

Faculty Conference Minutes

August 21, 2009

I. Call to Order

Dr. Marsha Bollinger, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting order at 2:01 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 24, 2009 meeting of Faculty Conference were approved without dissent.

III. Report from the Chair of Faculty Conference

Dr. Marsha Bollinger began the meeting by commenting on the “previews” of fall events she had in a slide show before the meeting began and introducing the new parliamentarian (Jackie McFadden) and secretary (Mark Lewis). Dr. Bollinger reported on the June 5, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting. She highlighted a few of the items from the meeting and encouraged faculty to read the report (www.winthrop.edu/facultyconference). Dr. Bollinger discussed the Full Board meeting (report from Cheryl Fortner-Wood). This meeting conferred emeritus status to a number of Winthrop faculty and extended Dr. DiGiorgio’s contract. Cheryl Fortner-Wood and Tatiana Sosa were honored for their meritorious service. In addition, there were changes to the Board Bylaws: standing committees were increased from 4 to 5, language was made more precise in some places, and the option for Faculty Conference to appeal actions of the President to the Board was removed.

Dr. Bollinger went on to state that she had spent some time this summer meeting with Deans in order to understand Faculty Conference issues from the perspective of the different Colleges. She stated her interest in hearing from the faculty directly regarding Faculty Conference issues. Dr. Bollinger expressed her gratitude to Cheryl Fortner-Wood for her help in the new FC Chair position. Dr. Bollinger ended her report by acknowledging the individuals who have been granted tenure and/ or promoted.

IV. Report from the President

Dr. DiGiorgio welcomed the faculty to a new academic year and expressed excitement over things happening on campus. He stated that enrollment is level with last year, but added that the university couldn’t get an exact number as we are “still counting suit cases.” President DiGiorgio said he didn’t have much more to add outside his opening address, which is found online.

He gave an update on emerging news in the economy, stating that he had just spoken with the Chair of the Board of Economic Advisors, who expects a leveling-off of State revenue. President DiGiorgio clarified that Winthrop should not expect a recovery of “great magnitude” in the near term, but “as long as the decline stops, we’ll be okay.” A 4%-5% reduction in State

Appropriations is likely and that will drop our annual support to only about seventeen million dollars.

Dr. DiGiorgio opened the floor for questions. Jennifer Solomon asked for more information on why the option for Faculty Conference to appeal actions of the President to the Board of Trustees was removed from the bylaws. Dr. DiGiorgio explained that he didn't speak for the Board of Trustees. However, he feels the Board views their responsibility as setting broad institutional policy and not to be involved in campus governance.

Chris Van Aller asked President DiGiorgio if universities were successfully lobbying to change the funding structure for educational institutions in the State. Dr. DiGiorgio said "Yes." He went on to explain the fundamental problem is the tax structure. Even though the State has created a tax study commission, Dr. DiGiorgio does not expect major changes in the near term.

V. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Tom Moore extended a warm welcome to the faculty and stated how great it was to be back. He expressed his confidence in the type of planning done between May and August to help in having a successful academic year. Dr. Moore asked the faculty to be sure to read the "Vision of Distinction" pamphlets.

VI. Introduction of New Administrators and Faculty

Dr. Moore began by introducing people in new or different positions associated with Academic Affairs.

Marilyn Sarow, Quality Enhancement
Jean Silagyi-Rebovich, Director of Assessment
Alice Burmeister, Interim Dean, VPA

Dr. Moore called on the Deans to introduce the following new faculty and position changes:

Dean Weikle, College of Business Administration
James Schultz (FINC), Vaibhav Sharma (FINC), Vikram Sharma (ACCT),
Jayne Maas (ACCT)

Dean Rakestraw, Riley College of Education
Kelly Costner (EDUC), Lisa Harris, Center for Pedagogy (EDUC),
Shawna Helf (READ), Allison Ward (READ), Janet Wojcik (EXSC)
Mark Dewalt, Director, Center for Pedagogy (EDUC)
Lisa Johnson, Senior Associate to the Dean (EDUC)
Debra Mink, Director Student Academic Services (EDUC)
Jonatha Vare, Interim Chair, Curriculum/Instruc. (EDUC)
Geoffrey Morrow, Ropes Course

