

**MINUTES**  
**Winthrop University Faculty Conference**  
October 12, 2007  
2:00 pm      Plowden Auditorium

**I.      Call to Order**

Following the opening music from Jill O'Neill (department of Music) playing three flute solo pieces (Circles in Space, Density 21.5, and Diary of an Alien), Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM.

**II.     Preliminaries**

Dr. Fortner-Wood began the meeting with a remembrance and moment of silence for Bill Culp, whose recent death has saddened the Winthrop community.

Having determined that more than 20% of the Faculty Conference Membership was present (62/311), it was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by those present to proceed with the business of the meeting without a quorum.

**III.    Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the August 17, 2007 meeting of Faculty Conference were approved without modification.

**IV.    Introductory Remarks from the Chair of Faculty Conference**

Dr. Fortner-Wood commented on the recent issue of the Winthrop Magazine, highlighting the amazing accomplishments of some of our alumni and commending the University Relations staff for a high-quality product. She also applauded the hard work of the Deans and Academic VP for setting a tone of enthusiastic support for and recognizing the value of faculty contributions to the University. In a time of limited resources, their encouragement means a lot to all of us. She then reminded us that in her role she is often called to represent faculty opinions and perspectives on a variety of issues. To ensure that she can best represent our diversity, she encouraged us to share our views with her, either individually through e-mail or more broadly using the Faculty Conference electronic forum. This would be especially useful in preparation for the Board of Trustees meeting coming in November.

**V.     Report from the President**

Dr. DiGiorgio distributed his remarks by e-mail. Dr. Fortner-Wood called our attention to the attachment that contained pictures of the locations of the ALERTUS system monitor installations.

**VI.    Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Moore picked up the theme of the Winthrop Magazine, encouraging us to provide the University Relations staff with information and great stories about the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Moore then reflected on some experience with his current ACAD 101 class. For example, his first writing assignment asking "why are you in college?" produced a great range of responses and provided an ideal opportunity to explore that diversity in concert with our core commitments. Promoting the value of and continually exposing our students to difference should be easy with the rich and diverse backgrounds of our faculty. His second writing assignment to interview a professor seemed to elicit some fear from many students, who on completing the process, admitted to having found it fun. The third assignment was to write a letter to a senior who would be graduating from the student's own high school about what it was like to become a freshman at Winthrop. Many in the class wrote about being surprised to find, in contrast with what they had been told to expect by their high school guidance counselors and teachers,

how concerned Winthrop faculty are with their individual development and with maximizing opportunities for them to learn and grow. Dr. Moore encouraged us to keep up the good work and continue using our core commitment to value differences in a variety of ways to help our students learn, grow, and develop.

Dr. Moore gave special recognition to the dedication and contributions of Patricia Graham, who is resigning from her responsibilities as Dean of the Richard W. Riley College of Education. Dr. Graham will be on sabbatical next fall and then return to other duties. A national search is being prepared to select a new dean.

In response to a question from Dr. John Bird, Dr. Moore said that calendar discussions continue and that he does expect there will be at least some changes to our current academic calendar. Surveys of the faculty and students can be expected soon. A final report from the working committee is expected some time in March.

#### **VII. Report from Academic Council**

Dr. Tom Polaski brought the following items from the Academic Council meetings on Sept 7 and 28, 2007 to Faculty Conference for approval:

- Department of Sociology
  - Modify the minor in Gerontology
  - Modify the Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology
- Department of Curriculum & Instruction
  - Modify BS in Family & Consumer Sciences
- Department of Health & Physical Education
  - Modify BS in Physical Education/Certification
  - Modify BS in Physical Education/Athletic Training
  - Modify BS in Physical Education/Fitness-Wellness

All items were approved, the first three without discussion or dissent and the latter three with one dissenting vote.

Additional changes reported that do not require approval by Faculty Conference include course renumbering of NUTR 522 to NUTR 428 and prerequisite changes to PHIL 310, PHIL 320, PHIL 340, PHIL 350, PHIL 370, PSYC 463, PSYC 498, and PSYC 515.

