

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES
 September 14, 2001

Academic Council met on Friday September 14, 2001 at 2:00 pm in 302 Tillman Hall.

Members:

Julian Smith, Chair	<i>Biology</i>	Marguerite Quintelli-Neary	<i>English</i>
Wanda DeLeo	<i>Business</i>	Susan Silverman	<i>Library</i>
Ray Dockery	<i>Education</i>	Seymour Simmons	<i>Art & Design</i>
Gloria Jones	<i>English</i>	Gale Teaster	<i>Library</i>
Karen Kedrowski	<i>Political Science</i>	William Thacker	<i>Computer Science</i>
Katherine Kinsey	<i>Music</i>	Virginia Williams	<i>History</i>
Heakyung Lee	<i>Mathematics</i>	Sandra Wilson	<i>Health & PE</i>
David Letourneau	<i>Finance</i>	Rodney Brown*	SGA
Paul Martyka	<i>Art & Design</i>	Tim Drueke	<i>Secretary</i>
Jonathan Marx	<i>Sociology</i>	* Absent	

Guests present: Melford Wilson, Karen Jones, Margaret Williamson, Marilyn Sarow, Bud Katter, Mickey Kennedy, Tom Moore, Doug Eckberg, and Houston Craighead.

I. Minutes

The minutes for the March 30, 2001 meeting were approved via e-mail on April 11, 2001.

II. Committee Reports

A. General Education Committee

Will Thacker presented the proposal from the General Education Committee to request approval to pilot GNED201X, Human Experience II: Ways of Knowing. The proposal included approving the course to be used to meet General Education areas II, III, IV, V or VI, with the provision that no more than one GNED course may be used in any one area, and that it may not substitute for a departmental or college-wide requirement. (See the supplemental materials.) There was no discussion and the proposal passed unanimously. This proposal will be forwarded to Faculty Conference.

Will Thacker presented the second proposal from the General Education Committee: to approve GNED101, Critical Thinking, and GNED102, The Human Experience I, Who Am I?, as permanent courses. Discussion included whether it is appropriate to approve the courses as permanent without any program to place them into, staffing issues, the need for more experimentation and changes to the courses from the original piloted sections, and the lack of support to a potential new General Education Program from the College of Arts and Sciences. During discussion, the General Education Committee withdrew the proposal.

It was moved and seconded to continue GNED101X and GNED102X for another two semesters (Spring 2002 and Fall 2002) as experimental courses. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Discussion continued on the need for a solid evaluation of these courses, whether these courses are interdisciplinary or non-disciplinary and what purpose the council has for extending the experimental courses. Further discussion included the need for significant dialog between the Gen Ed Task Force and the Department Chairs in Arts And Sciences, the relevance of the current General Education program to our students, and the proposed competency areas reviewed last year. Once discussion ended the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

Julian Smith announced that the Council might revisit a discussion of distance education/internet courses at a future meeting.

VI. New Business

Gale Teaster presented the following statement on the status of the Critical Issue Symposium program review:

Status of Critical Issues Symposium (CISM) Program Review as of September 2001

The CISM program is focused around three goals: developing cognitive and communication skills and creating a sense of community for first-time entering freshmen.

In a one-hour course, you only scratch the surface of teaching students to think analytically and enhancing their communication skills. However, one thing that CISM gives students that may not be possible in their other courses is developing a sense of belonging to Winthrop and feeling that they, as freshmen, are an important part of Winthrop.

The CISM program is reviewed every five years. In Spring 2001, the director of CISM asked Academic Council to postpone the five-year review of the CISM program. The basis for this request was the fact that the General Education Task Force was continuing to review the current general education program. Part of this general education review included the development of an experimental course called Critical Thinking. Among other objectives, this three-hour course includes teaching students to think analytically and to articulate their ideas, two of the CISM goals, but more academically and in-depth. The third goal of CISM, developing a sense of community with each other and with Winthrop University, is not directly addressed. Bud Katter, coordinator of the general education experimental courses and Gale Teaster, director of CISM, have met with members of Student Development to discuss ways of expanding Welcome Week and possibly orientation, to include more in-depth, academic activities to enhance freshmen students' s transition into Winthrop' s community. Katter and Teaster will continue to meet with members of Student Development. It is possible that between the Critical Thinking course and ideas developed through the aforementioned discussions, the CISM course and program can be replaced.

Submitted by Gale Teaster, Director, Critical Issues Symposium

In the discussion that followed it was agreed that the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Chair of Academic council would review the steps necessary to conduct the CISM Program review. The Council took no action on the report.

VII. Announcements

Tim Drueke, Registrar, asked that any comments or concerns regarding the setting of the Final Exam Schedule prior to the start of classes be sent to him directly.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reminders:

The next Academic Council meeting will be October 26, 2001 at 2:00 pm. in 302 Tillman

The Committee on Undergraduate Instruction will meet October 9, 2001, and November 27, 2001 at 10:00 am.