

MINUTES
Winthrop University Faculty Conference
August 17, 2007
2:00 pm Johnson Auditorium

I. Call to Order

Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 2 PM.

II. Rhythm of Welcome

Professor Michael Williams and Adam Snow from the department of Music played the mbira (thumb pianos from Zimbabwe) to open our session. Their feature number was a story song called Nhemamusasa (the tune: ‘no such thing as multi-tasking’), Magondo (the story: Hyena). Look for an announcement soon on a concert with performers from around the world to be held Sept. 14th.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 20, 2007 meeting of Faculty Conference were approved without modification.

IV. Greeting from the Council of Student Leaders

Dustin Evatt, CSL Chair for 2007-2008, introduced Jamie Singleton, Vice Chair, and briefly reminded faculty of CSL’s role in student governance and university activities. He also invited faculty to attend their meetings that take place on the fourth Monday of each month. A new activity being considered is to have “meet the administration” luncheons or dinners in Thompson throughout the year. Dustin also said that the Council will review and consider revising the dedication for excellence.

V. Report from the Chair of Faculty Conference

Dr. Fortner-Wood welcomed all back to campus and encouraged faculty participation in the some of the important areas under consideration this year, such as modifications to the class schedule and the review of faculty governance. She then thanked the secretary (Dr. Lynn DeNoia) and parliamentarian (Dr. Lisa Johnson) for agreeing to serve, and gave particular recognition to the “ginormous” contribution made by Dr. Tim Daugherty in his term as Chair. She also thanked the many people who have helped her prepare to take over the role.

Dr. Fortner-Wood reported that the Board of Trustees met on June 7th in executive session to complete the President’s annual evaluation. On the 8th, the Board adopted resolutions: rating the president’s performance at the highest level (“exceeds expectations”), extending the President’s contract through 2012, deferring adoption of the budget until later in the month (following completion of the state’s legislative process), and conferring emeritus status on 6 of our faculty colleagues. Board leadership remains stable with re-election of all officers, including Karl Folkens as chair. On June 26th, the executive committee of the Board met and adopted a budget that calls for an increase in academic fees of approximately 7 ½ percent for in-state students. The room/board rate had already been set in April, and the overall increase for in-state students this year is a little over six percent (tuition plus room/board). Dr. Daugherty participated in each of these BOT meetings in June, and Dr. Fortner-Wood was present at the latter two.

Dr. Fortner-Wood invited questions about her report or any other concerns but none was raised.

VI. Report from the President

Dr. DiGiorgio welcomed all to a busy week starting the new academic year. Rather than repeating any remarks from his opening address to faculty and staff, he announced that Winthrop has won

standing in the “top ten” ratings of *US News and World Report* for the 16th consecutive year, a status that continues to aid our recruiting efforts. With respect to the water shortage in the city of Rock Hill, he assured us that Winthrop is “in compliance”, having worked out agreements with the city for continued upkeep of our athletic fields and campus hanging planters.

In accordance with our charge to ‘adjust as the progress of the times demands’, Dr. DiGiorgio highlighted some of the capabilities and activity toward campus security and safety in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy last year. As a public university, we have serious responsibilities in this arena and are taking a multimedia, multi-layered approach to reach as many people as quickly as possible in cases of emergency, while working closely with both the city and county. Winthrop already has 72 emergency call boxes in place and 115 digital cameras (plus a service to assist with monitoring) around campus. Our campus security is a true police force with all officers having passed courses at the SC police academy and Chief Zebedis having achieved additional certification from the FBI, among others. We also have a reverse-911, bulk message distribution capability to all land-line phones on campus, but this is becoming less useful as more people (especially students) use only cellular telephones. New features under contract and coming online include: a loudspeaker system for sirens and voice to provide FEMA alerts (from Tillman Tower across campus), gradual installation of an annunciator system with 50 locations (eventually one per building) where there will be wireless (RF) beacon/siren/LCD-screen indicators for emergency notifications, and rapid deployment/delivery of text messages to all cell phones that are voluntarily registered to receive. The critical incident task force’s process management plan has also been revised, but the details are not released to maintain security.

Dr. DiGiorgio invited questions and encouraged people to contact Chief Zebedis with questions as well. In response to questions from the floor, the president noted: the process for signing up to receive text messages is still to be determined; and more spaces are being secured by card-swipe entry locks. The more general issue of locking existing classrooms is currently under review.

