

Report of the Faculty Conference Chair

Submitted by Adam Glover

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I. Approval of FY2023-2024 Operating Budget

At a specially called Board meeting on August 17, 2023, the Winthrop University Board of Trustees unanimously approved the operating budget for FY2023-2024. A summary of key takeaways follows:

1. **Total Revenue.** The budget includes \$121M in annual revenue, a 4.2% increase over FY 2022-2023.
2. **State Allocations.** \$4.6M in additional State allocations to support tuition mitigation and invest in e-sports.
3. **Net Position.** The Board also approved \$1.5M from net position. President Serna intends to use these funds to support “investments in new academic programs, competency-based education, Voice Over IP (VOIP), IT security, professional development, etc.” (email from President Serna, dated 8-29-2023).
4. **Faculty and Staff Compensation.** The FY2023-2024 budget continues to support salary adjustments based on updated salary analysis data, as well as the State-mandated salary increase.
5. **State Capital Investments.** State capital investments total \$3.5M, including \$1M for the dam behind Winthrop Lake.
6. **Remaining Deficit.** \$1.5M.

II. Strategic Planning Process

Thanks to everyone for participating in the Strategic Planning Process. As the process draws to a close this fall and early next spring, I would encourage you to continue to participate as you are able and opportunities present themselves. I have been heartened by the openness and transparency of the process as a whole, and especially of the Town Hall Event with the Steering Committee and BRG on September 19, 2023. I am confident that the final version of the plan will reflect the concerns of the campus community as a whole, including faculty.

III. Provost Search

The search for Winthrop’s next Provost is underway. I would like to encourage everyone to participate as you are able and opportunities present themselves. Once finalists have been chosen for on-campus interviews, faculty will have additional opportunities to engage with the candidates in various settings. I would especially encourage everyone to attend the presentations. We had relatively low faculty turnout at finalist presentations last year, and I hope we can present a stronger, more united front this time around.

IV. Next Board of Trustees Meeting

I will present a written and oral report at the next Board of Trustees meeting, currently scheduled for October 11-12, 2023. I see myself as the spokesperson of the faculty to university's leadership and the Board of Trustees. As a result, if there is a matter of special concern that you would like me to include in the report, please do not hesitate to let me know.