

## Faculty Conference Minutes November 19, 1999

### Quorum

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

### I. 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 October 15, 1999 Faculty Conference were approved with the change in the spelling of Stuart Haas's name. (page 2, last paragraph of Section IV, Report from the Vice-President of Academic Affairs).

### II. Opening Remarks – Dr. Thomas Moore, Chair of Faculty Conference

Dr. Moore introduced Mr. Tim Drueke, the new registrar.

Dr. Moore reported on the November 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting. The Board approved the Masters of Music in Conducting, the 1999-2000 budget with a \$70,000 surplus, and Future Steps 2000. The Board expressed their intention of annually funding Future Steps 2000 for the next four years. Dr Moore conveyed appreciation to the Board.

The Chair's report to the Board focused on the General Education Task Force and the evaluation process of Winthrop's general education requirements. The objectives of Dr. Moore's comments were to communicate (1) changing general education is a complex process and cannot be completed quickly and (2) individuals opposed to change are not individuals resistant to change or "protecting their turf" but are responding to the complexity of the issue. Dr. Moore felt that The Herald misrepresented his comments. After further discussion with individual Board members after the meeting, Dr. Moore believed that his objectives were met.

Dr. Moore wanted to the Board to understand that faculty opinions regarding general education are diverse and that the faculty is trying to create non-adversarial ways in which to discuss general education. Discussion seems to be focusing on required general education courses. Dr. Moore believes that the faculty, instead, should be discussing the skills and thought processes juniors should be bringing with them to their major courses and how general education can help students acquire and further develop the desired skills and processes. To facilitate discussion of general education, Dr. Don Farmer, Vice-President of Kings College in Pennsylvania, will be coming to Winthrop University on Friday, February 4, 2000.

Faculty is encouraged to attend Dr. Farmer's 2 PM presentation. The Faculty Conference may be moved from February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. More information will be distributed to the faculty.

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

President DiGiorgio was attending a meeting of The Association of State Colleges and Universities.

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

Dr. Wilson was not available due to a university related commitment.

### **V. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Academic Council - Dr. Janice Chism**

The Commission on Higher Education indicates that suspending or terminating a program are two separate actions, each requiring a procedure. In the most recent revision of the faculty manual, the two actions are covered by one procedure. The Rules Committee is reviewing the procedure for suspending/terminating a program for compliance with CHE.

#### **B. General Education Task Force Update – Professor Marilyn Sarow**

On behalf of the Task Force, Professor Sarow expressed appreciation for the concerns articulated at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. In response to the concerns, the Task Force is now articulating learning competencies using multidisciplinary committees. The competencies include technology, quantitative reasoning, and oral and written communication. Contact names for the faculty working on the competencies are: technology- Dr. Will Thacker and Dr. Ray Dockery; quantitative reasoning- Mr. Dwayne Brown; written communication- Dean Betsy Brown, Dr. Marge Tebo-Messina, and Dr. Houston Craighead; oral communication- Ms. Gale Teaster-Woods and Dr. Seymor Simmons.

Professor Sarow also clarified that the Task Force does not foresee that all courses will be team-taught. Although some courses may be team taught, the Task Force envisions using teams in the planning process and in materials selection and evaluation.

Students have expressed concern that they are being left out of the discussions on general education. Professor Sarow said that two students were appointed to the Task Force last year. Both students remain active. To reach the students, Dean Betsy Brown suggested using forums similar to those conducted with the faculty.

## **VI. Old Business**

There was not any old business.

## **VII. New Business**

There was not any new business.

## **VIII. Announcements**

The Graduate Faculty meeting will follow the Faculty Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele C. Henderson  
Secretary



*Page Last Updated: February 8, 2000*