

**Winthrop University Faculty Conference**  
**January 27, 2006**  
**2:00 pm**  
**Recital Hall**

**I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Timothy Daugherty, chair, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m., with a quorum present. Minutes from November 18, 2005 Faculty Conference were approved as distributed.

**II. Welcome & Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Daugherty indicated that the next meeting of the University Board of Trustees will be February 17-19 and he asked that members of the Faculty Conference continue to inform and educate him regarding Faculty concerns and contributions to Winthrop's excellence so that he might represent the Conference appropriately.

Dr. Daugherty also welcomed the large number of students in attendance and reminded everyone that, although Faculty Conference is a public meeting, guests do not have the same privileges to speak and vote as members of Faculty Conference. He mentioned that the President of the Council of Student Leaders, Willie Lyles, will speak to represent the views of the CSL. He briefly outlined parliamentary procedure and expressed confidence that guests would observe an orderly debate.

**III. Report from the President**

President Anthony DiGiorgio brought greetings to all present and reported on the affairs of the University on a number of fronts.

1. External affairs:

Higher education goals are apparently not much "on the radar screen" in the state government. Talk of a "tuition cap" is a concern, given recently limited state support for higher education. An initiative to form a State Board of Regents is troubling, since it is accompanied neither by specific shared goals nor by an identified funding stream (such a board would likely add a costly level of bureaucracy). In some circles, graduation rates are being questioned without nuance or attention to context, and this too is cause for concern. Conversations about higher education in SC are currently clouded by misinformation, and this calls for diligence and striving for clarity on the part of those devoted to providing higher education in the state.

With regard to science curricula standards for K-12, there is constant monitoring and he promises to keep the faculty informed.

There is also an apparent move afoot to re-incarnate "Put Parents in Charge." It has a new face, but reflects much of the same earlier proposed legislation.

We are also monitoring some trends in other states that might have an influence on trends in this state.

With regard to the current legislative session, the governor has made proposals, with a mixed reaction from legislators. Tuition caps are proposed, a state board of regents is proposed, and salary increases of 3 or 3.5% based on merit have been proposed for state employees except for faculty in higher education. It seems strange that in a knowledge economy, the most dynamic group of knowledge workers – our higher ed faculties – are not being rewarded.

## 2. Internal affairs:

Executive officers meet in January to assess mid-year progress of the Vision of Distinction. There are some good things to report.

-New programs planned:

- Distinction in Leadership Studies
- Major in Information Design (joint effort of Depts. of Mass Communications; Music; Graphic Design; Management; Computer Science)

Also:

- Nature and Character Task Force is about to complete work.
- Task Force on Academic Integrity is nearing completion of its work
- We are currently discussing a new approach to recognizing special efforts with awards.
- Moving forward on smoke-free campus implementation with sensitivity to all
- Staffing of West Center: a fee structure for faculty/staff use is quite likely to be implemented.
- International Center will be refocused in scope and staff.
- Institutional Research will see major changeovers with new director.
- LEAP program will be going through changes in next year.
- An Office of Nationally Competitive Awards is being established.

## 3. Facilities:

- West Center construction is behind schedule, but we are targeting full operation next January.
- Complete design is ready for the new campus center as soon as West Center is finished.
- Construction of new classroom building behind Bancroft is proceeding on schedule.
- Thurmond auditorium plans are moving along, but decisions need to be made about positioning as a stand-alone structure or appended in some way.
- Library project is still alive conceptually, but it is fairly clear that funding will not be available from the state.
- Recreational fields for students are being lit and should be available soon for full student use.
- Winthrop Ballpark is receiving upgrades due to a \$1.5 million gift.

## 4. Questions addressed to the President by Dr. Daugherty

- “How does the budget affect enrollment goals?” We are becoming more like a private institution in that state funds account for only a fraction of our budget. Thus, enrollment is intimately related to our budget planning -- a situation we must face realistically. New students and retention must be priorities for all.
- “How might class sizes and learning experiences be affected?” Probably little change because of our physical dimensions.
- “Where are the difficult choice-points and how can faculty help?” The most important thing we can do is attract and retain students through dedication to our traditional balance of quality and growth.

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

Dr. Moore was attending the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. His report was sent via email.

