



## FACULTY CONFERENCE AGENDA 11/18/22

I. Call the meeting to order Approval of the Minutes for the 9-30-22 Faculty Conference Meeting	Dr. Jennifer Jordan
II. Report from the FC Chair	Dr. Jennifer Jordan
III. Report From the Provost	Dr. Peter Judge
IV. Report from Academic Council	Dr. Alice McLaine
V. Report from FCUP Chair	Dr. Amanda Hiner
VI. Unfinished Business	
VII. New Business	
VIII. Announcements	Gina Jones Chuck Rey
IX. Adjournment	

## Faculty Conference Minutes 11/18/2022

(Minutes prepared by Hope Lima, Asst. Professor of Human Nutrition)

--Meeting called to order at 2:01 PM

--We have a quorum at 98 faculty conference attendees; quorum was reached with 153 in attendance.

### **I. Approval of the Minutes for the September 30, 2022 Faculty Conference Meeting**

- a. Motion made to approve minutes and seconded
- b. Minutes were approved unanimously

### **II. Report from the FC Chair (Dr. Jennifer Jordan)**

- a. Communication updates with the board
  - I. Portal created and that has been helpful
- b. Asked to speak during executive session and provide responses to a few questions
  - I. Trying to gather background information about values, what strengths are, and what programs might be beneficial to add
  - II. Shared opinion on faculty job satisfaction
    - I. Shared that moving jobs for faculty is much more difficult than staff job changes and that may be the reason for the discrepancy between faculty and staff losses
- c. Dr. Wildman was chosen as the faculty representative for the VP of advancement search based on his extensive expertise in the area
- d. Faculty on the provost search
  - I. There will be 6
  - II. Jennifer Jordan will be going to each college and asking for names of who the college would like to be on the committee
    - I. People will be nominated and faculty will be able to vote by college on those representatives
- e. Shared governance with new president/provost
  - I. Jennifer feels very optimistic and feels that things are significantly different than how it has been in the past with the new administrators
- f. Jennifer is working with FCUP and FCUL on the policy repository
  - I. Would like your opinion about any policies that you are aware of that may need an update or have issues that you feel need to be addressed
  - II. Please sent to [jordanj@winthrop.edu](mailto:jordanj@winthrop.edu) if you have comments/concerns/feedback
- g. Questions
  - I. Margaret Gillikin asked about the decision to meet solely virtually and the concern that it does not meet Robert's Rules of Order
    - I. Robert Wildman stated that given that Robert's Rules of Order were written long before virtual meetings were an option, might that specific rule now be considered obsolete?
    - II. Margaret Gillikin states "I think the faculty should make the decision about how we meet. Not being able to speak inhibits faculty voice and participation. If virtual meetings are in line with Rober's, I would recommend a platform like regular Zoom instead

of BB Collaborate or Zoom Webinar. In person meetings could always have a virtual option

III. Andrew Besmer states for future that Whitton Auditorium may offer the possibility of both an in person meeting and a high quality zoom meeting where speakers will be clearly heard and seen, it may be worth exploring

II. Wendy Sellers asked why this meeting was made to be in Webinar format

### III. Report from the Provost (Dr. Peter Judge)

a. Sabbatical applications

I. Under review and recommendations will be submitted to the president who will provide decisions around December 1<sup>st</sup>

II. Happy about continued commitment to providing sabbatical applications despite the economic

b. Faculty policy review

I. Faculty work group with Tim Drueke on reviewing and updating policies that apply to the faculty

c. General Education review

I. Provost has asked this committee to explore the possibility of updating/revising the program and this is in view of the coming work with Gray Associates

II. Jo Koster stated that we did reconsider the GNED program in the 2015-2016 academic year so it has not been as long as administration is stating that is has been

d. Flight Ready/ACUE

I. Information about registration coming soon for spring and summer courses

II. This is an important retention tool

III. Remember the \$500 department grants for three or more completers

e. Thompson Scholar applications

I. Information and application now available under Academic Affairs > Faculty Honors > Awards

II. Due January 14, 2023

f. Questions

I. Dr. BRB – are there any specific things that are to be discussed about the gen ed committee review it would be helpful for faculty to know

II. Ephraim Sommers – regarding faculty hiring policy: as someone who has served on two search committees for professor lines in the past, I was wondering why we don't list the exact salary offer in our job ads up front. It would save everyone's time on the committee and those applying to the job, knowing that information up front, as we would receive less overall applications.

I. Dr. Judge states that usually we put "salary dependent on experience" but he is not opposed to having a salary range

III. Wendy Sellers gave an update on Gen Ed revision, stating that we are in phase 2 of the review which includes data collection and review to provide information about systematic/thoughtful revisions of curriculum based on

data. Unsure about how this will move forward because Wendy Sellers will be leaving at the end of this semester so she will not be heading this effort anymore.

