



**Meeting of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees
Committee on Academic Quality**

Thursday, June 27, 2019 | 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Polly Ford Conference Room, 202 West Center | Winthrop University

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Chair Tim Hopkins, Julie Fowler, Sandra Stroman, Ashlye Wilkerson, and Michael Lipscomb.

Others Present: Adolphus Belk, Monica Bennett, Debra Boyd, Patrice Bruneau, Kara Cauthen, Jack DeRochi, Tim Drueke, Lisa Harris, Mark Herring, Gloria Jones, Karen Jones, Glenn McCall, Adrienne McCormick, Katarina Moyon, Jennie Rakestraw, P.N. Saksena, Takita Sumter, Suzie Therrell, and Claire Weikle

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tim Hopkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m. He welcomed all present.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 11, 2019, Meeting:** Ms. Sandra Stroman moved to accept the minutes of the meeting from April 11, 2019. Ms. Ashlye Wilkerson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
3. **The West Forum, Republican National Convention, and 2020 Presidential Campaign:** Katarina Moyon, Director of the John C. West Forum on Politics and Policy, updated the committee about Winthrop's planning for the Republican National Convention, which will take place in Charlotte, NC August 24-27, 2020. The University will host students from across the state for 2.5 days of convention-related speakers and activities, along with offering a course on Presidential Nominating Conventions (co-taught by Ms. Moyon and Dr. John Holder). Students from the course will spend six days in Charlotte for activities. Students will have an experiential, no-partisan, academic learning experience. Students will have opportunity to interact with Democratic candidates during the 2020 election year.
4. **Resolution to Confer Emeritus Status:** Dr. Boyd presented a resolution to confer Emeritu Faculty Status to thirteen faculty members-- Janice Bradner, David Brown, Qidong Cao, Janice Chism, Laura Dufresne, Cynthia Forrest, Karen Kedrowski, Kathy Lyon, Clara Paulino, Don Rogers, Spiro Shetuni, Sue Spencer, and Will Thacker—for their combined 308 total years of service to Winthrop University. Ms. Wilkerson moved to accept the resolution. Ms. Stroman seconded the motion. The resolution was approved and recommended to the full Board for approval.



5. Provost's Report:

a. Faculty Tenure and Promotion:

In 2018-2019, thirteen faculty were awarded tenure. The following is a roster of individuals receiving tenure.

<u>College and Name</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
College of Arts and Sciences	
Dr. Zach Abernathy	Mathematics
Dr. Diana Boyer	Geology
Dr. Monique Constance-Huggins	Social Work
Dr. Adam Glover	Spanish
Dr. Duane Neff	Social Work
Dr. Matthew Stern	Biology
College of Business Administration	
Dr. Adriana Cordis	Accounting
Dr. Philip Gibson	Finance
Dr. Stephanie Lawson	Marketing
Dr. A. Nicki Washington	Computer Science
College of Education	
Dr. Mary Slade	Curriculum & Pedagogy
College of Visual and Performing Arts	
Dr. Tracy Patterson	Music
Mr. A. Seth Rouser	Design

In 2018-2019, twelve faculty were awarded promotions to Professor or Associate Professor. The following is a roster of individuals receiving promotion.

<u>To the Rank of Professor</u>	
<u>College and Name</u>	<u>Discipline</u>
College of Arts and Sciences	
Dr. Diana Boyer	Geology
Dr. Robert Prickett	English
Dr. Frank Pullano	Mathematics
Dr. Jeff Sinn	Psychology

<u>To the Rank of Associate Professor</u>	
College of Arts and Sciences	
Dr. Fatima Amir	Chemistry
Dr. Monique Constance-Huggins	Social Work
Dr. Adam Glover	Spanish
Dr. Duane Neff	Social Work
Dr. Matthew Stern	Biology



College of Business Administration

Dr. Stephanie Lawson

Marketing

College of Education

Dr. Joni Boyd

Exercise Science

Dr. David Schary

Exercise Science

- b. Changes in Tenure and Promotion Protocols:** Changes to procedures and protocols were reviewed at the last Academic Quality Committee meeting. Those changes include the following:
- The portfolio review process for tenure will focus exclusively on materials contained in the portfolio and on the recommendations of the review bodies.
 - Candidates for tenure will be allowed to review the unit committee recommendation and will have an option to respond to that recommendation prior to its consideration by the dean. The candidate's response letter must be included with all other evaluation letters.
 - Entering faculty of senior rank who have earned tenure at another accredited institution may be immediately reviewed and considered for tenure through a review process that includes the appropriate college dean, members of the University Personnel Committee, the Provost, and the President.
 - In the review of a candidate's promotion, the dean's recommendation and all materials are submitted to the Chief Academic Officer.
- c. Renaming Selected Colleges:** The committee revisited the proposed changes to selected college/school names with the plan to discuss with the entire BOT at the next full meeting. If Board members have additional questions about the proposed changes, they should contact the Provost or the appropriate dean.
- d. Bachelor of Professional Studies:** The Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS) received final approval from SACSCOC on May 20, 2019. Because of the delay in approval, we will have a soft start in August (estimating 5-7 enrolled) and have a full cohort (15-20) in January 2020, after six months of persistent and intense recruitment and advertising. The Program Coordinator was hired in February 2019, and recruitment has already begun by the Program Coordinator and the Director of Extended Education. The search for a recruiter for **adult** students is underway; this individual will begin in July 2019. A web page has been developed; however, efforts are underway to create a website for the BPS, one that will be more focused on recruitment. To date, a one-page "take-away" has been created for use when meeting with businesses where we are trying to recruit students.
- e. Winthrop Think College:** The mission of Winthrop Think College (WTC) is to provide an inclusive postsecondary education experience to students with intellectual



disabilities to prepare them for competitive employment and active participation in local communities with as much independence as possible. Winthrop University has offered the WTC since January 2015, and twenty-four students have successfully completed the program since its inception.

