufacturing engineering

2. Launch the degree of bachelor's in health sciences inside the nutrition department for now. Keep the School of Health Sciences on the horizon.
3. New Pre-health Professional Advising Microsite launched
4. New Policy Repository: low-tech but easier to do policy management
    a. Update links if you want them to go straight to the policies
5. General Education Assessment Committee, chaired by KB Gwebu
6. Software Systems Update
    a. Shift from Interfolio to Watermark
    b. Pre-tenure, Post-tenure, Instructor promotion - TBD
    c. Faculty searches will use Peopleadmin
7. Dacus Library Update
    a. Proceed with plan to only fix critical systems and move archives to Dinkins
    b. Eventually demolish library and move it to another space
    c. Deselection annually to open more study space, and reduce stacks in Dacus.
8. New Shared Advising Model
    a. The Office for Student Success: retention focused initiative
        i. Potentially see a 3.5-7.6 growth in retention rates, and 5.3 percentage points in graduate rates based on data from other universities
        ii. Many universities moved to this model and have data that supports it.
        iii. Take the first step in this direction this year: hire 2 professional advisors and an executive director of advising
        iv. There is a plan and timeline for how to investigate this
        v. Thursday, August 28 and October 23, Provost Listening Sessions on Zoom
    b. General Education Task Force
        i. Key Findings: simplify and marketability
        ii. Form new task force this fall to look at the gen ed program
        iii. The current system is too complicated
        iv. Recommendations:
            1. Split Arts and Humanities into two groups
            2. Split the complicated Quantitative and Natural Science
            3. Jazz up the language of the gen ed program to make it more attractive to students
        v. What is not part of the charge:
            1. Reducing bucket sizes
            2. Making substantive changes to the content/categories and overhauling the content
            3. Reducing the size of gen ed
        vi. If you want to participate in the task force, email Sebastian
    c. A lot of great things happening. We need to think strategically to engage the Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Charlotte corridor

6. Update from Student Affairs (Sheila Burkhalter)

a. Residence Life: excellent work getting students into housing
b. Introduce Chartwells: dining services provider (Danny Dawkins and Gerald Gatto)
   i. Catering: Blue Line Catering, Michael Post
   ii. Updates in Daily Digest
   iii. Updated Markley's
   iv. Dining Hall, retained a lot of employees from the previous provider
c. Dean of Students Office
   i. Continuing the search for a permanent Dean of Students. Miranda Knight will continue as the Interim Dean of Students
   ii. All updates and information go out on Monday
d. Center for Student Wellness
   i. Temporary location: Roddey Hall
      1. Card swipe through the Hardin Family Gardens, check in room is 117
   ii. New electronic health records system: PyraMED
      1. Single sign-on
      2. This is house immunization records, schedule appointments, complete forms
e. Student Government Association
   i. Transitioned Council of Student Leaders back to SGA
   ii. Allows us to scaffold with applicable classes
   iii. Currently filling 7 seats on SGA
   iv. Currently seeking at faculty representative: assist with advising/group cohesion, attend meetings and chaperone

7. Update from IT (Patrice Bruneau)
   a. New Adobe Agreement, 3-year license
      i. Have limited license of pro suite, have more licenses for Adobe Express
      ii. Licenses will last the whole year
   b. Windows 1: October 14 is the last day for Windows 10
   c. New Wingspan – very customizable
   d. Security
      i. Make sure to complete cyber security training
      ii. Watch for phishing campaigns
   e. Class Listservs
      i. Refresh for the next 3 weeks
   f. Zoom is safe for 1 more year: use this year to transition to Teams
      i. Get rid of, or download, old zoom recordings

8. Update from Admissions (Joseph Miller / Amanda James)
   a. Continue to see consistency: we are targeting the right students
   b. Look at where Winthrop can be outside of SC
   c. The numbers we're seeing in enrollment are remarkable
   d. Fall Events
      i. Open House: Oct 18
      ii. First Look Friday: Nov 21
      iii. Open House: March 7
      iv. Winthrop Day: April 11
      v. First Look Friday: April 24
   e. Strategic Partnerships
   f. How can you get involved?
      i. Talk to students

       ii.   Share on social media
      iii.   Refer directly with admissions
      iv.   Engage in campus events and classroom visits
  g. Feedback, suggestions, ideas: jamesa@winthrop.edu

9. Update from the Registrar (Gina Jones)
   a. Interim Grading: grades due Oct 9ᵗʰ at 5pm
      i. Please don't use "incomplete" as an interim grade
      ii. UU and UF grade: used to show non-participation or non-attendance
      iii. FAQ section on the grading website
      iv. You have your own set of resources on the Records and Registration page
   b. Wingspan: cheat sheet that you can get to from the Faculty Services tile. It can help you locate things in Academics
   c. SU deadline is now extended to the 85% of term. It will be Tuesday November 18ᵗʰ.
   d. FERPA: consider attending Fall classes on zoom

10. Reports from Faculty Conference Standing Committees
    a. FCUP (Eric Birgbauer)
       i. Exists to represent the faculty to the administration
       ii. FCUP reports and log available
    b. Rules (Martha Smith)
       i. Vote on Bylaw changes: approved through vote
       ii. Vote on Bylaws for the new Honor's College: approved through vote

11. Old Business

12. New Business

13. Announcements
    a. Convocation
    b. Faculty Athletics Representative Update
       i. Athlete GPA is highest it's ever been: 3.404
       ii. Club sports bringing a lot of attention: Esports and Cornhole
          1. These teams have no academic support person
          2. They don't know their schedule ahead of time
          3. Based on sponsorships, no Winthrop travel budget
          4. The athletes will contact professors about competitions
       iii. Athletic events honoring faculty
          1. Invitation from athletes
          2. Meals before games
       iv. Going to events shows you care!
    c. Winthrop McNair
       i. Half of our scholars won awards this summer
       ii. Application will open on Labor Day: looking for first gen and low-income undergraduates
    d. Paul Weigand: 8 faculty with extensive research in machine learning and data sciences
       i. Starting colloquium, 5-6 speakers throughout the year
    e. Kyle Sweeney: gratitude to IT for development of a virtual reality lab housed in Owens.

        i. There are so many faculty members that are excited to learn this technology. Seeks assurance that IT can get the 18 Metaquest headsets working in the next few weeks.

    f. Nick Grosseme: Macfeat early childhood lab school is selling ice cream today.

    g. Leigh Poole: Launch Successfest in week 4 of classes. All first-year students are required to attend, but it will open to all students. It will be on Dinkins lawn, with a dunk tank.

14.   Adjournment, 3:38pm

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