

**Winthrop University Faculty Conference**  
**March 4, 2005**  
**2:00 pm**  
**Plowden Auditorium**

**I. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2005 Faculty Conference**

At 2:05, Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, led a vote to do business with 20% of the faculty present, which was approved. The minutes from the January 28, 2005 Faculty Conference were approved.

**II. Welcome and report from Board of Trustees Planning Retreat**

Dr. Smith reported on the Board of Trustees Planning Retreat held February 11-13, 2005. She noted that the Annual Retreat began on Friday evening with after-dinner comments by Mr. Dan Jones, Winthrop's governmental consultant in Columbia. She noted that he was somewhat optimistic that higher education would be doing a little better. Dr. Smith noted that since that time the House has voted to include higher education in the 4% pay increase next year. She also reported that the Board was encouraged to use their personal contacts to gain support for Winthrop.

Dr. Smith next stated that because this was a planning retreat, there was not a regular Board meeting. On Saturday morning, committees met just long enough to approve minutes from the November meetings, and the Board approved a resolution to consolidate all auxiliary bond issues. Dr. Smith reported that the remainder of Saturday morning was a presentation by Dr. DiGiorgio, "Live. Learn, Lead." She noted that key items related to the Board included ACAD 101, Common Book, GNED 102, CRTW 201, increased GPA requirements, research with students, Research Council grants, wetlands classroom, accreditation efforts this year, increased enrollment of international students, the MSW degree, and more accolades for Winthrop academics and faculty achievements than she says her report today will allow. The report to the Board also contained significant achievements related to student life, TLC programs, and athletics. She noted that the Board was impressed with our achievements and expressed support (but no votes) for our plans. Dr. Smith next stated that the afternoon session focused on space issues related to residence halls, academics, and student development, then research, recreation, and athletics. The last session addressed how we are building relationships with alumni, the community, and the legislature.

Dr. Smith next noted that an important component of the annual retreat is the Board self-assessment. She explained that over the next few years the Board will be changing as terms expire, and the members elected by the state legislature (but not the alumni representatives or governor appointee) are now required to be from the respective congressional districts to ensure state-wide representation. Part of the self assessment this year dealt with how Board members should be recruited, trained, and developed in light of the changing membership.

Dr. Smith noted that, on a personal note, the future membership of the Board is the item that concerns her most. In her opinion, the selection of a president may be the most

important duty of a Board. And, she noted, of course, the Board will continue to make important strategic decisions for the university. Dr. Smith stated that when Dr. DiGiorgio retires—whenever that takes place in the future—the Board that selects our next president will be different, as the membership changes over the next few years. She reminded faculty that different could be different faces, but same perspectives, or it could be worse or better in various ways. This process is unknown and difficult to predict, and she finds the unknown scary. She concluded by noting that we can wait, watch, and use our personal resources and contacts in various ways to impact the process appropriately. A question came up about whether or not state-wide Board members would necessarily be Winthrop alumni. Dr. Smith stated no—that would only be guaranteed with the two alumni representatives. However, she suggested that Winthrop alumni may be more likely to submit their names for consideration. Another faculty member asked if Dr. Smith had any specific concerns, and she said no. Another question came up about the role of faculty participation in the process of selecting Board members. Dr. Smith stated that there is not any role for faculty in this process. Brien Lewis clarified the schedule and reminded faculty that because the legislature makes the decision, then the best way for faculty to provide feedback is by contacting their representatives. One faculty member asked if we could be informed of when people would be running for Board seats, and Dr. Smith said that she would work with Kimberly Faust to provide that information.

### **III. Report from the President**

Dr. DiGiorgio could not attend today's meeting. Dr. Smith reminded faculty of the email that he had distributed.

### **IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Vice President Tom Moore began by congratulating the College of Education for receiving reaccreditation for Macfeat Early Childhood Center. Before continuing, he next noted that some of Dr. Smith's concerns about the Board derive from some of the political climate within the state. He then reported on two areas. First, he talked about the success of Winthrop Day. A large crowd of about 1300 people attended, and a rough hand count revealed that about half the attendees were from out-of-state. He noted that their presence marked a significant change during his time here. He also shared a condensed version of his remarks with Faculty Conference: after welcoming them, he modified the emerging "live, learn, lead" theme of our recruiting materials to Winthrop being "a great place to live, a great place to learn, and a great place to learn to lead." He told attendees about our 100% accreditation rate as well as the new General Education curriculum. He also encouraged them to check out the school by asking people who currently attend and teach here. He shared with them the title of the newest common book by Ron Suskind and that the book's primary subject Cedric Jennings will be here next fall during Convocation week. After his comments, he shared that several students such as the Orientation Advisors and other student staff told him about how much they appreciated and concurred with his remarks. This experience and others have confirmed for him the importance of articulating what we want to do as an institution.

Second, Dr. Moore reported that we need to think about how we hire. He has realized how important his role is in explaining to interviewees how the institution works and how

individual units combine together to make an effective whole. He says that in talking with prospective faculty he uses many of the same themes that he used during Winthrop Day. He also shared that several faculty members have asked about the role of final exams. His training as a chemist taught him the importance of a thorough and comprehensive final exam in testing whether or not students have mastered material. While the form of a final may vary depending on the course, he feels that students think differently about a course that has an exam or some other comparable cumulative assessment. With this in mind, Dr. Moore sees final exams as essential. Dr. Moore concluded by noting that his work is intended to support faculty, and he appreciates faculty work and achievements.