#### **VIII. Standing Committee Reports**

Dr. Stevie Chepko reported as Chair of the Budget Priorities Committee who had met with the Administration. The Committee's formal report is still under review and will be disseminated electronically when the process is complete. Dr. Chepko said the following items had been part of their discussions:

- University priorities continue to be salaries, technology, and facilities. Winthrop has incurred a new expense this year, picking up payment of the 1% retirement contribution that used to be paid by the state. In addition, expenses for the new West Center are just coming into play.
- Futures:
  - We intend to increase undergraduate enrollment gradually by ~1500 students total.
  - There is cautious optimism this year toward approval at the state level of the bond issue for our new library.
  - Our existing administrative software system, that includes SIS, FRS, and HRS, must be phased out before it expires in 2011. It is anticipated that a replacement will cost on the order of \$4 million and the transition will occur over four to five years.

Dr. Chepko invited us to send any follow-up questions to her or other members of the Committee.

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

After recognizing Dr. Cara Peters as co-chair, Dr. Tom Polaski reported on the Faculty Governance Review committee meeting of Sept 21, 2007. The group discussed faculty governance processes and their interactions with others, keeping an eye to developing lists for which are working well and which are not. Five areas rose to the top as highlights:

- Graduate issues
- Curricular issues, particularly progression
- Communication issues between the faculty and administration
- Roles/rewards/ranks issues, especially regarding service
- General education program issues

Dr. Polaski expects the committee will next divide into task groups to explore each of these areas, reviewing and developing recommendations.

## **X. New Business**

### **A. Update on the Lois Rhame West Center**

Grant Scurry, Director of the West Center, reminded us that the offices for Health & Physical Education, Sports Management, Recreational Services, and his own are now located in the West Center (if you'd like a tour, call Grant's office at x2140 to arrange). The pool, racquetball courts, basketball courts, and cardio machines (CATV coming soon) are all up and running. There is a 3-lane track around the basketball courts (1/8 mile per lap) and the weight room has 66 pieces of equipment. Hours of operation currently include Monday to Friday 6 AM to midnight, Saturday 9 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday 11 AM to midnight. Peak use right now seems to be evenings between about 7 and 10:30 PM. Membership information can be found on the web at <http://www.winthrop.edu/westcenter/membership.htm>. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

### **B. The Value of MAP-Works for Winthrop Students**

Dean Jennifer Solomon reported that this is our second year in a pilot study using MAP-Works, with the information we provided last year incorporated to improve this year's approach. 47% of eligible students (freshmen) responded to this year's survey, which was administered through the ACAD 101 classes. Benefits range across the community and include:

- Each student gets a personal report and a summary of the overall averages.
- ACAD instructors, advisors, and Residence Life staff have access to information in order to assist students.
- An overall institutional view that can help guide program development.

Data can be analyzed by segment, such as comparing items from students expecting to receive mostly A grades vs. students expecting to receive mostly C grades. This year a dashboard has been added that will help to identify students at risk and foster earlier intervention. In response to questions, Dr. Solomon said that ACAD instructors should have received links for access to student data but she would have to check what would be available for advisors during the advising period.

## **XI. Announcements**

Dr. Jennifer Disney reminded us about the role of the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) and requested faculty assistance both with ensuring top students are aware of such awards and with encouraging them to apply. In particular, faculty are being asked to help identify and recruit exceptional students by bringing them to the attention of ONCA. Students should first go to the website (<http://www.winthrop.edu/onca/>) to fill out a basic form to provide information for Jennifer, and then

schedule an appointment. The office is focused on merit-based awards, most of which are for graduate study. However, there are some for undergraduates and for international studies.

Ms. Kema Gadson, Program Director for Multicultural Student Life, reminded us about the following events coming up for Family Week-end:

- Welcome Reception at the Art Galleries, Friday, Nov 2, 7-8 PM
- Picnic on the Byrnes Auditorium lawn, Saturday, Nov 3, 1-2:30 PM

She also invited our participation in the Teaching and Learning Center session on diversity flashpoints scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 24 at noon.

Mr. Tim Drueke, Registrar, pointed out that advising begins on Wednesday, Oct 17, immediately following fall semester break, with registration beginning Oct 30. He also reminded us that Friday, Oct 19 is the last day for students to withdraw from class with an 'N' grade, and also the last day to rescind an S/U designation for a course.

Finally, Dr. Moore requested that we participate in the online survey related to our core commitments work using the link he provided in a recent e-mail.

Dr. Fortner-Wood adjourned the meeting at 3:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn A. DeNoia, Secretary