

Faculty Leadership Committee Summary

June 5, 2009 Open Meetings of Winthrop's Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting (Submitted by Kristi Westover)

- Dr. Moore, as well as the Trustees, praised Winthrop faculty and staff for doing excellent work in a very tough budget situation.
- The year was filled with budget challenges (e.g. no new scholarships for the COE Teaching Fellows program and the culminating trip to the Dominican Republic will likely be cancelled), but there was some good news, particularly for graduate students (graduate scholarships have increased from \$25K to \$50K; thanks to the Winthrop Foundation).
- A new graduate program in Sports Fitness and Administration is currently in development (~1 year) to support a growing student demand in this area.
- Trustees praised the College of Arts and Sciences publication highlighting undergraduate research. This year's publication represents the work of 102 students and 52 faculty mentors.
- The Library's electronic reader (~20) will be piloted in a fall 2009 HMXR class. Several models are available at the library for F/S to try.

University Relations Committee Meeting (Submitted by David Meeler)

- Primarily, the potential enrollment numbers for fall are not expected to increase; they are now hoping to maintain freshmen enrollments level with Fall 2008.
- Also, the athletics director report includes that only a couple of teams have academic ratings lower than they would like. The athletics dept. strives for ratings well above those where the NCAA begins to "watch" a program; and a team or two did not maintain the higher Winthrop expectations -- though those ratings are not yet low enough to trigger concern from the NCAA. The manner of ratings is fairly complex and rests, in part, on how many student athletes return to school. The two teams with somewhat lower ratings were small squads where one team-mate who does not return can account for a high percentage of the GPA. So all in all, the academic performance of student athletes at Winthrop is above NCAA averages and near the highest levels of NCAA expectations.

Finance Committee Meeting (Submitted by Antje Mays)

Winthrop's External Auditor's Comments:

- ❖ The firm finds that Winthrop takes fiscal responsibilities seriously.

Internal Financial Controls at Winthrop:

- ❖ This year, the auditor will emphasize monitoring function as evidenced, for example, by:
 - bank reconciliations
 - journal entries
 - an additional person reviews the journal entries
- ❖ Winthrop's internal auditor position had been vacant for 9 months
 - Reiterated the importance of an internal auditor to strengthen safeguards against theft, loss, mis-posting and to oversee internal controls against fraud
 - VP of Finance and Business status update on the internal auditor's position:
 1. The position had been open and the search had been ongoing since September 2008. Question arose about what had been the challenges in filling the position: Answer: Availability of qualified applicants, pay grade.
 2. A qualified candidate was just hired to start June 16. Incoming internal auditor has previous non-profit and church diocese auditing experience as well as working with federal bankruptcy court.
 - Finance Committee expressed interest in meeting with the new internal auditor to discuss the need for monitoring functions and internal controls.

External Audit - General Comments:

- ❖ Limitations of the external audit were pointed out:
 - Auditing firm is not attorney / judge and therefore cannot issue a legal statement about compliance with the law.
 - Although auditor presently does not perform this service, separate testing of Winthrop's internal controls could be possible as a separate service. Meaningful contexts cited included 3rd party collections and Perkins loans.
 - A-133 part of audit (required look at federal programs, as stipulated by OMB Circular No. A-133 governing audit of state, local government, and non-profit organizations with regard to expenditure of federal funds. This issue exists at Winthrop due to federal student assistance funding).
 - Auditor reiterates that even with external audit, Winthrop is still responsible for internal controls.

Fraud Hotline:

- Repeated discussion was devoted to mechanisms available to Winthrop's community for reporting fraud.
- Several options were discussed, from third-party paid service to the South Carolina state hotline, as Winthrop does not have a fraud hotline of its own.
- Office of State Auditor has a fraud hotline. Finance Committee's chair stated that the State Auditor's hotline would satisfy the board requirements.