Dean Boyd, Arts and Sciences

Gregory Crider (HIST), Kareena Gray (SCWK), Kunsiri Grubbs (BIOL),
Brian Hipp (MATH), Jason Jannot (BIOL), Justin Brown (MCOM)
Tim Boylan, Director, MLA program (A&S)

Dean Jones, University College

John Bird, Director, TLC (Univ. College),

Sean Blackburn, Director, Leadership Studies (Univ. College)

Angie Edwards, Acting Director, International Center

Cheryl Fortner Wood, Director of McNair Grant

Jo Koster, Coordinator, XXITE (21st Century Education)

VII. Committee Reports

A. Introduction of Standing Committee Chairs (2009-2010)

Marsha Bollinger introduced the following Committee Chairs:

Admissions Advisory: Karen Stock Academic Freedom and Tenure: Rebecca Evers

Budget Priorities: Sue Spencer Faculty Concerns: David Meeler

Faculty Personnel: Marshall Jones Library Advisory: Jennifer McDaniel-Milliken

Rules: Greg Oakes Undergraduate Petitions: Nakia Pope

B. Faculty Personnel

Dr. Marshall Jones, Chair, passed out ballots for two standing committee elections and the faculty voted after nominations from the floor. Two university committees had resignations during the Summer of 2009:

1. Faculty Representative to attend CSL meetings to replace Mark Lewis.

- Diana Durbin, Education (C & I)
- Tenisha Powell, Education (C & I)
- Anna Sartin, Visual and Performing Arts (Theatre)

2. Faculty Concerns. For a one-year term to replace Lynn DeNoia, Business Administration.

- Jennifer Jordon, Education (C & I)
- Matthew Manwarren, Visual and Performing Arts (Music)
- Courtney Starrett, Visual and Performing Arts (Fine Arts)

C. Rules

Dr. Greg Oakes discussed bylaws amendments brought forward from Rules Committee. There were three motions.

1. Wording defining Committee on University Life

2. Wording defining on University Priorities

3. A change to the due to the changes in the Board of Trustees Bylaws

Refer to materials posted with the August 21, 2009 meeting agenda (www.winthrop.edu/facultyconference) for details.

The first two motions were presented together. As the motion came from a Standing Committee, a second was not necessary.

Dr. Jon Marx raised the question of whether or not the faculty and Administration can compromise on the process of reviewing items with the President. Dr. Oakes said that the item should be put on the agenda for discussion. Dr. Jennifer Solomon stated that this item was premature to put on agenda without more deliberation. Dr. Beth Costner suggested the faculty go ahead and put it on the September 25 agenda in order to begin discussions early. Dr. Kara Peters' opinion was that the changes in the document put it back to its original form. Dr. Costner suggested we at least introduce this discussion at the September 25th meeting as to give us more time to discuss it. Dr. Bollinger called the question and the motion passed with little opposition.

Dr. Oakes presented a motion to put the third item on the agenda for September 25th. Jennifer Solomon said the change to the Board of Trustees Bylaws (Article 1, section A) should not have been passed by the board. Dr. Karen Kedrowski spoke in favor of putting the item on the agenda in order to address the questions raised by Dr. Solomon. When the discussion was complete, the motion passed unanimously and will be on the September 25th agenda.

D. Academic Council

Dr. Mark Hamilton expressed his delight that so many former members of Academic Council still remain on the Council. He stated his rationale for appointing the various personnel on the committees as based on having representation from each Academic College. Dr. Hamilton reported that the Academic Council was asking for more open communication in general. He asked that all items please be sent at least seven days prior to meetings. He also stated that the Faculty Governance Calendar was online.

E. AAAS update

Karen Jones thanked all those who attended the Academic Leadership Retreat on Monday, August 17th. In attendance at the retreat was Daryl Parker, SACS commissioner. Ms. Jones provided information on how the various facets of SACS reaffirmation, NCATE, SIS Banner implementation, program accreditations and ongoing responsibilities would impact the Winthrop faculty and staff.