The costs of the program (personnel, supplemental instruction) are completely covered by the tuition and program fees paid by the students in the program, and 10% of each student's program fee (\$15,000 program fee per student per academic year) goes into the university's General Fund. Course and lab fees, activity fees, and tuition dollars paid by these students go directly to the university. Some students qualify for Pell Grants, while others completely pay all costs. WTC students do not displace regularly admitted students from seats in classes.

A limited number of these students with exceptional ability would greatly benefit from an extended program with a third and/or fourth year option to further develop their skills and workplace employability. Such an option has been requested by the parents and guardians of these students. Students may need courses at Winthrop and/or at York Tech; therefore, we are working with York Tech to bring YTC into the program as a partner school.

There will be a resolution for the next Board meeting regarding the third and fourth year options.

- f. **Change in Online MBA:** While Winthrop's online MBA is receiving a lot of interest based on the number of inquiries, appointments, and started applications (see attached Wiley report on the MBA), there has been a precipitous drop in completed applications; and 37% of those applicants withdrawing have indicated it is our test requirement that causes them to stop the application process. They question why they should pay \$400 to take a test when other online programs make it simpler to waive the requirement or have no GMAT requirement at all.

The recommendation from our Wiley partners, with whom we concur, is to change our GMAT waiver in order to recruit more students who are well qualified and can succeed in the program. Our proposal is to change the waiver standard to the following: from requiring a 3.5 overall GPA and a 3.75 GPA in the major to a 3.0 overall GPA and relevant work experience.

This change would put us more in line with institutions that still require the GMAT but provide a waiver. (Some universities have moved away from the GMAT requirement completely.) By changing the parameters of the GMAT waiver, we are offering more students the opportunity to join a Winthrop cohort. These students will have relevant work experience that will inform their studies.

The analysis by Wiley also points to our current price point as a problem in the market. Therefore, we are recommending that we lower the tuition from \$980 to



\$780 per credit hour. This change would require an increase of only 5 students to cover the revenue loss and would have a positive effect on recruitment.

Based on the tuition reduction and increased flexibility of the GMAT waiver, we are very confident we will increase our online MBA enrollment well beyond the 5 students.

- 6. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees:** Dr. Lipscomb reported that Winthrop conducted thirty successful searches for instructional faculty this year, and they will be ready to teach students for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Faculty and administration have continued to work collaboratively to address challenges related to compensation, resource allocation, and professional development. Faculty have been participating in the new budgetary process, providing the University's senior leadership with information that will assist them in prioritizing spending. Noted that working through budget this past year has been a team effort, including work of faculty. At the same time, faculty are thinking in entrepreneurial ways about how they can move their course offerings and degree programs in ways that can capture the changing realities of our student base. Part of the challenge that faculty face entails meeting students and the public somewhere between their preferences and what faculty, as experts in their fields and as professional educators, understand to be their responsibilities to the pursuit of truth and critical thinking.

Not denying the importance of responding appropriately to social and economic demands and knowing that part of what that response entails, there are programs that build specific knowledge and skills for specific careers. The faculty wants to emphasize that our broad curriculum is crucial to providing students with the basic verbal and quantitative skills that employers tell us that they want to see and which are crucial in surviving in an always-changing employment landscape. Learning to think in a variety of contexts, in subject areas with which students are perhaps unfamiliar, is a significant part of how Winthrop builds those skills. The faculty wants, in other words, to make sure that we don't throw out the baby with the bath water, that we don't destroy what has and continues to be the strength of a broad-based, rigorous education that cultivates our students' ability to think creatively, constructively, and critically in the increasingly complex world that our students need to navigate.

Dr. Lipscomb concluded his tenure as Faculty Conference Chair, remarking with that the Academic Quality Committee is an important player in protecting our strengths as Winthrop moves into the future. He thanked everyone on the committee for the tremendous work that they have done during his time as the faculty representative to the Board. He expressed great appreciation for Mr. Tim Hopkins, Chair, for his leadership. The committee has done an excellent job of working to learn about what academic quality at Winthrop means and of working with the administration to identify challenges and solutions to those challenges. Dr. Lipscomb expressed that the committee has always made him feel that he could speak directly and honestly as everyone worked together in



the spirit of collaboration. He remarked that the committee will find that Dr. Adolphus Belk, incoming faculty representative, to be an important partner in the work of this committee as it moves forward. He is an engaged, thoughtful, and committed faculty member who critically addresses questions of academic quality in his work and his scholarship.

Finally, Dr. Lipscomb observed that the university does face challenges, but he is optimistic about the solid foundation that the administration, under President Mahony's leadership and with the contributions of the entire Winthrop team, has been building. The consistency, credibility, and intelligence that the President has brought to the University is exactly what we have needed. The faculty look forward to continuing our energetic contributions to Winthrop's success.

7. **Old Business:** There was no old business.
8. **New Business:** There was no new business.
9. **Adjournment:** Ms. Wilkerson moved to adjourn. Ms. Stroman seconded the motion. Mr. Hopkins adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Suzie Therrell, Recording Secretary

Mr. Tim Hopkins, Committee Chair