At this point, with no objection from the floor, the order of business was suspended to accommodate two guest speakers before an anticipated lengthy debate during committee reports

## V. New Business

### A. Admissions Brief

Margaret Williamson, Dean of Admissions Management, briefly reviewed the impact of faculty involvement in recruitment and encouraged faculty members to consider their unique role in bringing new students to the university.

### B. Two-Minute Drill

Dr. Adolphus Belk gave a brief presentation on his approach to encouraging deep learning regarding the planning, courage, and training involved in adopting a non-violent approach toward working for change in society.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Rules Committee

Dr. Beth Costner brought forward for vote the proposals from the Rules Committee regarding special meetings procedures, summer meetings, General Education Committee makeup, and the chair of the Cultural Events Committee. The proposals had been distributed by email to the faculty. All proposals were approved.

The Rules Committee's suggested reorganization of Appendix I of the Faculty Manual were approved for placement on the agenda for the next Faculty Conference meeting. Dr. Costner urged members to review these proposed changes by consulting the document in the Dean's Office of their respective colleges.

### B. Academic Council

Dr. Frank Pullano informed Faculty Conference of actions taken by Academic Council with regard to program modifications and course additions, deletions, changes, and modifications. The full report had been distributed by email to members of Faculty Conference, and these modifications do not require the approval of the Conference.

Motions from Academic Council to remove THRT 110 from the list of Humanities and Arts courses in the General Education Program and to add HIST 111, 112, and 113 to the list of Humanities and Arts, Historical Perspective, and Global Perspective course were approved by Faculty Conference vote. A motion to approve a new track within the BS Chemistry Degree – Forensic Chemistry Program of Study – was also approved by Faculty Conference vote. A motion that the “Extension and Correspondence Credit” (page 40 of the current catalogue) section be deleted from future catalogues because of obsolescence was approved by Faculty Conference vote.

Dr. Pullano then presented Academic Council's motion to introduce new language into the "Evaluation and Grading" section on page 30 of the current catalogue that chiefly 1) recommends "that students be made aware of the evaluation of the work that accounts for at least 20 percent of their grade by the withdrawal deadline for the course" and 2) provides for the addition of a "minus" to a letter grade that "does not quite reach the measure indicated by A, B, C, or D" or a "plus" to a letter grade that "only somewhat exceeds the measure indicated by B, C, or D." Quality points would be adjusted accordingly. After a brief explanation from Dr. Pullano for the rationale behind these changes, Dr. Daugherty called for questions for clarification from the floor.

Debate on the motion then ensued, alternating between speakers in favor and opposed. Mr. Willie Lyles spoke as president of the Council of Student Leaders. A motion was brought forward and seconded to postpone the question until March 3 in order to have more time for discussion and consideration. Members spoke for and against this motion. The question was called, there was no objection to ending debate, and a standing vote was taken. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made to strike the additional paragraph under "Grading System" providing for the use of "plus" or "minus" in Academic Council's proposal. There was no second.

The question was called and there was no objection to ending debate. A voice vote was taken; it appeared the "ayes" were in the majority. There was a call to divide the house and a standing vote was taken. The motion brought by Academic Council was adopted.

Two accompanying motions, contingent on passage of the previous question, were then brought forward by Dr. Pullano. On page 37 of the current catalogue, under the "Writing Composition Requirement" C- is to be substituted for C as the minimum required grade for WRIT 101, GNED 102, and CRTW 201 for students to avoid limitation to a maximum course load of 12 hours and to enrollment in courses below 300. This was adopted. In all places in the present catalog where specific course prerequisites, course requirements, and program requirements mention a letter grade, those grades shall be modified by the addition of a minus unless the affected programs communicate otherwise to the Office of Records and Registration by the deadline for inclusion of new material in the next catalog. After some discussion on catalogue deadlines and the types of needs for curriculum action, the motion was adopted.

**VII. Unfinished Business – none**

**VIII. Announcements**

Dean Mark Herring had provided information, presented on a projected slide, regarding increased access to materials through the SC Academic Virtual Library and PASCAL.

Dean Brien Lewis announced that *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Caldwell has been chosen as the Common Book for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Dr. Daugherty reminded faculty of the February 3 deadline for submission of grant requests from the University Research Council.

**IX. Adjournment** – 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter J. Judge, Secretary