→ It was noted that this hotline is not currently known to the Winthrop community. The importance of making it available to staff was noted several times. Suggestion was made to put information about it on Winthrop's website.

1. Budget priorities committee chair's follow-up comment: The state government resources website <http://www.lac.sc.gov/Other%20Resources.htm> states that the "*Fraud Hotline* handles calls from the public which report incidents of waste, fraud, misuse, and abuse of state funds. This hotline is maintained by the South Carolina [Office of the State Auditor](#) 1-800-521-4493." The Fraud Hotline information has also been added to the [Budget Priorities Committee website](#) (in "SC government websites" section) and has recently also appeared on the Board of Economic Advisors' website of monthly revenue statements.

❖ **Athletics / Accounting**

- NCAA has specific reporting requirements for statements of revenues and expenditures connected with intercollegiate athletics.
- Finance Committee expressed concerns about potential accounting risks in conjunction with externally-oriented camps.

❖ **Athletic Liability Issues**

Observation of problems encountered by other organizations led to concerns expressed about liability for injuries and protection of students.

Red flag rule for identity theft prevention (Finance Committee)

1. Needed because Winthrop participates in several financial programs: Federal Perkins loans, SC Teaching Fellows program, and payment plans for students extended through an externally managed credit program.
2. Recommendation to adopt to be brought forth at full board meeting. The Finance Committee unanimously adopted this resolution.

Allocation status report

1. This fiscal year, the university is ok.
2. The shortage for next year is not known yet.
3. Winthrop's portion of stimulus injection will be \$3.1 million; however, there will still be a \$3 million shortage in the new fiscal year compared to this ending fiscal year's starting allocation.
4. Procurement card usage is significantly down from previous year.
5. President has told Deans that this year's savings can be carried over into next year.
6. Technology funding may benefit from lottery fund's unclaimed prize money.
7. Finance Committee's motion regarding next fiscal year's operating budget was unanimously adopted.

Summary of Facilities Projects

1. East & West Thomson are being painted.
2. The ceiling of Margaret Nance is being sealed / waterproofed.
3. JT Timmons has a student group named SWARM that regularly does following work:
 - Clean/replace mattresses, window repairs, fixtures
 - generate work orders for Facilities
 - removal of tape on wall
 - fix broken / missing ceiling tiles
4. Old Macfeat Building: construction continues toward completion
 - was formerly ACC lab; will be will be used for pre- and post- functions in Carroll Hall and for faculty staff dining days (to supplement the Thomson Cafeteria). It will likely not be open daily in the beginning because of the popularity (and bargain price) of Thomson.
5. Carroll Hall - making progress, designated as an academic building and contains:
 - trading room
 - mezzanine balcony -- for recruiting prospects
 - 200-seat auditorium
 - computer lab
 - breakout spaces (e.g. lectures -- then breakout rooms for teams).

Since the building was first planned, its evolving form has shifted over the last 10 years. For example, the trading context has shifted from national economies trading within themselves to globally intertwined economies trading with each other.
6. Part of Scholar's Walk is complete (Margaret Nancy to Crawford; "Charleston-style alley")
7. Campus Center making progress -- designed as a 100-year building
 - Stimulus grants: Winthrop can apply through State Energy Office for work to make campus more sustainable. Work in need of being done:
 1. 10" steam line.
 2. Campus - insulation jacket has degraded.
 3. Funding is forthcoming from State energy office \$409,000, \$309,000 is a grant (Federal Energy stimulus funds administered by the State Energy Office); \$100,000 is an interest free loan from the Federal stimulus funds administered by the State Energy Office to create a sustainable bank of revolving funds for future projects).
8. Presently needed repair work has been posted in *South Carolina Business Opportunities* for bid.
 1. As a subsequent side note from Facilities, we opened bids on June23rd and the bid was \$358,000. With our contingency, design and testing, we will be in good shape with our total stimulus funds of \$410,000 (grant and loan).