Dr. Pat Graham reviewed the four areas requiring the assistance of faculty to provide documentation to meet the standards for SACS accreditation.

- Assessment of Degree Programs and Academic Support Areas
The faculty will be working with templates, doing annual reporting and showing how they are providing the very best education they can for students
- Faculty Credentials/Qualifications

A database with documentation showing updated vita, transcripts, and licenses for faculty will be developed. Additional information will also be needed for syllabi on how faculty measure student learning in courses.

- Graduate Programs

Faculty need to provide documentation on the research requirements in the graduate program. Evidence of ongoing assessment in graduate programs is also crucial.

- General Education

We need to provide evidence that we are assessing the general education program beyond the touchstone core. Faculty who teach in the general education program will be called upon to provide information on their courses.

Marilyn Sarow gave an update on QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan). Dr. Sarow stated that the first phase of the process in QEP is to determine what the QEP should be. She stated that in addition to the student focus groups there will be focus groups with the Alumni Council, the Board of Trustees, and community advisory groups. The qualitative information drawn from the focus groups will be used to develop a questionnaire which all faculty and staff will be receiving. The next phase will be to share the aforementioned ideas with the faculty and staff. Finally, the proposals will be established and put into streaming video in order to keep the faculty updated on the QEP process.

F. Academic Space and Scheduling

Maria Massey discussed the proposed allocation of common meeting times. As Friday, from two to five didn't work. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00-12:15 was the proposed new time for college and university level events. Dr. Moore asked her to organize the Tuesdays with event priority. The first is open, the second is priority scheduling for professional development, the third is for cultural events, the fourth is for committee meetings and the fifth is reserved for large events. Thursday common times are reserved for college and department level activities. Fridays, from two to five is reserved for events requiring a larger block of time. In addition to the common time issue, this committee also created a comprehensive schedule of faculty governance meetings. Tom Moore praised Maria Massey for all the work she put into the scheduling.

G. TALONS

Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood reported on Banner. While it is up and running, there is still more to be done. Dr. Fortner-Wood thanked Tracy Hildreth, Linda Campfield, Charlene Boggs, Nicole Caldwell, and Judy Basehore for all the hard work they did in this endeavor. Opportunities for Banner training will be announced soon. Tim Drueke announced the second big phase is the move of the student system. Advising of students in the new system will begin in March 2010. Faculty will not be grading students in Banner until December 2010. Mr. Drueke said that after the first of the year faculty will see Luminous (the new Wingspan). Mr. Drueke continued by announcing the implementation of the new degree audit system, "Degree-Works." This new auditing system will simplify the audit process for less structured degree programs. Mr. Drueke asked for faculty to be patient while all these changes are taking place.

VIII. **Unfinished Business** None

IX. New Business

Dr. Bollinger asked the faculty to be sure to read emails from Frank Ardaiolo regarding the H1N1 virus. Dr. Bollinger stated that the University Health Center will have a telephone triage system in place. A few questions were asked and comments made regarding class policies. Dr. Debra Boyd suggested for faculty to visit the Center for Disease Control website for further information on handling this potential outbreak. Please see University Health Center website for more information.

X. Announcements

A. Reminders from the Registrar

Tim Druke announced the deadline for students to add a class (8-28-09), S/U election deadline (9-8-09) and undergrad application for graduation deadline (9-15-09).

B. University College

Lisa Johnson invited faculty to sign up for a TLC conference. Dr. Gloria Jones announced the consolidation of LEAP, Trio and athlete academic progress reports into one form. She also encouraged faculty to report on students who excel on this same form. This can afford these students better opportunities through ONCA. Dr. Jones stated that reporting both suffering and excelling students is a “direct link” to retention.

C. Other announcements

Dr. Kristi Westover announced the Graduate Faculty Assembly meeting. Dr. John Bird announced the establishment of the Cynthia Furr McAllister Award to honor the late Dr. Furr and her daughter. Dr. Karen Kedrowski made an announcement that the West Forum received a five-thousand dollar grant.

XI. **Adjournment** Dr. Bollinger closed the meeting at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. L. Mark Lewis