

## Winthrop University Faculty Conference

6 March 2015

2:00 pm Whitton Auditorium, Carroll Hall

Quorum Not Reached

The meeting commenced at 2:00.

I. There was a motion to proceed without a quorum. The motion passed.

II. Approval of minutes for February 13, 2015 Faculty Conference

The minutes were approved with minor changes in phrasing.

III. Report from the Chair, John Bird

- a. Dr. Bird provided the faculty with an update on the Presidential Search. Ian Deas (President of the Council of Student Leaders) was present and was recognized; John Bird noted that Deas has been a welcome addition to the presidential deliberations. The process has been very different from last time and has been very successful; there have been full interviews of each candidate by a variety of groups on campus (students, faculty, staff, and others); reports from each group were presented to the Board. The Board has feedback from all of the important constituent groups on campus; both Dr. Bird and the Board are happy with the process.
- b. Dr. Bird recognized the Faculty Leadership Team. He noted that the faculty was represented well by these individuals and thanked them for their incredible investment of time over the past two weeks.
- c. Dr. Bird noted that the feedback on candidates is now closed and is being compiled. The Board will meet Sunday afternoon and discuss the data, and hopefully sometime late next week there will be a Full Board vote and the announcement of the 11<sup>th</sup> president of Winthrop University.

Gloria Jones: Will you be at the Sunday meeting?

John Bird: I will be calling in to the meeting with a report from the Faculty. I do not know if I will be privy to the deliberations. There is still time to express concerns to me if you would like to do so. Please feel free to call or email me before Sunday at 4:00 and I will pass on your concerns.

The faculty thanked John Bird for all of the time, energy, and effort he has put into the presidential search.

IV. Report from Acting President and Provost, Debra Boyd

- a. Acting President Boyd announced that there is nothing more important than finding the next president of Winthrop University. She thanked faculty for their engagement in the process; the Board also is thankful for the engagement level of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Acting President Boyd shared her view that all in attendance should be supportive, ready to help our new president to become acclimated to the

campus and to move forward. Our welfare as an institution is important, and this means we need to be ready to face the challenges to higher education in this cultural moment. It will be critical for the health of this institution that we rally around the person who is selected. She noted, "I hope you will take the time to thank the Board and the Search Committee for their work; they have put in countless hours and are taking this responsibility very seriously."

- b. In non-recurring funds from the House Ways and Means Committee, the University has requested money for the roof of Withers and also bond monies.
- c. There is some concern among legislators about how lottery monies are spent, and there will be some additional accounting done concerning technology funds from the lottery and student scholarships.
- d. There is a proviso that has established increases in state recruitment goals: Winthrop is in a group that must increase retention by 2% in 2 years.
- e. There are a number of transferability articulation provisos that encourage SC universities to accept the 60 hours required for an associate's degree as having met all of a university's general education requirements.
- f. Enrollment updates: Applications for Fall 2015 are up by 9%. This is headed in the right direction. It's early, but acceptances are up and housing deposits are up; these are good indicators that students are interested in Winthrop. Acting President Boyd thanked all who participated in Preview Day. Everything she heard from the parents and the students who attended reflected our student-centered outlook.

Jennifer Solomon: The proviso about requiring 2% increase... What happens if we don't do that?

Debra Boyd: There will be a reduction in our allocation of monies from the state. It won't be substantial, but it will be a reduction. I am more concerned with the new focus on students' need to graduate in four years.

Brad Tripp: If we are already increasing numbers (now, by retaining students), won't it be challenging for us to increase those numbers further?

Debra Boyd: Well, it will be challenging, but we still have work to do to reach the retention numbers of our peer institutions.

V. Academic Council: Will Thacker

The faculty reviewed 43 Degree programs. There was a vote; the programs were approved.

Dr. Thacker presented additional information about the work of CUC, including 120 course actions that were reviewed

If a program has not been reviewed yet, please send materials in by April 3 so that materials will be on the agenda of the April 10 meeting!

Vote: Activities Requirement Criteria

Discussion? None

Vote: approved

Vote: Quantitative Requirement Criteria Proposal 1

Discussion: None

Vote: Approved

Vote: Quantitative Requirement Criteria Proposal 2

Discussion:

Sarah Collins: The previous criteria required that a course must have a MATH designator to meet the Quantitative Criteria; Proposal two now says that at least one designator must be MATH, but the other requirement could have other designators.

Debra Boyd: By voting on this, are we negating the spirit of the change we made last spring to give students choice?

Gloria Jones: I still think they will have choice for some of the hours in this section, more choice than they used to have.

Jo Koster: This does make it less likely that students will take a Quantitative Course rather than a Math.

Beth Coster: We do qualify courses when students take the sciences; one course must be a lab. There is a restriction on one, and an opening on the second one. This is a similar scenario; there is a qualification for one course, and opening up the second course.

Tim Druke: Many of the alternate courses we are considering for the Quantitative option have MATH 150 as a prerequisite.

Vote: Approved.

Thanks were offered to Academic Council, to CUC, to all of the curriculum bodies, for this amazing amount of work.

## VI. Committee Reports

### a. Elections: Anna Sartin

The Elections Committee asked for additional nominees.

Voting occurred; absentee faculty can vote in the library until noon on Monday.

### b. Faculty Committee on University Life: Kathy Davis

Issues Resolved: Motor Pool, "Great Colleges to Work For," HVAC in Kinard, West Center Hours of Operation, Faculty Survey, Course Fees

Issues Pending: Phones in Office (conference calls), Human Resources Issues, Parking Decals, Painting Stripes on Brick Crosswalks

Issues Sent to FCUP: Deans evaluated by all faculty, Low faculty morale (need for raises), department Chairs being paid in the summer, Uneven number of office hours between colleges

c. Rules Committee: Meir Barak

Notified faculty of changes to Bylaws that will be voted on at our next meeting.

The committee is making an effort to align three Documents: University Roles and Rewards; Academic Affairs Policy Repository Guidelines on promotion portfolio preparation; University Faculty Personnel Committee promotion portfolio preparation repository guidelines

Dave Pretty and Mike Lipscomb: Discussion of the problems associated with promotion appeals being sent to the Personnel Committee.

The faculty voted to place the Rules Bylaws changes onto April's agenda to be considered. This was approved.

d. Jeff Perez discussed the "Great Colleges to Work for" Survey as one way to measure morale.

VII: Unfinished Business

There was none.

VIII. New Business

Jo Koster proposed a resolution that an Official Note of Thanks be presented from the faculty to the Board of Trustees. It was approved.

VIII. Announcements

Tim Drueke: Please encourage students to register for Summer courses.

Gloria Jones: Are the fees for summer school posted and are they subject to change?

Debra Boyd: When the schedule was made last fall, summer prices were set as well; this will be the format going forward.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey A. Cothran