- I. Dr. Judge updates that it is possible that they will not change anything
  - g. Update about retention and enrollment
    - I. Concern about retention because we want to be sure to keep the students that we recruited as we were already below our annual goals
    - II. Encourage advisors and department chairs to reach out to students to encourage them to register
    - III. Applications are up 24.4% compared to last year and decisions are being sent sooner, with an increase of 22.5%. This speaks to marketing successes.
  - h. Encourage faculty to join in on Tuesday 11/22 to join “A Latte Fun” in Tilman 106 from 9 – 11:30 AM.
- IV. Report from the Registrar (Gina Jones)**
- a. GR degree candidate grades due Wed, Dec 14 by 3 PM
  - b. UG degree candidate grades due Thur, Dec 15 by 9 AM
  - c. Grades due for all students Fri, Dec 15 by 5 PM
  - d. New grades that are happening this semester “UF” and “UU”
    - I. UF – “unearned F” – failure due to nonparticipation or nonattendance vs. F where they did not pass assignments
    - II. UU – unearned U – failure due to nonparticipation or nonattendance vs. U where they did not pass assignments
    - III. If student was never in class, please put a 0 in the hours attended column
    - IV. This does not have to do with an attendance policy but with a student not passing due to not showing up for class at all
    - V. Faculty have discretion at grading – you won’t be approached if you put the wrong thing. This is an effort to differentiate between students not grasping the subject material vs. students that did not attend the class
- V. Concerns from Margaret Gillikin**
- a. Sharing concerns about the format
  - b. Does not like being in a meeting where she can’t see who is in the meeting because of when someone is speaking
  - c. Feels this hampers conversation because the time it takes to type
  - d. Also concerned about chat defaulting to host and panelists
  - e. Kent Miller states that we may be able to clarify meeting platform in the bylaws by amending them for future meetings
  - f. Several people said they appreciate the virtual option
  - g. Several people agree that the method needs to be in a way that does not silence the faculty
  - h. Several people said that hybrid allows some people being more comfortable with commenting
- VI. Report from Academic Council (Dr. Alice McLaine)**
- a. Encourages training on CourseDog
  - b. CourseDog is now available for curriculum action

- c. New Minor of Global Arts and Visual Culture does not require vote from Faculty Conference
- d. Cultural Events committee proposal to continue offering virtual cultural events – academic council voted unanimously to continue to offer virtual events
  - I. Faculty moderator would continue to keep track for attendance by having cameras on/being in attendance for the entire program
  - II. Committee suggested that there should be a maximum of 12 cultural events virtually each semester; however, this semester has only had 5 and so the committee does not see this as a current problem
  - III. Vote required by faculty conference
    - I. Poll given
    - II. 96% approved, so allowing virtual cultural events will continue
- e. General education assessment committee proposal to remove SLO 3 from the global perspectives component of general education
  - I. Language shifted from listing global events that are available to students during the semester to asking students to identify relevant connections between course material and a global cultural
  - II. This shift in language was never actually approved, so academic council is asking it just be removed
  - III. Vote required by faculty conference
    - I. Poll given
    - II. 96% approved, so removing SLO 3 is approved

**VII. Report from FCUP (Dr. Amanda Hiner)**

- a. FCUP is employing a hybrid approach to concerns brought to FCUP by colleagues
  - I. Sometimes they take issues directly to the president, sometimes directly to the provost
  - II. Sometimes they bring to other administrators across campus
- b. Have been very happy with the response to concerns with FCUP and feel president/provost are working with FCUP to get concerns resolved
- c. Working with FCUL closely in some manners
- d. Updates on current issues brought to president/provost:
  - I. FCUP report on progress on campus internal communication plan
    - I. Hybrid approach, where they identify pain points in communication and provide recommendations rather than a specific internal communication plan
    - II. Will be reaching out to faculty for input in the form of focus group/survey – watch for this
  - II. Method of tuition reporting/perception of cost of Winthrop in SC
    - I. Other universities strip out program fees and Winthrop does not
    - II. Net cost is actually in the middle of the universities in SC
    - III. VP responses included confirmation of the cost but that student fees are lower than other schools
    - IV. Plan to coordinate with other administrators to help adjust reporting to be better in line with SC

- V. Tuition pricing models are complex and can make difficult – but want to have a strategic approach to shifting perception of actual cost
- III. Questions about the plan for finding from Gray Associates
  - I. How transparent will the process be? Will it be shared with faculty? Will it be shared in totality? Will faculty be involved in the decision making process?
  - II. President Serna’s response is yes to everything – it will be shared in it’s entirety with the university; analysis will be focused on cost savings – this is not intended to be used as a weapon and faculty will be very involved about report data and we will make decisions together about how the campus community will respond to the report.
- IV. Faculty involvement with/inclusion on provost and other key leadership searches
  - I. Current thought: 6 faculty members from across the college, 2 staff, and 4 administrators
  - II. Faculty will be voted on by each college
- V. Midterm window and timing for cyber-security training
  - I. Feels onerous to faculty
  - II. Reached out to Patrice Bruneau and he responded that IT is currently working on a new process that will be based on a 12 month anniversary period from prior training – window will be opened to 60 days rather than 2-3 weeks
  - III. Does that push someone’s window to a non-contract time? This is something they may take up again moving forward
  - IV. Question about timing – if someone completes the cyber-security training early in the window, will that move your due date up to that 1-2 day window?
    - I. Patrice Bruneau states that if you complete the training on Sept 1 for example, your next deadline will be 12 months after that day. Your new window will start 60 days before Sept 1.
- VI. Allowing faculty have received major faculty awards the option to delay post-tenure review for five years
  - I. This is small, but meaningful to faculty morale
  - II. This practice has gone away and we asked for it to return
  - III. Both president and provost were highly in favor of reinstating this practice
- VII. Ongoing concerns about the campus technology/laptop campus initiatives
  - I. There was an extensive research period that went into the recommendation to move to a laptop campus
  - II. Concern is that we do not have the infrastructure to support that which can result in frustration for students and faculty