### **V. Committee Reports**

Dr. Frank Pullano, Chair of Academic Council, reported on several items. First, citing page 75 of the *Faculty Manual* to explain the procedure, he brought forth several curriculum items that Academic Council had passed, but did not need to be voted on by Faculty Conference. However, he was sharing these with Faculty Conference for information, and Faculty Conference could raise a motion to throw out any of the approved items and discuss any questions.

Discussion began on the following item from Modern and Classical Languages:

**Add requirement/policy** for all languages offered in the department--  
“Native speakers of a foreign language will not receive CLEP credit for the 101, 102, 201, or 202 courses in their native language, nor will they be permitted to enroll in 101, 102, 201, or 202 courses in that language. Students who are fluent in a language other than their native language or English may receive CLEP credit in that language, but may not enroll in 101, 102, 201, or 202 courses in the second language in which they are fluent.”

Dr. Koster explained that this suggestion had been brought by the department to close a loophole that was allowing native speakers of languages other than English to register to take introductory level classes in their native languages for credit or attempting to CLEP those courses for credit. Comments focused on several areas: what some felt was the discriminatory tone of the policy, the definition of “native speaker” or “bilingual” speaker, the disruptions that some of these students had created in introductory classes, and whether they should be allowed to CLEP these courses in their native languages. A motion was made and seconded to send it back to the department for revision; this motion was defeated. Someone asked if we can remove the word “CLEP” from the statement; however, there was no second for this motion. Another motion was made to add a sentence that “the level of language ability be determined by the faculty in the Modern Language department.” After discussion, this motion came to a vote; however, the vote was to leave the recommendation as Academic Council had passed it.

Dr. Pullano noted that the General Education Committee had brought forth two items: 1) one from the English Department that English 507 be approved as a Historical Perspectives course. Because this dealt with a renumbering of a course, it did not need a vote. 2) Sociology had requested that Anthropology 220 be approved as a Natural

Science. This item did need to be voted on by Faculty Conference, and it was approved. March 23 was announced as the next meeting date of CUI.

After reporting on curriculum items, Dr. Pullano then brought forth for Faculty Conference approval a new definition of Cultural Events. The Cultural Events Committee had been asked to review the guidelines and, as a result of this review, realized the definition contained guideline information. The definition was then revised to remove that language from the definition and to place it in the guidelines, and the guidelines themselves were further clarified and expanded. Faculty Conference was only voting on the new definition. After some discussion, this new definition was approved. Dr. Pullano announced that the next Academic Council meeting would be April 8; at this meeting, the group would be looking at the 36-hour rule for the BA degree.

Dr. Alice Burmeister, Chair of the Task Force on Academic and Institutional Integrity, announced two upcoming events: a forum on April 5 at 7:30 in Plowden, and a presentation by Dr. Dan Wueste, the Director for the Center for Ethics at Clemson University, on April 12. The Committee hopes that these events will create ongoing discussion and a new sense of academic integrity on campus, and she encouraged us to attend.

Faculty elections next took place. While ballots were distributed, Dr. Smith reviewed the ballot, asking for any nominees from the floor for each election. No additional nominees were suggested, and nominations were closed. Nominees for Chair of Faculty Conference then spoke. Dr. Tim Daugherty began, and then, because Dr. Tim Boylan is on sabbatical this semester, his chair Karen Kedrowski read some comments on his behalf. Voting then occurred. Faculty not present could vote through noon Monday at the Reference Desk in the library. Ballots were later counted by Kelly Richardson, Faculty Conference Secretary, and two members of the Rules Committee: Beth Costner and Will Thacker. The results of the faculty elections are listed below:

**Chair of Faculty Conference:** Tim Daugherty

**Faculty Rep to Attend Student Governance Meetings:** Kelly James

**Academic Conduct:** Marguerite Quintelli-Neary

**Academic Council:** Siobhan Brownson

**Academic Freedom and Tenure:** Marsha Bollinger, Cliff Calloway, and Bob Gorman

**Dinkins Student Union Advisory Board:** Richard Chacon

**Faculty Concerns:** Irene Boland

**Faculty Personnel:** Julian Smith

**Judicial Council:** Keith Benson

**Rules:** Leigh Armistead and Tom Polaski

## **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **VII. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **VIII. Announcements**

Announcements were made about the following items:

- Dr. Rembert announced an upcoming forum on the topic of reparations.
- Margaret Williamson thanked faculty who helped with Winthrop Day.
- Mel Goldstein shared a recent story of parents who had complained about the liberal nature of Governor's School and the results of those complaints as an example of the political climate that currently exists.
- Dr. Smith announced that people who had expressed interest in running for the Board of Trustees include Angela Baynes, Robert Lloyd, Sue Smith Rex, and Tim Gause.
- An announcement was made that Graduate Faculty Assembly would meet immediately after Faculty Conference.

### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson  
Faculty Conference Secretary