

## Faculty Conference Minutes

March 4, 2016

Kinard Auditorium 2 p.m.

- I. Approval of Minutes
  - a. The Minutes from the December 4 Faculty Conference meeting were approved.
- II. Report from the Chair: John Bird
  - a. Dr. Bird reported that the Winthrop Board of Trustees met for their annual retreat January 29-30.
  - b. At their retreat meeting the board made a resolution to refinance bonds which will produce a savings of \$500,000 for the life of the bonds.
  - c. At the board retreat meeting President Dan Mahony shared Strategic Planning Goals with the board.
  - d. The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on March 11, 2016.
- III. Report from the President: Dan Mahony
  - a. President Mahony stated that after the next board meeting, he planned to seek input about priorities and ways to measure them.
  - b. President Mahony also stated that he has sent out reports from the Strategic Planning Working groups and would like feedback.
  - c. President Mahony then delivered a budget overview to the faculty. In this report the president showed us the revenue from students, which has increased 43% since 2008. This fact shows that we are tuition-driven. The report also showed the large increase in grants. The report also showed the gifts from the Foundation and total expenses of the university including personnel costs of faculty and staff. President Mahony reported that our applications were up 4% and that our acceptance rates were up 10% from this time last year.
  - d. President Mahony asked for questions concerning the budget.
  - e. Dr. Jennifer Solomon asked about faculty raises since 2008 compared with the cost of living since that time. President Mahony answered that it will take time to recover from the past and that we have to put our efforts into moving forward.
  - f. Dr. John Bird asked about the prospects for the future. Dr. Mahony replied that he was cautiously optimistic about the future and that the recovery will extend over a significant period of time.
  - g. Dr. Jennifer Solomon thanked the president for discussing the budget with us. The faculty then showed their appreciation for his presentation.
  - h. A faculty member asked a question about plans for marketing and branding.
  - i. Dr. John Bird thanked President Mahony for delivering the keynote address at the Teaching and Learning Conference.
- IV. Report from the Provost/ VP for Academic Affairs: Debra Boyd

- a. Vice President/ Provost Boyd reported that Patrice Bruneau, Assistant VP for Computing and Technology, is working on a university-wide technology plan.
  - b. Dr. Boyd reported that the SPAR director's role will be redefined to assist faculty in all phases of grant applications. The new Assistant VP for Sponsored Grants and Research will begin on July 1.
  - c. Dr. Boyd reported that the Assistant VP for Sponsored Grants and Research will have more administrative help from faculty.
  - d. Dr. Boyd reported that she received a good response from the dean's evaluations that were sent out earlier in the semester.
  - e. Dr. Boyd reported that the campus Competitive Compensation Committee has worked very hard and will report their findings soon.
  - f. Dr. Boyd stated that advising will begin after spring break and reminded us of the importance of academic advising for students.
  - g. Dr. Boyd reported that the Campus Heritage Committee has created some important action items. This committee has worked in conjunction with Student Affairs to create a new student group, the Diversity Coalition. Dr. Boyd stated that the Campus Heritage Committee is interested in telling Winthrop University's story as accurately as possible. Although we don't have the power to change the name of our administrative building, we can change how the name is used. This narrative will inform how we talk to prospective students about who we are.
- V. Report from Academic Council: Dave Pretty
- a. Dr. Pretty reported that there were six program changes that needed to be approved by Faculty Conference from the following departments: BADM, FACS, CHOR, INST, MPER, and PHED.
  - b. The faculty passed the six program changes unanimously.
  - c. Dr. Pretty reported that two proposals for changes to minors passed Academic Council (EDUC and HLTH) and needed no further action.
  - d. Dr. Pretty reported the courses that Academic Council approved as newly certified General Education courses required approval by Faculty Conference. Those courses were listed in Humanities and Arts category, the Historical Perspectives Category, and the Global category. Those courses were approved unanimously.
  - e. Dr. Pretty reported that Academic Council created a proposal for the criteria for the Social Sciences Requirement. That proposal was shown on the screen so that faculty could scrutinize the language.
  - f. Two friendly amendments were proposed by by Antje Mays and Jo Kostner and accepted unanimously.
  - g. The faculty reviewed the four criteria for the proposal slide by slide.
  - h. After a short discussion, all four criteria for the Social Sciences requirement were passed unanimously.
  - i. Dr. Pretty reported that the next Academic Council meeting would take place on April 15.

- VI. Committee Reports:
- a. Dave Pretty, chair of the Personnel Committee, presented names for elected positions.  
Nominations were taken from the floor. Here are the results of the election:  
**Academic Council:** Jo Koster; **Academic Conduct:** Meir Barak; **Academic Freedom and Tenure:** (2 seats through 2018): Ginger Williams and David Meeler; **DiGiorgio Student Union Advisory Board:** (1 seat through Spring 2017): Arren Hamm; **DiGiorgio Student Union Advisory Board:** (1 seat through Spring 2019): Nate Frederick; **Faculty Personnel:** Casey Cothran; **Judicial Council:** Catherine Chang; **Rules:** (2 seats through Spring 2019): Gwen Daley and Steve Smith; **Faculty Representative to Council of Student Leaders:** William Schulte
  - b. The Rules Committee, chaired by Guy Reel, showed the faculty proposed bylaw changes.  
After a brief discussion, a motion was made to put the bylaw changes on the agenda for the next Faculty Conference. That motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Old Business: There was no old business.
- VIII. New Business: There was no new business.
- IX. Announcements:
- a. Ms. Gina Jones, Registrar, delivered registrar reminders to the faculty.
  - b. Ms. Jones reported that soon faculty will be able to make grade changes online.
  - c. Ms. Jones explained the Parent Proxy policy to the faculty.
  - d. Dr. Beth Costner reported that there will be a Strategic Planning Group for Budget Modeling Information session open to the faculty soon. Four budget models will be examined at this information session. Those sessions will take place on March 24 and March 25.
  - e. Mr. Tim Drueke, Assistant V.P. for Academic Affairs reminded the faculty to talk to students about summer course offerings.
  - f. Dr. Robin Lammi announced to the faculty that the deadline for Undergraduate Research proposals would be extended until the following Friday.
  - g. Dr. Jennifer Disney announced that SEWSA (Southeastern Women's Studies Association) would have their annual meeting on Winthrop's campus March 31-April 2, and said that she was still looking for faculty interested in moderating panels.
- X. Adjournment:
- a. There was a motion to adjourn. It passed and Faculty Conference adjourned at 4:20 p.m.
  - b. The next Faculty Conference meeting will take place on April 22 in Dina's Place.

Respectfully Submitted

Ginger Williams, History