

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES
 September 9, 2005

Academic Council met on Friday, September 9, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in 308 Tillman Hall.

Members:

Frank Pullano, Chair	Mathematics
Pat Ballard	Library
John Bird	English
Siobhan Brownson	English
Shaun Cassidy	Art & Design
Clarence Coleman*	Acct, Fin and Econ
Michael Cornick*	Acct, Fin and Econ
Jennifer Disney	Political Science
Chad Dresbach	Art & Design
Rebecca Evers	Center for Pedagogy

Barbara Heinemann	Modern Languages
Tom Polaski	Mathematics
David Pretty	History
Linda Schoonmaker	Health and PE
William Seyfried	Acct, Fin and Econ
Will Thacker	Computer Science
Bruce Thompson*	Music
Willie Lyles, III*	Student
Timothy Drucke*	Records/Registration

* Absent

Guests present: Debra Boyd, Beth Costner, Tim Daugherty, Mark Herring, Tom Moore, Don Rogers, Teria Sheffield, and Margaret Williamson.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair Pullano.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Pullano welcomed the members of Academic Council and the guests attending the meeting to a new academic year. The members of the council introduced themselves. The Chair thanked Rebecca Evers, who has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian this year, and Pat Ballard, who agreed to take minutes for this meeting, in the absence of Tim Drucke.

II. Minutes

The minutes of the April 8, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair had no further remarks.

IV. Vice President of Academic Affairs’ Remarks

Vice President Moore expressed his appreciation of the members of Academic Council for agreeing to serve on the Council. He stressed the importance of the work done by the Council, especially with regard to the accomplishment of Winthrop University’s mission, and looks forward to seeing Academic Council’s work this year.

V. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Jennifer Disney reported for the committee chair, Clarence Coleman. The Committee has had its first meeting, and has scheduled meetings for the rest of the academic year. Tim Druke showed the committee how to use the Curriculum Action System.

B. General Education Committee

Chair Tom Polaski reported that the committee had not yet met this academic year. During the summer, the committee approved one blanket petition concerning an archeology course. Work this year will largely deal with the assessment of the General Education program.

John Bird brought up the oral communication requirement, stating that there were not many courses available to satisfy the requirement across the board. The requirement will be looked at as part of the assessment of the GenEd program.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business for the Council to consider.

VII. New Business

A. Proposal from the Teacher Education Committee

Beth Costner, Chair of the Rules Committee, was present to provide an explanation of why the Rules Committee was submitting the proposed changes to the Teacher Education Committee by-laws to the Academic Council for approval. The Rules Committee decided that, since the Teacher Education Committee falls under the purview of the Academic Council in the hierarchy of university governance, and the TEC by-laws reside in the faculty governance section of the Faculty Manual, the Academic Council should be the body to approve or disapprove the proposed changes to the TEC by-laws. These changes are basically editorial in nature. During a brief discussion, Tom Polaski asked if Graduate Council would need to deal with this issue also, and the answer was probably, because teacher education courses are on both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. After the discussion, Academic Council approved the changes to the Teacher Education Committee by-laws.

B. Course drop deadline

This issue was brought to the Council for discussion by Dave Pretty. In the last few years, several faculty have had problems with the deadline, which is the last day of class, unless the student is failing. Anecdotal evidence suggests that students are dropping courses much later than they used to, sometimes due to scholarship award restrictions, adversely affecting class group projects, oral presentations, etc. John Bird agreed that the drop deadline is an issue which should be looked at, especially with regard to the timing, the 'N' grade, and the actual grade. Vice President Moore stated that the existence and availability of the 'N' grade has produced some irresponsibility in both

students and faculty. John would like the Council to investigate the whole grading system issue, including +/- grades, which are important factors in grade inflation. A committee was formed to take on the grading system, the 'N' grade, +/- grades, and the course drop deadline. Members are: John Bird, Shaun Cassidy, Dave Pretty, and Linda Schoonmaker. Dave Pretty was appointed to chair the committee. Margaret Williamson, Enrollment Management, will obtain data on when courses are being dropped by our students, when course drop deadlines are scheduled at other institutions, and other institutions' grading systems.

VIII. Announcements

Chair Pullano announced that the next Academic Council meeting will be on Friday, October 7, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. in 308 Tillman.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Pullano adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Ballard
Acting Secretary