Meeting of the Full Board (Submitted by Cheryl Fortner-Wood)

The Board approved eight resolutions and elected their officers. Detailed information about each resolution can be found by following the hyperlink to the resolutions (see also:

<http://www.Winthrop.edu/Trustees>).

Resolutions (June 5, 2009)

- 1) [Resolution to Establish a "Red Flags Rule" Identity Theft Prevention Program for Winthrop University](#) (06/05/09)
- 2) [Resolution to Empower the Executive Committee with the Authority to Adopt the Tuition Schedule and Operating Budget for 2009-2010](#) (06/05/09)
 - For your reference, here is the resolution regarding the 4% (HEPI) tuition and fees increase adopted by the Trustees on June 25th: [Resolution Regarding the Final Operating Budget and Student Fees for Fiscal Year 2009-2010](#) (06/25/09)
- 3) [Resolution to Confer Emeritus Faculty Status](#) (06/05/09)
- 4) [Resolution Regarding Amendments to the Board Bylaws](#) (06/05/09)
 - The Board's bylaws can be found at: http://www.winthrop.edu/trustees/default.aspx?id=1758&ekmense=66cd539c_316_0_1758_2 or by clicking the *Bylaws* link at <http://www.Winthrop.edu/Trustees>.
 - Two important changes that impact the faculty:
 - i. The committee structure has changed. In addition to the Executive Committee, the Board now has the following committees:
 1. Academic Affairs (quality of acad. Programs, new acad. Proposals, reviews, curricular... records, and library...)
 2. Finance (finances and facilities)
 3. Institutional Advancement and Development (student recruitment, enrollment management, and marketing; alumni affairs, encouragement of private support and institutional fundraising...)
 4. Student Life (student life, campus safety and security, and athletics)
 - ii. The Board will no longer consider a formal appeal of a Presidential decision. The Board wants a "noses in and hands off" approach. Please note, the faculty maintain two forms of direct communication with the Board: 1) the Faculty Representative to the Board and 2) Public Comment at open meetings of the full board (as per the announcements of the Secretary to the Board, Kimberly Faust, shares before each meeting of the full Board).
- 5) [Resolution Regarding Contract of President Anthony J. DiGiorgio](#) (06/05/09)
- 6) [Resolution Regarding Performance Evaluation of President Anthony J. DiGiorgio](#) (06/05/09)
- 7) [Resolution Honoring Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood for Meritorious Service to Winthrop University](#) (06/05/09)
- 8) [Resolution Honoring Ms. Tatiana Sosa for Meritorious Service to Winthrop University](#) (06/05/09)

Election of Officers (June 5, 2009)

The nominating committee recommended the following Board Members as officers. No nominations were offered from the floor. The vote was unanimous. They are good folks and will continue to serve the University well.

- Chair: Kathy Bigham
- Vice Chair: Dalton Floyd
- Secretary: Frances Davenport

Two new members of the Board (Announced 6/16/09; see <http://www.winthrop.edu/news-events/article.aspx?id=6981>)

- Tommy Pope, Appointed as an at-large member by the Governor
- Tim B. Sease, Elected by the General Assembly in May to fill the unexpired term of Glenda Pittman Owens

My Report to the Board (June 5, 2009)

The Board was already aware of the actions taken at the last Faculty Conference so I kept that portion of the report very brief. I complimented the work of the Faculty Governance Review and Academic Council. I also mentioned the work of the ad hoc Committee on Faculty Roles and Rewards.

I spent the bulk of my report thanking the Trustees for their approach to working with me over these two years. I also thanked Kimberly Faust, Rebecca Masters, Betty Triplett, and Joyce Stafford for their help with this role.

It was an emotional report for me as I have very much enjoyed participating in their conversations about the good work we do here. I appreciate that the Board asks for and seriously considers the perspective of the Faculty Representative when it is relevant for the decisions they make. Marsha will bring much to their conversations and will represent us well.