

**Report to the Board of Trustees and to
the Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Quality
October 24, 2019**

The Faculty Conference gathered on August 16 and September 27, 2019. Those meetings and resultant actions are summarized below.

Recognition of Faculty

At the August meeting, special recognition was given to faculty members who earned tenure (13 in all), were promoted to Associate Professor (8), or earned promotion to Professor (4) at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Introduction of New Faculty

Also, at the August meeting, we welcomed new faculty members and acknowledged those serving in new capacities.

<u>The College of Arts and Science</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department or Program</u>
Scott Amundsen	Associate Professor and program director	Interdisciplinary Studies; Bachelor of Professional Studies
Joi Anderson	Assistant Professor	Social Work
Giancarlo Anselmo	Assistant Professor	Psychology
Ja'Shaun Blanding	Instructor	Social Work
LaShardai Brown	Assistant Professor	Biology
Sara English	Instructor	Social Work
Timea Fernandez	Assistant Professor	Chemistry
Ashley Licata	Assistant Professor	Human Nutrition
Brandon Ranallo-Benavidez	Assistant Professor	Political Science
Daniel Stovall	Assistant Professor	Biology
Kathleen West	Assistant Professor	Psychology
Joyce White	Assistant Professor	English
<u>New role</u>		
Gary Alderman	Graduate program director	School Psychology

The College of Business Administration		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department or Program</u>
Joanna Jackson	Assistant Professor	Healthcare Management
Kirk LeCureux	Instructor	Business Law
Shirley Shen	Assistant Professor	Finance
Gang Wang	Assistant Professor	Financial Economics
<u>New role</u>		
Chlotia Garrison	Associate Dean	Undergraduate Programs

The College of Education		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department or Program</u>
Jared Androzzi	Associate Professor and Director	Physical Education teacher education program
Trish Arter	Professor and Chair	Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Studies
Logan Daughtry	Instructor	Exercise Science
Dennis Dotterer	Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership
Ruvi English	Assistant Professor	Human Development and Family Studies
Adam Keath	Assistant Professor	Physical Education
Jeremy Lopuch	Assistant Professor	Education Core
Lauren McCoy	Assistant Professor and Director	Sport Management; M.S. in Sport & Fitness Administration program
Tammy White	Assistant Professor	Educational Leadership
<u>New role</u>		
Kavin Ming	Chair	Curriculum and Pedagogy

The College of Visual and Performing Arts		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department or Program</u>
Ben Cantrell	Instructor	Music
Elizabeth Dulemba	Assistant Professor	Illustration
Elisa Koehler	Professor and Chair	Department of Music
Mikale Kwiatkowski	Assistant Professor	Design
Stephanie Sutton	Assistant Professor	Fine Arts
Kyle Sweeny	Assistant Professor	Art History
<u>New role</u>		
Karen Oremus	Chair	Fine Arts

Dacus Library		
<u>New Role</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Department or Program</u>
Emily Deinert	Coordinator	Reference Services

Update on Academic Council

Academic Council proceeded with routine maintenance of the curriculum, such as reviewing courses for inclusion in the general education program, recertifying courses already incorporated into the general education program, as well as reviewing program modifications. Likely of special interest to the Board was the creation of a new degree program in Data Sciences (B.A.), which includes courses on subjects like time series analysis, big data, and data mining. The program was unanimously approved by the Faculty Conference at the September meeting.

Progress on Tenure and Promotion Protocols

The Task Force on Tenure and Promotion Protocols was charged with addressing a set of issues related to tenure and promotion procedures originally framed by concerns from the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, faculty members, and administrators. The task force presented a list of recommendations at the April 19 meeting, five of which were unanimously approved. One proposal—requiring that candidates for tenure include in their portfolios the pre-tenure review committee letter and associated letters from the chair and dean—was not ratified. Instead, the faculty recommended the proposal be considered more fully by a new committee formed for that specific task. That group is now established, has already held a meeting, and is working to meet its charge. In the meantime, Provost McCormick has moved to implement the proposals that were approved by the Faculty Conference.

Update on the Ombuds Position

Winthrop will soon hire an ombuds, which faculty, staff, and administrators believe will help settle disagreements amongst university employees through deliberation. The university will also establish an advisory committee in support of the position. Given the need to move quickly to fill the vacancy, the Faculty Conference determined that the faculty chair would appoint its representative to the committee. In the future, though, the faculty representative will be elected. Just recently, [Dr. Ginger Williams](#) (IDST) agreed to serve as our delegate to the committee.

Developing the Academic Master Plan: Some Concerns

Attendees at the September faculty meeting had a thoughtful discussion of [the agency head planning document](#) for 2019-2020, most notably Items E and I, as they relate to academic programs and therefore fall under the purview of the Faculty Conference. Those sections read as follows:

- **Item E:** Using the Delaware Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity (i.e., the Delaware Study) “and other relevant data, prepare Academic Master Plan for program refresh, development, and/or elimination.”
- **Item I:** “Evaluate the financial status of the university's colleges and academic programs by performing cost-benefit analyses of each.”

The faculty expressed keen interest in the Delaware Study and its potential applications at Winthrop, the process through which an Academic Master Plan will be fashioned, and the nature of the “cost-benefit” analysis of the university’s colleges and programs. Some—given their experiences at other institutions—were anxious that such evaluations would lead to program or department elimination and/or the merging of departments or colleges. While the provost offered some clarification regarding the Academic Master Plan, the faculty want to know more about the Board’s vision for the project. Some even added that they would like to attend more Board meetings as guests, though doing so could be extremely difficult if the Board continues to hold business meetings in Columbia.

A word in support of current Winthrop Students

Lastly, at both the August faculty meeting and the opening convocation, I spoke on behalf of the faculty in support of our students. While we work to recruit all sorts of students to Winthrop, particularly those from middle- and upper-income families, let us not lose sight of our professional and ethical responsibility to our current students. As the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences recently stressed, “Every student matters.” That said, each year about half of our entering class is comprised of first-generation college students, students from working-class families, or students from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups—most of them hailing from South Carolina. For such folk, earning a Winthrop degree can greatly enhance their life chances. However, if they do not persist to graduation, then they fail to gain the full earning power of the degree. Even worse, they are saddled with the debt that they would not have otherwise accrued. Therefore, we must help them see it through.

Sincerely,

Adolphus G. Belk, Jr., Ph.D
 Chair, Faculty Conference
 Professor of Political Science and African American Studies
 Winthrop University