

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES
 September 3, 2004

Academic Council met on Friday, September 3, 2004 at 2:00 pm in 308 Tillman Hall.

Members:

Frank Pullano, Chair	Mathematics
Pat Ballard	Library
John Bird	English
Shaun Cassidy	Art & Design
Clarence Coleman*	Accounting
Jennifer Disney*	Political Science
Ray Dockery	Education
Barbara Heinemann	Modern Languages
Jo Koster	English
Paul Martyka	Art & Design
Christine Maxwell	Education

Sue Peck	Education
David Pretty	History
Mesgun Sebhatu	Physics
William Seyfried	Economics
Will Thacker	Computer Science
Bruce Thompson	Music
Richard Fowler	Student
Timothy Druke	Records/Regis.

* Absent

Guests present: Debra Boyd, Lynn Brooks, Mark Herring, Tom Moore, Marilyn Smith, and Margaret Williamson

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Chair Pullano.

I. Minutes

The minutes from the April 16, 2004 meeting were approved without correction.

II. Chair's Remarks

Frank Pullano welcomed everyone to the first Academic Council meeting of the year. He introduced Pat Ballard who will be serving as Parliamentarian for the council, Bill Seyfried, Chair of the General Education Committee and Jo Koster, Chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Instruction. Chair Pullano then asked all members of the Council to introduce themselves. Members of the Committee on Undergraduate Instruction and General Education were identified as they introduced themselves.

The Committee on Undergraduate Instruction will be Jo Koster, Arts and Sciences; Clarence Coleman, Business; Christine Maxwell, Riley College of Education; and Bruce Thompson, Visual and Performing Arts.

Members of the General Education Committee are Bill Seyfried, Business, Paul Martyka, Visual and Performing Arts; and Sue Peck, Riley College of Education.

III. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Jo Koster reported that CUI has not yet met this semester.

B. General Education

Bill Seyfried presented two items from the General Education Committee.

1. Technology Requirement

Bill Seyfried reported that the General Education committee discussed removing the requirement that students complete the Technology Requirement within their first 54 earned hours. Since three degree programs require senior level courses be used to meet the Technology requirement, the General Education committee proposed the 54-hour requirement be removed. Discussion included a reminder that the Technology committee wanted the skills gained in these classes be acquired early in the student's career, the methodology for tracking the requirement, the use of the non-course based option for meeting the technology requirement, and using the petition process for those who have not yet met the requirement by the 54-hour point. Additional discussion on the use of 54 hours as compared to the 75-hour requirement for CRTW201 followed. Based on this discussion, Bill Seyfried withdrew the proposal from the General Education Committee. It was then moved and seconded (Seyfried, Bird) to change the General Education program to require the completion of the Technology Requirement by the time the student reached 75 earned hours. The motion passed on a hand vote of 10 in favor and 6 against.

2. Transfer Courses from South Carolina Technical Colleges and General Education

Bill Seyfried presented a proposal from the General Education committee to allow a broader range of transfer credit from the Technical colleges in South Carolina be used to meet the general education requirements. General Education Committee chair Seyfried explained this issue was brought to the committee's attention because an initial review of the existing articulation agreement indicated a limited amount of credit could be transferred to Winthrop and included in the General Education program. The Committee recommended that in many areas the ability to use courses that transfer in to Winthrop as non-specified subject credit would be helpful to ease transferring into Winthrop without having to make up additional credit. Significant discussion followed including the appropriateness of giving a broader range of options to transfer students than our on-campus students, having chairs make determinations on inclusion in general education, reasons why some departments listed more courses than others, the required writing

component for Winthrop courses, and the distinctiveness of the general education program. After discussion, it was moved and seconded (Bird, Koster) to refer the proposal back to the General Education Committee for further review and discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

Cultural Events

John Bird reported on the progress of the Ad Hoc Cultural Events Review Committee. The committee has met and a copy of the current guidelines with initial draft changes was distributed to the Council. The group has discussed changing the ‘universal appeal’ restriction on lectures to ‘general appeal’. They also will include a section with definitions and processes. The floor was opened to discussion from the Council regarding the draft document. The Council expressed concerns regarding the discussion and multiple viewpoint requirement for lectures, and dealing with religious and political issues. After hearing the Council’s concerns, the group will meet again and report back at a future meeting.

V. New Business

None

VI. Announcements

Future meetings of the Academic Council will be held on October 8, November 5, January 14, February 18, and April 8.

VIII. Vice President for Academic Affairs Report

Vice President Moore told the Council he is looking forward to watching it work this year. He hopes the Council will have engaged discussions on the issues that come up and expects it to have a significant impact on how we look at the notion of academic excellence at Winthrop University.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy A. Drueke
Secretary