

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES
September 8, 2006

Academic Council met on Friday, September 8, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in 308 Tillman Hall.

Members:

Tom Polaski, Chair	Mathematics	Steve Frankforter*	Business Administration
Siobhan Brownson	English Business	Bob Gorman	Library
Clarence Coleman	Administration Business	Susan Green	Pedagogy
Michael Cornick	Administration	Mark Hamilton	Art and Design
Beth Costner	Mathematics	Lisa Johnson	Education
Litasha Dennis	English	Donna Nelson	Psychology
Jennifer Disney	Political Science	Will Thacker	Computer Science
Chad Dresbach	Art and Design	Bruce Thompson	Music
Rebecca Evers	Education	Hanna Sane*	Chair, CSL (designee)
		Timothy Drueke	Records/Registration

* Absent

Guests present: Tim Daugherty, Mark Herring, Tom Moore, Marilyn Smith, and Margaret Williamson.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chair Polaski, who welcomed everyone to the new year.

I. Minutes

The minutes of the April 7, 2006 meeting were approved via email.

II. Chair's Remarks

Tom Polaski welcomed the new members of the Council: Beth Costner, Litasha Dennis, Bob Gorman, Susan Green, Mark Hamilton, and Donna Nelson. Steve Frankforter and Hanna Sane, the student representative both were unable to be in attendance. Lisa Johnson was also introduced as she is completing the remainder of Linda Schoonmaker's term. Chair Polaski also introduced Rebecca Evers who will serve as Parliamentarian.

Chair Polaski outlined his agenda for the year: to work with Faculty Conference in the faculty governance review, monitor the change in drop deadline and the N grade, complete the conversion to the plus/minus grading system, and review several general education matters.

III. Vice President of Academic Affairs' Remarks

Vice President Moore also welcomed everyone back to the new academic year. He recognized the council as the “hardest working body” that works on academic and curricular matters. He indicated the council had two major issues for the year: the implications of the plus/minus grading system, and the assorted General Education matters including the use of transfer credit. He thanked all members for being a part of the council and for the work they do.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

CUI Chair Clarence Coleman presented the items that needed approval by the Council:

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Department of Art & Design

***Modify** BA in Art History to broaden choices of Art electives (**modify major**)

The modification to the BA in Art History was approved.

The following items were approved by CUI – Academic Council action was not required

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

African American Studies Committee:

Add AAMS 322 (3) Sociology of Contemporary Africa (**new course**).

Add AAMS 390 (3) Selected Topics in African American Studies (**new course**)

Department of English:

Add ENGL 308 (3) *World Literature after 1700* (**new course**)

Department of Human Nutrition:

Add GEOG 501 (3:2:2) *Geographical Information Systems* (**new course**).

Department of Sociology

Modify SOCL 502 (3) *Social Theory* to restrict course to only Sociology majors/minors (**course modification**).

V. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

VI. New Business

A. Faculty Governance Review

Chair Polaski discussed the form presented by Tim Daugherty regarding the Faculty Conference review of its governance structure and process. The council discussed when the last review was undertaken (early 90's), the current state of the faculty manual and bylaws, and the timeline for what will happen. Chair Polaski asked for volunteers to help with completing the information requested by Tim Daugherty. Donna Nelson, Jennifer Disney and Rebecca Evers agreed to serve. Chair Polaski asked the other members of the council to forward any suggestions or concerns to any of the three or himself.

B. Withdrawal deadline and Automatic N grade

Registrar Tim Druke reported on the status of the drop deadline and automatic N grade. As approved by Faculty conference last year, the new deadline for withdrawing from a course is 60% of the instructional days of the course. For full-semester courses, this fall's deadline is October 20. After the deadline, students with extenuating circumstances may withdraw with appropriate documentation. A new form has been developed for the extenuating circumstances withdrawals. Students may pick up the forms in 102 Tillman. They need to be completed and returned to the Dean of Enrollment Management who will review the documentation and consult with the instructor regarding the withdrawal request. A report of the numbers of withdrawals will be made at a later meeting.

VIII. Announcements

The next meeting will be on October 6 at 2:00 pm in Tillman 308.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy A. Druke
Secretary