VII. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Moore welcomed all of us to a busy time starting a new academic year and reminded us all to review the Vision of Distinction carefully. Some specific activities for the year include: the personal and social responsibility inventory (this fall) as part of our core commitments – please participate as called, review of faculty governance, review of the calendar, assessment of Touchstone and general education, search for the graduate dean and restructuring graduate program support into a cohesive graduate school, launch of the new Leadership and Information Design (tri-college, interdisciplinary) programs, first use of the plus/minus grading system, and addition of our new facilities (Owens and the West Center – please be patient with the last finishing touches still under way).

Dr. Moore noted that although our entering freshmen are starting school again for the thirteenth year, it is his 51st time... and it’s still exciting. He is looking forward to our having a great year!

VIII. Introduction of New Administrators and Faculty

Dr. Moore introduced:

- Mr. R. Alan Davis – Director of Institutional Research (M.Div., Wake Forest)

Dr. Moore then introduced each of the Deans to introduce new faculty.

College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Debra Boyd introduced:

- Dr. Casey A. Cothran – Instructor in English (Ph.D., U Tennessee)

- Dr. Cynthia D. Forrest – Assistant Professor of Social Work (Ph.D., USC)
- Dr. Matthew W. Hayes – Assistant Professor of Psychology (Ph.D., TX Tech)
- Ms. Jacqueline A. Jones-Nickens – Instructor in Social Work and Assistant Director of Field Education for the BSW and MSW (M.S.W., UNCCH)
- Ms. Ann B. Jordan – Instructor in English (M.A., Winthrop)
- Dr. David M. Kleinberg – Instructor and Language Laboratory Director (Ph.D., UNCCH)
- Dr. Cynthia H. Macri – Instructor in English (Ed.D., Nova Southeastern)
- Dr. Shebby A. Neely-Goodwin – Assistant Professor of Social Work (Ph.D., USC)
- Dr. Emlee W. Nicholson – Assistant Professor of Mathematics (Ph.D., U Mississippi)
- Ms. Darwin-Tamar Ramsey – Instructor in Sociology (M.A., USC)
- Dr. Joseph P. Rusinko – Instructor in Mathematics (Ph.D., U Georgia)
- Dr. Scott P. Werts – Assistant Professor of Geology (Ph.D., JHU)
- Dr. Heather Evan-Anderson will also be joining us in January

College of Business Administration

Dean Roger Weikle introduced:

- Ms. Malayka A. Klimchak – Instructor in Management (M.H.R., USC)
- Dr. Barbara G. Pierce – Associate Professor of Accounting and Chair, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics (Ph.D., Indiana U)
- Dr. Thomas O. Stanley – Associate Professor of Finance (Ph.D., U Nebraska-Lincoln)
- Ms. Laura d. Ullrich – Instructor in Economics (M.A., U Tennessee)
- Dr. Xusheng Wang – Associate Professor of Computer Science (Ph.D., George Mason)

Richard W. Riley College of Education

Dean Patricia Graham introduced:

- Dr. Albert F. Bolognese – Assistant Professor of Sport Management, Health & PE (D.Ed., Widener)
- Dr. Wanda P. Briggs – Assistant Professor of Counseling, Curriculum & Instruction (Ph.D., UNCC)
- Dr. Moody E. Crews – Assistant Professor of Counseling, Curriculum & Instruction (Ph.D., USC)
- Ms. Patricia L. Hilliard – Instructor in Family and Consumer Sciences, Curriculum & Instruction (M.S., Ohio State)
- Dr. Elizabeth E. Kirk – Assistant Professor of Reading, Curriculum & Instruction (Ed.D., U Houston)
- Ms. Natalie J. Kotowski – Instructor in Education and Athletic Training and Clinical Coordinator for the Athletic Training Education Program (M.S., Winthrop)
- Dr. Debra A. Leach – Assistant Professor of Special Education, Curriculum & Instruction (Ed.D., Florida Atlantic)

College of Visual and Performing Arts

Dean Elizabeth Patenaude introduced:

