

**Minutes
Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly
September 28, 2001**

- I. Call to order from Prof. Jo Koster (English).
- II. Approval of Minutes from the August 17, 2001, meeting.
- III. Remarks from Professor Koster

Professor Koster noted that, while figures are preliminary, enrollment in the graduate program might be down as much as four hundred students. In the current financial situation, our graduate program will be under the same stresses as others, and she encouraged faculty to do all that they can for recruitment.

- IV. Remarks from Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert, Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies.

Dr. Rembert encouraged faculty with off-campus programs to get data on enrollment into the Graduate Office as quickly as possible. She noted that data may have to be in by mid-October in order to receive financial credit for students enrolled.

She also noted that a new graduate catalog was being prepared, and requested that the Graduate Office be informed as soon as possible of any changes that would have to be made.

The Graduate Office has almost completed the development of online applications for admission.

She informed the assembly that recruitment efforts are well underway, especially employing radio advertisements primarily in the Charlotte market, in addition to more traditional graduate and job fairs. She noted that graduate fairs tend to yield better results.

Dr. Rembert further noted that the Graduate Office was conducting surveys among graduate students about why they chose Winthrop. Focus groups with graduate assistants will be held to help implement any ideas for change that the surveys may suggest.

She concluded by mentioning that the Graduate Office was developing guidelines to handle Graduate Assistants terminated from their assistantships, and would bring a proposal to the Graduate Council.

V. Report from the Graduate Council by Professor Bill Rogers (Biology), Chair of the Graduate Council

Curriculum proposals for modifying the M.S. program in Biology, making course changes in English, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages, and Political Science, adding a new Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program, and suspending admissions to the MFA program with a concentration in interior design were all approved unanimously.

Seventeen nominations of faculty for membership in the Graduate Faculty Assembly were approved. Professor Rogers noted that many nominations were submitted too late to be included in the agenda.

Professor Rogers pointed out that the next regular meeting was scheduled for November 16.

During the discussion of the Master of Education program, Professor Mel Goldstein (Psychology) raised concerns that because of increasing demands on faculty among general education, undergraduate instruction, and graduate programs, we were going to have to make some hard decisions about where shrinking resources were going to be directed. He feared that we might have to decide whether to hurt our undergraduate programs in order to preserve our graduate programs at the current level, or vice versa. He pointed out that if we really want departments to participate in all three areas, we need to provide them with adequate resources to do so.

Professor Ralph Gustafson (Biology) noted that the Biology had more graduate students than in the past but had no more resources. He lamented the position of many graduate students who had to work full-time and cannot devote the necessary energy to their theses.

Dr. Melford Wilson noted that this was the first year in which budget control had allowed for no new positions, and that it is difficult to have new programs with no new positions.

At the end of Professor Rogers's report, Professor Koster thanked him for his remarkable summary of what had originally been a 128-page report.

VI. There was no old business.

VII. New business.

Professor Jim Johnston (Biology) informed the assembly that graduate students in biology had asked whether it would be possible for them to receive faculty/staff parking stickers. He made a motion that those with teaching assistantships should be able to do so.

John Robbins of the College of Business pointed out that since the business school had no teaching assistantships, they would in effect be losing available parking spaces. He noted that there were already not enough parking spaces for faculty on campus.

Professor Janice Chism (Biology) said that the faculty concerns committee had been told that there would be more faculty/staff parking spots next year. She further noted that biology teaching assistants need to use their cars frequently, procuring supplies for specific courses, constantly coming and going on errands that professors send them on. She insisted that there was a need for them to receive faculty/staff stickers, especially considering how little they are paid.

Professor Koster suggested putting Professor Johnston's motion on hold while an *ad hoc* committee investigated the matter.

Dr. Melford Wilson noted that one of the best points about his position was that he had no responsibility for parking, but that this came under the purview of the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Parking Committee. That committee had already turned down such a request because teaching assistants are not considered employees. He further noted that we have lost possible students because they were able to obtain more lucrative graduate assistantships elsewhere.

Professor Koster agreed to table the motion until more information could be obtained. She further noted that it might be possible to get a better sense of graduate student opinion out of the focus groups and surveys that the Graduate Office is undertaking.

VIII. There were no announcements.

IX. A motion to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Dave Pretty, Secretary.