

Winthrop University Faculty Conference

February 26, 2010

Kinard Auditorium

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:04. The faculty voted in favor of doing business in the absence of a quorum.
- II. Minutes from the November 20, 2009 Faculty Conference meeting were approved as circulated.
- III. Report from the Chair Marsha Bollinger

After answering one question regarding the written report on the Annual Board Retreat (February 19-21, 2010) posted on the Faculty Conference web site earlier in the week (see www.winthrop.edu/facultyconference), Dr. Bollinger reported on the reaction of the Board to the presentation of the motion that passed at the 20 November, 2009 Faculty Conference meeting:

“Therefore let it be moved that the Chair of Faculty Conference present this motion to the Board of Trustees and respectfully request they consider revising their by-laws, especially the recent elimination of governance appeals by Faculty Conference and the process by which that was made, in light of the nature and character of Winthrop University’s cooperative community, Winthrop University’s “Vision of Distinction”, and Winthrop’s membership in the AGB together with its guiding document the “AGB Statement on Institutional Governance.”

This motion, the supporting documents, and a summary of the wording found in the Board and Faculty Conference bylaws were given to the Board during the section devoted to “governance of the university”. After the Board had time to read the motion, Dr. Bollinger provided a summary of perspectives that were offered by faculty at the 20 November FC meeting.

The Board spent over 45 minutes offering comments and asking questions. Some of the ideas brought forth include the following:

- The President must be able to act autonomously; the Board does not want to micromanage the President’s actions. Every decision cannot be debated by everyone. If there is a time when there is an “out of control” president, the Board bylaws can be quickly changed.
- When the recent Board bylaws changes were made, the inclusion of the “no appeals” statement was seriously debated.
- The Public Comment portion of every Board meeting should be used and in fact may be a better forum for “appeals” to the Board. However, the faculty representatives to the Board have been offering perspectives that inform Board decisions. The Board is comfortable with the current way points of view are shared.

Dr. Bollinger then asked that the Board not take action at that moment, but that they read over the material and consider it carefully.

The next morning, the Board voted to leave the bylaws as they are now, but promised to continue to review them at least every 2 years, as is their practice now. They reiterated that the public comment period is very important. They acknowledged that this is a hard issue.

Faculty Conference followed this report with questions and discussion. These included

- a statement that the faculty still have not been given a reason as to why the Board made the change to the bylaws.
- a question about whether the Board considered the motion's rationale as tied to the Vision of Distinction and the Faculty Manual.
- a statement about the fact that the Faculty Conference motion and supporting materials were not included in the Board's agenda and material sent in preparation for the Board Retreat.
- a statement that the Board bylaws are now a constitutionally weaker way to deal with faculty complaints.
- suggestions that the Board of Trustees needs to work on alternative ways of conflict resolution.
- a statement that the Board is still willing to hear from faculty in the public forum, although time is limited.
- a reminder that the Board is avoiding the situation of having to be between the faculty and the president.
- a statement that the Board is acting in good faith.
- a suggestion that if a faculty member wants materials to go to the Board, the material should be submitted in a one-page summary to Kimberly Faust.

The following motion was presented and discussed. The motion passed unanimously by voice; a few members abstained. 96 members were present at the time. The Faculty Conference Chair will present this motion to the Board.

Faculty Conference is disappointed in the Board's action in response to the 20 November 2009 motion brought to them by the Faculty Conference Chair.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Thomas Moore

Dr. Moore stated that he did not know what Winthrop is going to look like in a year due to the continued budget cuts. He continued by saying the future looks "bleak" and that the executive officers were going to brainstorm over spring break in order to come up with a solution for what to do. On the bright side, the College of Business had a successful visit from their accrediting body, AACSB.

