

## Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly

November 30, 2012

Immediately following Faculty Conference at Dina's Place, DiGiorgio Campus Center

### Minutes

- I. Call to Order  
The Chair of Graduate Faculty Assembly, Sue Lyman, called the meeting to order.
- II. Welcoming Remarks
- III. The Chair thanked Malayka Klimchak for serving as Parliamentarian and Ian Pearson for serving as Secretary as well as faculty colleagues for attending the meeting.
- IV. Approval of minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from October 5, 2012  
The minutes were approved by motion, second, and unanimous consent.
- V. Report from Vice President of Academic Affairs  
The Vice President for Academic Affairs reported meeting with the Graduate Assistant Working Group. She explained that they were examining not only the "who," "what" and "where" of graduate assistantships but more importantly the "why." She indicated that the Budget situation will continue to support Graduate Assistantships, though Graduate Assistantships will remain "status quo," meaning that the value of assistantships, whether full, half, or a combination thereof within a given area will likely remain unchanged for now. She reported that State revenue increases, if any, will likely go to cover costs of insurances and the "hacking" incident, and that she is hopeful for a clearer picture of things as they emerge in mid to late January.
- VI. Report from the Graduate Council  
The Chair of Graduate Council, Stevie Chepko, introduced curricular proposals for approval. The Graduate Faculty Assembly approved the program change for Sport and Fitness Administration, dropping 2 electives: SPFA686 and SPFA 619.  
  
The Graduate Faculty Assembly also approved changes in language regarding the university probation and readmission policies.

#### **Summary of changes for "Under Probation"**

1. Specify that "W/N" courses *no longer* count toward the 9 hrs requirement for rising above minimum GPA.)
2. Added sentence making visible financial aid consequences for students withdrawing from 3hrs in given semester.
3. Added sentence regarding students on probation in cohort programs, giving those students one semester to raise their GPA to appropriate standard.

**The approved version is now:**

*“A student may take up to nine graduate hours while on academic probation. If the grade-point average does not rise to the minimum acceptable standard based on the number of hours earned within the first nine hours of being placed on probation, the student is dismissed from graduate study. A course in which the student chooses to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline will not be included in this nine-hour limit. A student on probation who chooses to withdraw from a course may not be eligible for financial aid the following semester because a student seeking financial aid must be enrolled in at least six semester hours. Students on probation in cohort programs requiring more than nine hours a semester must raise their grade-point average to the minimum acceptable standard by the end of that semester. If a student repeats one or two courses while on academic probation, the new grade replaces the original grade in the calculation of the grade-point average.”*

**Summary of changes: Under Dismissal, within section on Readmission**

1. Remove statement regarding prohibition of credit for courses earned before dismissal.
  2. Add statement that student readmits on academic probation.
  3. Add language specifying the requirement for students readmitted after academic dismissal to retake courses below a B or petition for academic forgiveness. Note: This would include those students who are changing programs as well; these students would normally petition for academic forgiveness as part of their readmission/change of programs process.
  4. Move sentence regarding “prior repetition attempts.”
  5. Separated paragraphs for students being readmitted to same program from students being readmitted to a new program.
  6. “When students reapply following dismissal, they are responsible for assembling all credentials required for readmission by the appropriate academic unit. Students’ credentials are evaluated and the admission decision is made by the academic unit. These credentials must include a transcript of all work at Winthrop University prior to the dismissal.
  7. Replace “grade below B” with “cumulative GPA below 3.0” after readmission will result in immediate dismissal.
- **The approved version is now:**

*“When students reapply following dismissal, they are responsible for assembling all credentials required for readmission by the appropriate academic unit. Students’ credentials are evaluated and the admission decision is made by the academic unit. These credentials must include a transcript of all work at Winthrop University prior to the dismissal.*
  - *Students who are readmitted after dismissal are readmitted on academic probation. Students who are readmitted to the same program area after dismissal must repeat courses in which they previously received grades below B in order to raise their cumulative grade point average to the minimum acceptable standard.*

*A student may repeat these courses regardless of prior repetition attempts. However, a cumulative GPA below a 3.0 after readmission will result in immediate dismissal.*

- *Students changing degree programs or areas of concentration may petition*
- *for academic forgiveness if the courses in which they made a grade below a B are not required in the new program or area of concentration. Additional consideration may be made for academic forgiveness in the event of verifiable and documented extenuating circumstances. However, a cumulative GPA below 3.0 after readmission will result in immediate dismissal.”*
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- A report was presented on the procedures for thesis/project across colleges and faculty compensation for advising thesis/project across colleges. Graduate Council recommended to Dean DeRochi that the report be taken to the Academic Leadership Council for a discussion.

The Chair noted that four graduate petitions were approved. The Chair also reported that Graduate Council was examining the petition process, specifically how other universities handle petitions, especially with regard to multiple and repeat petitions.

The Graduate Faculty Assembly approved Dr. Charles Alvis for Graduate Faculty status.

## VII. Report from the Dean of the Graduate School

The Dean of the Graduate School, Jack DeRochi, reported that the Graduate School has been examining and comparing enrollment data (which was shown in Powerpoint) with a focus on first time graduate students.

The Dean noted an increase this fall in non-degree and professional development courses in the College of Business and the College of Education.

The Dean listed, described, and explained five on-going recruitment strategies:

- Dec. 18: invited current undergraduate students at other institutions
- Jan. 29: open house—Winthrop undergraduates
- Focus on relationship building rather than graduate fairs
- Employing photography and webpage
- Local media: WRHI

The Dean listed, described, and explained four on-going student engagement strategies:

- Fall social in Rutledge Gallery
- Coffees with CBA and COE students
- Spring social at Winthrop basketball game (Sat. Feb. 9 at 4 pm)
- Graduate Reception in the spring to celebrate graduate student accomplishments

The Dean noted that some new scholarships for graduate students had been created.

The Dean reported that the institution has endorsed a Community Advisory Board for:

- Resource development
- Community relations
- Professional advocacy

VIII. Unfinished Business (none)

IX. New Business (none)

X. Announcements (none)

XI. Adjourned at 3:45 pm

Next Meeting March 8, 2013 in Kinard Auditorium.