

# Winthrop University Faculty Conference

March 11, 2011

3 pm Kinard Auditorium

## Minutes

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 with a quorum.

II. The minutes of December 3, 2010 Faculty Conference were approved as distributed.

III. Report from the Chair Marsha Bollinger

Dr. Bollinger asked if there were any questions regarding the report from the Board of Trustees February retreat which is posted on the Faculty Conference web page. In addition, she encouraged members to consider putting their name in nomination for the next Faculty Conference chair.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs Tom Moore

Dr. Moore quoted Dr. DiGiorgio by stating how these economic times are unprecedented and uncharted. He also reminded the faculty about the SACS visit begins April 4 and asked that each know the QEP and GLI. Dr. Moore reported that the Board of Trustees is grateful to faculty regarding Readiness Winthrop. Dr. Moore also expressed his appreciation.

V. Reports

### Academic Council

Dave Pretty

- Dr. Pretty presented a large quantity of curricular materials, most for information only. The complete list can be found with the [meeting agenda and materials](#). Faculty Conference voted on and passed the following curricular items.

#### **Add new programs:**

BS CHEM-PHYS	Engineering-Physics Degree Track
BS CHEM-BCHM	Biochemistry Degree Track
BS BADM-SUBU	Sustainable Business Option
BA MCOM	Substantial changes to program

#### **Drop Program:**

BA PLSC-PPAD	Concentration in Public Policy and Administration
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#### **Change number of credits in program:**

BS SPMA	Reduce total number of credits required for major from 70 to 64.
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- Faculty Conference voted to approve a change in wording regarding **complete withdrawal from the University** as recommended by the Registrar and approved by Academic Council.

Documentation of such {extenuating} circumstances must be definitive and must be presented along with a request for withdrawal with the assignment of an N grade to the Registrar or his/her designee. Failure to withdraw officially may seriously affect a student's eligibility for future readmission or for transfer to another institution.

### **Personnel Committee**

Siobhan Brownson

- Elections were held for Academic Council, Faculty Personnel, and Rules. There were no nominations from the floor.
- Faculty Conference voted to approve a motion to suspend the rules regarding voting on the ballot for those not in attendance at the March 11 Faculty Conference meeting be modified for this occasion only and that voting be allowed in the library until 5 pm on Monday, March 21.

### **Rules Committee**

Mark Mitchell

Faculty Conference voted to place a bylaws change, **Article IX – Section 4**, on the agenda for discussion at the April 22, 2011 Faculty Conference meeting.

The President of the University, upon the recommendation of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, shall appoint three voting members of the Academic Council, each from a different major academic division of the University. The Faculty Conference shall elect three voting members at large. Each major academic division of the University shall elect members according to the following formula: one member for the first 25 full-time-equivalent faculty members or fraction thereof in that division and on additional member for each additional 50 full-time-equivalent faculty member or fraction thereof. **Members of faculty conference who are college or university Level administrative officers and whose administrative assignment is greater than 50% of their workload** shall be ineligible to serve on the Academic Council, either by election or appointment, except as secretary. Department chairs are eligible to serve on Academic Council. The term of the chair shall be one year. The Council of Student Leaders shall select one voting member, who shall serve a one-year term. The terms of the voting members of the Academic Council shall be three years and shall be staggered as determined by regulations adopted by the Faculty Conference. If a member ceases to serve, his or her successor shall be appointed or elected for the unexpired term only. A voting member may not serve in succession more than two complete consecutive terms. No person shall be eligible to serve as a voting member unless he or she has served two years as a student at Winthrop University or as a faculty member at Winthrop University immediately preceding his or her service.

### **Roles and Rewards Committee**

Beth Costner

Dr. Costner reported that the Committee was withdrawing the current document for vote due to some changes in wording that are necessary for legal reasons. However, she asked for any comments from the floor. There was a good deal of discussion in reference to the definition of scholarship within the [Roles and Rewards document](#). The committee will consider these recommendations.

### **Library Committee**

Melissa Carsten

Archives will be moving to the Bookworm. The faculty were asked to pilot ebrary and its demand driven acquisition aspect.

## **Faculty Committee on University Life**

A written report was provided with the [agenda materials](#). No questions were offered from the floor.

### **SACS Reaffirmation Report**

Karen Jones

April 4-6 is the SACS visit. The main portion of the visit will be devoted to the QEP. To help faculty be more prepared, Karen Jones posed five questions regarding the QEP that all should be ready to answer.

### **GLI Report**

Karen Kedrowski

Karen Kedrowski reviewed the GLI and provided a [website](#) for further information. There will also be a GLI Professional Development Conference on September 17, 2011.

## VI. Unfinished business

### **Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee**

Rebecca Evers

- The Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee requested the endorsement of the following statements for the Faculty Manual.

Statement of Academic Freedom:

Institutions of higher education exist for the common good. In the quest for this common good the right of faculty members to academic freedom is of fundamental importance. Academic Freedom empowers faculty to discuss responsibly all relevant matters in the classroom; to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression; and to speak or write as private citizens\* without institutional discipline or restraint.

\*When speaking or writing as private citizens: Members of the academy faculty will adhere to all applicable laws and University policy that mandate any actions taken by employees as private citizens be done on the employees' personal time and without the use of state or University equipment, supplies, or facilities. Furthermore employees, when acting as private citizens, should clearly state that they are not speaking for the University.

- After significant discussion and several amendments, the following statement of academic freedom was endorsed by Faculty Conference:

Institutions of higher education exist for the common good. In the quest for this common good, the right of faculty members to academic freedom is of fundamental importance. Academic Freedom empowers faculty to discuss responsibly all relevant matters in the classroom; to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression; and to exercise civil liberties or civil rights as private citizens\* without institutional discipline or restraint.

\*When exercising civil liberties or civil rights as private citizens, members of the academy faculty will adhere to all applicable laws and University policy that mandate any actions taken by employees as private citizens be done on the employees' personal time and without the use of state or

University equipment, supplies, or facilities. Furthermore, employees, when acting as private citizens, should clearly state that they are not speaking for the University.

VII. There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

The registrar, Gina Jones, will send out an email with upcoming important dates. She also announced the summer session kick off.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. L. Mark Lewis  
Faculty Conference Secretary