V. Committee Reports

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Mark Hamilton

Mark Hamilton announced an Academic Council meeting for March 5th at 2:00 in 306 Tillman. All of the following proposed changes were approved unanimously.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Management and Marketing

Modify Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Human Resource Management to **add** MGMT 322, 323, and 522; to **drop** MGMT 422, 425 and 523; and to change the title of MGMT 526. (**modify program**)

Modify Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - International Business Administration to **add** BADM 401. (**modify program**)

Modify Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Management to **add** MGMT 322 and **drop** MGMT 422. **(modify program)**

Modify Minor in Human Resource Management to **add** BADM 180, MGMT 322, MGMT 323, **drop** MGMT 422, 523, 524, and 526, reducing the number of hours from 18 to 15, and to revise the catalog language. **(modify program)**

Department of Computer Science and Quantitative Methods

Modify Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to drop MATH 302. **(modify program)**

Modify Bachelor of Science in Digital Information Design – Digital Commerce to add CSCI 151, CSCI 101F, and MCOM 260, drop MATH 101, and change designators on courses in the Information Design Core from INFD to DIFD. **(modify program)**

Modify Bachelor of Science in Digital Information Design – Digital Mass Media to add MATH 151, CSCI 151, CSCI 101F and QMTH 205, drop MATH 141, and change designators on courses in the Information Design Core from INFD to DIFD. **(modify program)**

Modify Bachelor of Science in Digital Information Design – Interactive Media to add MATH 151, CSCI 151, CSCI 101F, VCOM 258 and VCOM 259, drop VCOM 354, and change designators on courses in the Information Design Core from INFD to DIFD. **(modify program)**

Modify Bachelor of Science in Digital Information Design – Web Application Design to add MATH 151, CSCI 151, and CSCI 101F, drop MATH 101, and change designators on courses in the Information Design Core from INFD to DIFD. **(modify program)**

COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Department of Theatre and Dance

Modify Bachelor of Arts in Dance to add DANA 185. **(modify program)**

Modify Bachelor of Arts in Dance-Certification to add DANA 185. **(modify program)**

GENERAL EDUCATION

Voted to include the following courses in the Touchstone Program in the global category:
FREN 280, FREN 302, GERM 301, SPAN 280

ROLES AND REWARDS

Beth Costner

Dr. Costner explained that Roles and Rewards Committee is discussing a number of items that are meant to clarify roles rather than add to roles. Some of these items include expanding the traditional areas of reporting, new definitions and evidence, making more of a distinction between tenure and promotion, new avenues from promotion involving scholarship and professional stewardship, and strong support for continued involvement in campus life by senior faculty. Some of the items still to be considered by the Committee include discussion of rewards, representation for part-time faculty, and assigning credit for work associated with course and program design. The Roles and Rewards Committee needs feedback from the faculty. Please participate in the online

forum <http://asap.winthrop.edu/facultyforum.default.asp> or during open forums in March. Finally, Dr. Costner praised the work and dedication of her fellow committee members.

FACULTY CONCERNS

David Meeler

Faculty Concerns will meet with the President on April 1st.

VI. Unfinished business

POSTPONED BYLAWS AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

The amendment to the bylaws that was postponed from the 20 November Faculty Conference meeting passed by a vote of 54 to 14; abstentions were not counted.

Article II, Section 3. The Faculty Conference shall be the principal legislative body of the faculty. All actions of the Faculty Conference shall be subject to review by the President of the University. Any disapproval shall be communicated to the faculty, with reasons therefore, within thirty days.

Discussion about the amendment included some of the following:

- a statement that the first two sentences of this article are contradictory in principal.
- a statement that “review” does not imply “make null and void.” If it means approval without appeal, then that is what it should say.
- statements that our bylaws need to reflect that we don’t have an appeal process at this time and that the Faculty Conference bylaws simply cannot conflict with the Board bylaws.

SACS PROGRESS REPORT

Pat Graham

Dr. Graham thanked the faculty for all their hard work in this endeavor and stated that the Deans were representing the faculty very well. Upcoming changes to the website will make it easier to access information. She reminded the group about the importance of assessment.

QEP REPORT

Marilyn Sarow

Dr. Sarow thanked those who wrote QEP proposals. The project selected for campus will be an effort to expand global learning and to get students exposed to other cultures. She suggested that future search committees ask about global learning as a part of their interviews.

TALONS REPORT

Tim Drueke and Cheryl Fortner-Wood

Mr. Drueke said he would send an email with useful information regarding the new student system. He also stated that there has been a tremendous amount of work done in changing to the new system. Cheryl Fortner-Wood stated that the change to go live takes several stages to complete. She also said there are some things we may lose with Banner, but that she believes it is much easier to advise than in Wingspan.

