

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
January 23, 2004
2:00 pm
Johnson Theatre

I. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2003 Faculty Conference

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the November 14, 2003 Faculty Conference were then approved.

II. Welcome

Dr. Marilyn Smith welcomed the faculty and announced that there had been no Board of Trustees meeting since the last Faculty Conference. The Board's annual planning retreat will take place the first weekend in February.

III. Report from the President

Dr. Smith reminded faculty of President DiGiorgio's email that he had distributed since he was unable to attend today's meeting.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vice President Tom Moore thanked everyone for their good work and cooperation as well as their acceptance of him in this position. He also thanked those involved with the program modifications submitted and reviewed by GNED, Academic Council, and CUI, and he noted that we were ahead of schedule in the process. Vice President Moore next commented on the situation at the state level, noting a lack of clarity and leadership. The funding situation remains unclear. Despite the uncertainty, he underscored the point that the general attitude among the Executive Officers is that our highest priority is the delivery of the academic programs we have committed to. He has also worked with the Academic Leadership Council to examine faculty needs; that information will also go to the Board of Trustees at the retreat. While a possible 7-13% reduction in state appropriation looms, planning continues. Vice President Moore concluded by encouraging everyone to put forth their best efforts with the information they have in order to deliver the academic program we have committed to despite potential challenges. Dr. Marilyn Smith followed his comments with a note that *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has published substantial articles about the situation in South Carolina, and she recommended those to people who may be interested in an outside look.

V. Committee Reports

Dr. Jo Koster, Chair of Academic Council, began by thanking everyone involved in the process of bringing forth the new GNED program. Academic Council was able to bring forth today approximately 60% of the undergraduate programs for Faculty Conference approval; the rest are at the CUI or Academic Council level and will come forth in March. She noted that this has been a heroic effort, and she especially thanked the members of GNED, CUI, TEC, and Registrar Tim Drueke. The list of courses that Academic Council had approved had been circulated by email. She noted a couple of typos: "CRTW 210" should read "CRTW 201," and the programs under Education had

been repeated. A motion was made to approve this list of programs to meet the GNED program; the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Koster also noted that CUI had brought forth to Academic Council a number of curricular changes that do not require a vote, but these will be circulated with the minutes for the March Faculty Conference. The GNED committee as well had brought forth for approval another segment of courses for the GNED program, which were accepted. She noted that Sue Peck has asked faculty for their input on any issues they now see arising from the implementation of the new GNED program. Dr. Koster also shared that Academic Council has continued to discuss Merit Pay, specifically a proposal to amend a statement approved for the SACS review; concerns exist about how faculty evaluation is described and how criteria for allocating merit pay will be communicated from department chairs and deans to faculty members. The membership of this ad hoc committee will expand, and Vice President Moore has agreed to meet with the group to discuss the issue. Dr. Koster concluded by noting that the Task Force on Integrity has met several times, and that a survey developed by the Council of Student Leaders is being reviewed by the Committee on Research Using Human Subjects. Once passed, it will be administered to students. She asked faculty for their cooperation in this administration.

Dr. Marsha Bollinger, Chair of the Personnel Committee, distributed ballots for a faculty member to serve as the Faculty Representative to Attend Student Governance Meetings. (Note: Kelly James won the election.)

Dr. Alice Burmeister, Chair of the Task Force on Integrity, noted the student survey and thanked faculty who had given feedback to her about this topic. She also summarized some ideas they are continuing to develop: distributing a Faculty survey, establishing focus groups to determine the most salient issues, looking at Winthrop policies and examining institutional core values, and developing the website. She ended by asking faculty to send her any feedback.

Mr. Brien Lewis, Chair of the Task Force on the Nature and Character of the University, announced that the Task Force had completed its report, which it would be presenting to the President this evening. He thanked the Task Force members for their work as well as faculty who had given input and attended forums. He announced that the report would be on the web the first of next week and would look forward to receiving any feedback for the final report to the Board of Trustees meeting in February.

Dr. John Robbins, Chair of the Rules Committee, announced that he would be working with Barbara Scranton this semester to look for discrepancies in the bylaws.

Dr. Ian Pearson, a member of the Budget Priorities Committee and stand-in for Susan Silverman, reported on four items: a copy of the 2003-2004 Winthrop University budget is on reserve in the library; a list of salary figures as of October 16, 2003 is also on reserve in the library; the committee has suggested that some financial information be placed on the Winthrop website; and finally, the committee is reviewing the responsibilities of the committee itself.

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VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

Dr. Smith invited faculty to the Meeting House after the meeting, where ARAMARK would be offering complimentary refreshments. She also thanked the faculty for attending today, as the approval of programs that Academic Council brought forth was an important piece of business. She concluded by thanking the committees and people involved in that process.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary