

Faculty Leadership Committee Report

Winthrop's Board of Trustees met on April 17, 2009. This report was generated to provide faculty with key points from the open meetings of the Board of Trustees Committees and the meetings of the full Board. Much more information was discussed in each meeting but much of that information has been shared with faculty in other venues. This report is intended to highlight new information for faculty.

Committee Members:

- David Meeler (Chair, Faculty Concerns)
- Antje Mays (Chair, Budget Priorities)
- Kristi Westover (Chair, Graduate Faculty Assembly)
- Beth Costner (Chair, Academic Council)
- Kelly Richardson (Chair, Graduate Council)
- Cheryl Fortner-Wood (Chair, Faculty Conference)

Notes on the Meetings of the Subcommittees of Winthrop's Board of Trustees

(9 am 4/17/09)

University Relations Committee

(Attended by David Meeler)

1. Student Life

- 16% of students use prescribed psychotropic medications.
- We have not had a psychiatrist, so we refer to Piedmont, which can take a month or more for students to see a doctor.
- We now have a psychiatrist who is on campus 4 hours / week.
- She is a Major in the military, and served in Iraq & Afghanistan, so has experience with PTSD as well.
- In 3 weeks, she has seen approx. 12 students.

2. University Advancement

- Freshman applications are up 12% from this time last year
- Admitted students are up 8% from this time last year
- Orientation deposits are up 10% from this time last year
- Campus visits are up 15% from this time last year
- University Advancement hosted an intensive 3-day visit for High School Guidance Counselors
- GOAL: An entering class of 100 more students than last year

Finance Committee

(Attended by Antje Mays)

1. **Room / Board / Energy / Food:** Student room & board prices rose by 12%; negotiated increase down to 7%
2. **Energy savings:** Walter Hardin locks in Winthrop's prices for natural gas. Energy expenses may be driven higher in the future as fuel prices may rise soon (the likely impact of Cap & Trade).
3. **Price as college-choice decision point:** Most students look at the base rate ("hall/bath") as important criterion when comparing among colleges they consider similar.
4. **Dorms:** Estimated repair for bathrooms in Phelps Hall is \$5 million -- deemed necessary, "or else no one will live in Phelps". There are 400 beds in Phelps. Walter Hardin is exploring whether the repair / renovation can be performed in stages and at a better price.
5. **Food:**
 - Food / contract rate increases annually, based on consumer price index and other economic indicators.
 - Café Cash is source of sales -- food rates are negotiated through Aramark.
 - Actual sales are reported to Food Services in monthly statements, which are audited.
 - Café Cash: all meals have been used, but no more money is being added to Café Cash now (due to the economy).
6. **The status of state funding**
 - Status information is changing rapidly.
 - Winthrop received special permission to use lottery funds for operating costs.
 - *Create Carolina* was eliminated in light of funding cuts.
 - Salary savings from unfilled vacancies -- annualization is anticipated.
 - Reductions made so far:

a. transfer / lottery technology funds	\$ 300,000
b. programs / services	\$ 853,637
c. reduced hiring part-time faculty/staff	\$ 246,300
d. 9-day furlough	\$1,734,177
e. vacancy savings	\$1,430,084
 - offset by inflation, commitments (newly filled positions for new programs), and annualizations.
7. **Next year's budget / still unknown:** \$3.7 million stimulus vs. \$3.7 million in furlough. Probably still some restrictions on travel even if stimulus funds do reach Winthrop.

8. Renovation / Construction

- Carroll Hall: teaching tool for teaching global finance to South Carolinians
- Much of the stimulus money applicable to projects is a match / loan.
- Campus Center still on track to open fall 2010 (it is a green building)
- Tillman: First two renovation phases complete (roof & windows) -- funded by \$6.7 million appropriation from General Assembly 2 years ago for Tillman

Academic Affairs Committee

(Attended by Cheryl Fortner-Wood and Kristi Westover)

- **Articulation with York Technical College:** an arrangement to offer nineteen University Studies Certificates with 31 (32) transferable hours from YTC and six '2+2" program articulations with 60+ hours.
- **Research Council Grants** (2009-2010): a total of 44 (of 47) awards were funded for a total of \$124, 221.
- The office of **Accreditation, Accountability, and Academic Services** reported on numerous activities related to readiness for the upcoming SACS accreditation as well as the establishment of an Academic Program Assessment Advisory Committee, a 5-Year Program Review and Assessment Cycle, and the administration of senior and alumni survey instruments. This point led to a lively discussion of the merits of networking-technology to improve alumni participation.
- The College of Education report included a to-date summary of the **collaboration with CAS and CVPA** to further develop Educator Preparation Programs, including Mathematics (9-12), Modern Languages (P-12, English Education (9-12), Biology (9-12), Social Studies (9-12), Art Dance (9-12), and Music Theatre (9-12). This collaboration also includes graduate-level preparation in school psychology.
- The number of **graduate applications and admissions** is up from a year ago. Additional ongoing efforts in the Graduate School include a revision of the Graduate Faculty Assembly By-Laws, the development of a Graduate Student Advisory Panel, and a revision and implementation of new thesis guidelines.

Meetings of the Full Board

SACS Update Presentation (11 am 4/17/09)

(Attended by Cheryl Fortner-Wood and David Meeler)

The faculty are being updated about the SACS process regularly so many of the points of interest to faculty have already been shared. This presentation was designed to orient the Trustees to the overall project. The presentation to the Trustees is available on the SACS website (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/sacs/>).

Two points the FLC would like to highlight for faculty are

- 1) The Chair of Faculty Conference will be a member of the SACS Steering Committee.
- 2) In addition to the good work of Pat Graham, Karen Jones, and Marilyn Sarow, Carrie Volk has been providing precious support with the impressive web-based resources in preparing for SACS reaccreditation.

Board of Trustees (1 pm 4/17/09)

(Attended by Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Antje Mays, and David Meeler)

There was no public comment as no one had requested to address the Board. Summaries of each of the morning's committee meetings were provided by the respective committee chairs. Of particular note, the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Dr. Lee Cox, expressed how impressed he was with how much has been accomplished this year by the faculty and staff in Academic Affairs despite the major budget cuts, and he discussed several examples. During the Finance Committee's report, the Board unanimously approved an increase in Room and Board costs. Room and Board are auxiliary services and, as such, must be self-supporting (see Finance Committee report above).

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Kathy Bigham, once again asked the Faculty Representative to share the Board's deep appreciation for the good work of faculty and staff during these particularly painful times. The Faculty Rep will say more on this during her report to Faculty Conference on 4/24/09.

The Faculty Rep accepted the appreciation of the Board and spoke about the good work of the faculty, particularly during this very busy time of year. She reported that the Faculty Governance Review Committee proposal will be voted on 4/24/09. She also reported on the On-Campus Faculty Development group, Faculty Roles and Rewards Ad Hoc Committee, and work of Academic Council.