VII. New business

RULES COMMITTEE

Faculty Conference voted unanimously to put the following three items on the agenda of their next meeting:

- **Change in wording regarding elections:**

Article VII, Section 5 **Elections.** Regular elections by the Faculty Conference of members of all standing committees created by the Faculty Conference shall take place at a **spring semester** meeting of the Faculty Conference. Special elections to fill vacancies shall take place as soon as practicable after such vacancies occur. When a member of a committee created by the Faculty Conference enters on leave of absence (i.e., medical, unpaid, or sabbatical), a committee vacancy is thereby created (unless the member requests to serve while on sabbatical or unpaid leave). When a vacancy occurs prior to the end of a full term, it shall be filled by election for the remainder of the unexpired term.

- **Reinstatement of the Financial Exigency Committee into the bylaws of the Faculty Conference**

Article VIII, Section 9 **Financial Exigency.** If the President of the University declares a financial exigency or deems a financial exigency to be imminent, this committee shall be convened by the Vice Chair of the Faculty Conference. The committee shall participate in the emergency-related deliberations that take place above the level of the major academic divisions, including those relating to how academic programs and teaching service areas at Winthrop University are affected. The committee shall keep itself informed as to the financial position of the University by consulting at least once each semester with the President or designated agent and by other appropriate means. In addition, it shall keep itself informed on financial exigency developments in the academic world generally. At least once each semester, while it exists, the committee shall report directly to the Faculty Conference in assembly. The committee shall continue to exist until the President declares the financial exigency ended or no longer imminent.

This committee shall have the following membership: elected members of the Academic Council, the Vice Chair of Faculty Conference, and the Chair of the Committee on University Priorities. If there are fewer than two non-tenured elected members on Academic Council, additional non-tenured faculty shall be elected to the committee by a vote of the non-tenured faculty of Faculty Conference to bring the total non-tenured membership to two. ‘Non-tenured’ is understood here to mean tenure-track faculty who have yet to earn and who have not been denied tenure, here at Winthrop University. The election shall be conducted by the Rules Committee, with the Personnel Committee acting as a nominating committee. At least two non-tenured faculty members shall be nominated for each required position. Not more than one non-tenured member shall be elected from any major academic division. If, during the committee’s existence, any of its non-tenured members gains or is denied tenure, then his/her membership on the committee will end, and a new replacement made by the above means. If a non-tenured member of the committee is newly elected to the Academic Council, s/he will continue as a regular member of the committee while serving as an elected member on Academic Council.

See also Appendix II, Termination Due To Financial Exigency.

- **Revision of text defining the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee**

Section 1 **Academic Freedom and Tenure.** This committee shall be responsible for recommendations to the Faculty Conference with respect to policies on academic freedom and tenure, shall serve as a hearing committee for cases arising under the procedures and policies on academic freedom and tenure, and shall serve as a grievance committee in cases involving the granting of tenure. The committee also hears appeals

in cases of post-tenure review. In its role as a grievance committee, it shall report its findings to the President and to the faculty member making the grievance. The President shall then evaluate the case in light of the committee's findings and shall render a decision. If the President decides adversely to the faculty member, the faculty member may appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees. While the Board of Trustees may choose to receive such an appeal on the basis of improper procedure only, the Board affirms that substantive judgments reside and end with the President (Board of Trustees Resolution 11-15-96).

The committee shall consist of nine elected members. One member shall be elected by the faculty assembly of each major academic division (5), and four members shall be elected at-large by Faculty Conference. All members of the committee must be tenured. While serving on the committee, a faculty member who brings a hearing or grievance matter before the committee must recuse him/herself from deliberation on that case. Administrative Officers and department chairs shall be ineligible to serve on the committee.

VIII. Announcements

“PASCAL is about to die.” Faculty will have to go back to interlibrary loan. There is some effort to create campaigns to get PASCAL back. Faculty are encouraged to visit pascalsc.org and to put in a testimonial for PASCAL. Students are starting a “Save PASCAL” movement on their own.

The McNair Scholars Program has selected its cohort of twenty-five students. Every college on this campus is represented. Faculty should encourage students to continue to apply for the program in order to be put on the waiting list.

Faculty members were reminded to submit mid-semester reports and that faculty should report information for both students who are struggling and students who are excelling.

IX. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 3:58.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Mark Lewis