- III. Upgrades in technology need to be used to recruit students and it is being put into rooms in Kinard where everything is run down. The room doesn't reflect the investment in technology.
  - I. Working group went into these rooms to talk about ways to upgrade the rooms to reflect the value of the technology so that room doesn't detract from the technology
- IV. Questions
  - I. Kinard was a strategic choice because it is on the tour twice and has an accessibility ramp right near the room.
  - II. What does the term laptop campus actually mean? Andrew Besmer came on to discuss this
    - I. It means that the technology will be improved in the classrooms as well – professor can teach while moving through the classroom and the students can send data to the smart screens as well
    - II. Kinard is supposed to be the proof of concept that will be then tested and feedback gathered to improve upon the concept
    - III. Biggest concern was that the room would not be completed by the date that they originally set – and that did occur. Right now the room is not functional and it cannot be tested at the moment. Once it can be tested it will be deployed out to other rooms.
    - IV. Concerns: cost is very high; may need to be tiered (e.g. some that are fully upgraded and some that are partially updated) and scattered throughout different departments. Also need to pay attention to aesthetics by respecting campus spaces. Also concern about wifi connectivity in specific areas of each building.
    - V. Wifi is not under the committee control and has been recommended as a pain point with implementing a laptop campus
    - VI. There are very real problems with getting technology software due to supply chain issues
- III. Patrice Bruneau came on to update about Wifi
  - I. Age of the buildings has been hurting efforts for Wifi. Only most recent buildings have good coverage. Older building are terrible for installing technology.
  - II. Installing technology requires wiring, power, cooling, etc. that are really difficult to put into older buildings
  - III. Kinard is on the radar right now. It has been surveyed twice. These companies are trying to figure out what is the way that can maintain the

building. Then a quote comes in and it has to be approved. Then supply chain is on a 6-12 month backorder so even if this was fixed/approved tomorrow it would be a year before things got in.

IV. IT just lost their only network administrator

VIII. Faculty roles and rewards – review of policies affecting faculty members and establishment of rewards if possible

I. Going through policies to see what policies are all updated/correct in different spaces

II. FCUP is concerned about looking at faculty policies that can be tweaked/modified to improve faculty morale by adding rewards

III. If you know if a policy that is problematic then please submit to Amanda Hiner or Jennifer Jordan

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

a. No unfinished business

**IX. New Business**

a. No new business

**X. Announcements**

a. Reminder that there is a graduate faculty meeting directly after this meeting

b. Chuck Rey invited to give athletics update

I. Chuck has been at Winthrop since 2008

II. Research and development focus

I. Deepen/cultivate professor and campus relationships

I. Ex. Gatorade development was out of a university

II. Student and student athlete internship and work study opportunities

III. Engage with the community

IV. Goal of at least 1 student embedded with each team

I. Currently Mass Comm, Phys Ed/Sport & Human Performance, and Human Nutrition are integrated

V. Fall sports update

I. Volleyball, golf, soccer, track & field are all performing very well to bring good marketing for the university

VI. Hybrid sports update

I. ESports, Disc Golf, Cornhole, BMX, and Spirit Squad

I. These are “club” type sports that athletics are helping to support

II. ESports now functions out of athletics with now 40 students participating. By fall of 2023 there is a goal to bring in 150 students with a goal of over 500 under ESports umbrella.

c. Kimmarie Whetstone

I. WOOL updates

I. Learning glass video recording space in 307 bancroft

II. Blackboard day in January 2023

I. Soft launch of blackboard learn ultra



- III. If you want to use blackboard learn ultra, you can join the ultra squad for spring, summer, or fall 2023
  - IV. Winthrop online teaching recertification required faculty certified to teach online renew their certification after five years to ensure that faculty remain current with Winthrop's strategic vision for online education
- d. Jessi Lessenberry
- I. Senior at Winthrop, co-chair for students of accountability in action
  - II. Winthrop Gratitude Week – Nov 28 – Dec 2 dedicated to faculty and staff and student employees

**XI. Future Meeting Dates**

- a. February 24<sup>th</sup>
- b. April 21<sup>st</sup>

**XII. Adjournment**

*--Motion to adjourn and seconded*

*--Meeting Adjourned at 4:02 PM*