

Faculty Conference Minutes
February 11, 2000

I. Quorum

Due to an insufficient number of faculty to conduct business in the absence of a quorum, approval of November's meeting minutes was postponed until a sufficient number of faculty (58) were present.

II. Opening Remarks – Tom Moore, Chair of Faculty Conference

The Board of Trustees has not met since the November 19th Conference. The Board will have a meeting and a retreat next weekend. Faculty are asked to contact Dr. Moore if they have any concerns they would like raised with the Board.

III. Report from the President – Dr. Anthony J. DiGiorgio

President DiGiorgio updated the faculty on numerous items. The University is trying to eliminate conflicting delays and campus closings as reported by the administration and the Governor's office. The lottery is expected to be an upcoming election issue. Discussions with the Governor suggest that university enrollment would increase 20 to 30% as a result of programs funded by a state lottery. University administrators emphasize that additional state funding must support any significant enrollment growth.

Lobbying efforts continue for the additional \$9 million required for Peabody renovations. The case was well received when presented before the House Ways and Means Higher Education Sub-Committee. This is not true for the additional \$2.5 million needed to complete the Sims renovation. At their next meeting, the Board will discuss issuing bonds to make up for the shortfall. Renovation plans currently require Sims to be vacated in May 2000. In fall 2001, classes will resume in the renovated building. Dr. Betsy Brown will be coordinating space assignments during the renovations.

President DiGiorgio is also trying to obtain \$1 million in emergency funds to replace the Rutledge Building roof. A favorable response from the Ways and Means Sub-Committee is expected. State funds are also being pursued for vinyl windows for the nine oldest buildings on campus. The energy efficient and low-maintenance windows are expected to cost \$1.2 million. Ten million of the requested \$92 million of new money is included in the Governor's executive budget. The budget includes salary increases of 2% for individuals with salaries exceeding \$30,000 and 3% for those with salaries over \$3,000. Future Steps 2000 continues.

During the upcoming Board retreat, plans will be developed for accommodating expected increases in student population. The Breazeale Building could be converted to academic space with an expected cost of \$8 million. Aramark, the food service vendor, is building a coffee shop at the back of Margaret Nance Hall. The University will receive a percentage of coffee shop profits. Aramark will also pay for the construction of new restrooms on McBryde Hall's main floor. The mortgage note on the coliseum will be refinanced to pay for athletic related improvements. The proceeds will be used to pay for coliseum renovations, a baseball stadium, and improvements to the soccer and baseball fields. Tennis courts are needed to replace the courts scheduled for demolition as part of the Peabody renovations. New courts may be located at the Farm.

The University will host the SACS re-accreditation visit on March 19, 2001. The AACSB re-accreditation team visited the College of Business Administration in January and left with a favorable verbal report. This spring, the Interior Design Program in the College of Visual and Performing Arts will receive a reaffirmation visit from its accrediting body, FIDER. CHE has added graduate counseling programs to their accreditation list. The College of Education's Graduate Counseling Program has submitted the required self-study report

for accreditation and expects a visit from CACREP this spring or next fall.

The capital campaign has reached over \$19 million of the \$26 million goal. Recent contributions include \$100,000 from Founders Federal Credit Union. One of the seminar rooms in Thurmond now bears the credit union's name. Similar projects are in the works.

The success of the capital campaign has generated additional revenue for research and curriculum development funds administered through the Research Council. The state now matches a percentage of money raised from the private sector. The professional development and research grant program now has \$25,000, a \$10,000 increase. Two additional funds have been created. The first is to fund research projects in which students are co-investigators, and the second fund of \$20,000 is for curriculum enhancement.

Web-based on-line registration program should be available during registration at the start of the fall 2000 semester. Web-based financial aid, admissions, and advising are also anticipated in the upcoming year. Another favorable note for Winthrop, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission rated Winthrop as being first among all South Carolina's colleges and universities in meeting its affirmative action and equal opportunity goals. In the past we have been among the top three.

Minutes

Dr. Jo Koster Tarvers, Parliamentarian, informed the Chair of the Faculty Conference that although a full quorum was not reached, a sufficient number of faculty were in attendance to permit the faculty to vote to conduct business in the absence of a quorum. The motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum was made, seconded, and approved.

The minutes of the November 19, 1999 Faculty Conference were approved as distributed.

IV. Report from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs - Dr. Melford Wilson

Dr. Wilson made comments on the College of Business Administration accreditation visit. The relationship between students and faculty, the quality of the students and faculty, the working relationships among the different colleges, student body diversity, and race relations impressed the team. A surprise, students indicated that WRIT 465 was the Winthrop course that was the most helpful to them.

The new research and curriculum development money announced by the President can be used for salary support as well as equipment and supplies. In addition, grants from the new money are not limited to one budget year, so the grants will begin when announced in April and run through June of the next calendar year.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Council - Dr. Janice Chism

Academic Council approved the GNED designator requested by the General Education Committee. The designator was approved by the Conference.

B. General Education Task Force Update – Dr. Ray Dockery

Committees continue working on the general education competencies. The competency committees are writing, technology (chair – Dr. Will Thacker), quantitative reasoning (chair – Dr. Bill Rogers), and oral communications. The goal is to finish the competencies this summer. One or two courses will then be developed this summer and fall with field-testing in spring 2001. Additional two or three courses will be developed in spring and summer 2001 and field-tested in spring 2002. Faculty interested in participating

in the process should contact the committee members or chairs.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

Faculty have asked if there will be opportunities to discuss the proposed web policy. A suggestion was made to have the Campus Computing Committee review the proposal at a faculty conference. Dr. Moore will pass the suggestion on to the appropriate individuals. Faculty also expressed concern over the proposal's impact on academic freedom. Future academic infringement concerns may be avoided if faculty provide input on the proposal now.

VIII. Announcements

The Graduate Faculty meeting will follow the Faculty Conference.

The Spring, 2000 Final Exam Schedule is on the Registrar's web page. The schedule will also be sent to faculty by email.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m

Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Michele C. Henderson,