- Mr. David E. Beatty – Assistant Professor of Design, Interior Design (M.A., U Florida)
- Mr. Robert B. Edge – Assistant Professor of Theatre and Technical Director (M.F.A., U Tennessee)
- Ms. Kimberly P. Gleitsmann – Instructor in Design, Interior Design (B.F.A., Winthrop)
- Dr. Leonard Mark Lewis – Assistant Professor of Music (D.Musical Arts, UT-Austin)
- Dr. Stephanie L. Milling-Robbins – Assistant Professor of Dance (Ph.D., Texas Woman's U)
- Mr. Daryl W. Phillipy – Assistant Professor of Theatre (M.F.A., U Southern Mississippi)

- Mr. A. Seth Rouser – Assistant Professor of Fine Arts, Foundation (M.F.A., East Carolina)

Dean Patenaude also announced the following changes in the College of VPA:

- Dr. Alice R. Burmeister as Associate Dean
- Mr. Chad D. Dresbach as Chair, Department of Design
- Mr. Tom Stanley as Chair, Department of Fine Arts
- Ms. M. Clara Kulmacz as Instructor in Fine Arts, Art History (previously Instructor in English, College of Arts and Sciences)

Library

Dean Mark Herring introduced:

- Dr. Spiro J. Shetuni – Associate Professor and Cataloguing/Database Management Librarian (Ph.D., Tirana State U, Albania)

Academic Affairs

Dr. Moore reminded people of:

- Dr. Jennifer C. Solomon – Acting Dean, University College

IX. Report from Academic Council

Dr. Tom Polaski reminded us of the responsibilities of Academic Council from the Faculty Manual and announced the first meeting this year would be Sept. 7 at 2 PM in Tillman 308.

X. Committee Reports – none

XI. Introduction of 2007-2008 Chairs of Standing Committees

Dr. Fortner-Wood introduced the following and asked each for a brief statement of committee responsibilities:

- Academic Freedom and Tenure – Bob Gorman (Library)
- Admissions Advisory – Jean Silagyi-Rebovich (Arts & Sciences)
- Budget Priorities – Stevie Chepko (Education) with Jo Koster speaking in Stevie's absence
- Faculty Concerns – John Robbins (Business Administration)
- Faculty Personnel – Julian Smith (Biology)
- Library – Mike Matthews (Business Administration)
- Rules – Will Kiblinger (Philosophy & Religious Studies)
- Undergraduate Petitions – Anne Olsen (Business Administration)

XII. Unfinished Business – none

XIII. New Business

A. Update on Timeline for Use of the West Center

Grant Scurry, Director of the West Center, was unable to present while involved in inspections of the facility and sent email to us ahead of time instead.

B. Bringing the World to Winthrop and Winthrop to the World

Woody Pelton, Director of the International Center, characterized the International Center as having the import/export responsibility for international students, with some 50 new international students entering programs at Winthrop this fall. Woody urged us to extend them a warm welcome, and also encouraged faculty to read the newsletter sent by the International Center at the beginning of each fall and spring semester. He also announced: International Education

Week, celebrated around the country, as Nov. 12-16, 2007; and a new initiative in study abroad based on Susan Kress's good work. The latter will involve academic departments working with the International Center to identify opportunities for students to spend one semester abroad without delaying their expected graduation date. Costs for such study will be Winthrop tuition plus \$325, not including travel. Woody also encouraged us to visit the International Center on the second floor of Tillman.

XIV. Announcements

Tim Drueke added his welcome and provided the following reminders: Aug. 24 would be the last day for students to add courses; whatever our individual policy about using the plus/minus grading system, we must tell the students of our policy on our syllabi; students will now be able to rescind S/U grading for a course through the 60% point in the semester (the same date as the deadline to drop with an "N" grade), which is Oct. 19 this semester.

Dean Jennifer Solomon announced that support for this year's common book, Twyla Tharp's *The Creative Habit*, would begin with a kickoff event, "Dancing with the Stars", Tuesday, Aug 21 at 8 PM in Byrnes Auditorium. All are invited.

Dr. Moore reminded us that opening convocation would take place on Monday, Aug 20 at 4 PM. He encouraged us to attend the president's "Elvis party" for faculty and staff. He also noted that there would be a draft of the revisions to the faculty manual coming to us soon.

Dr. Fortner-Wood adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn A. DeNoia, Secretary