

Winthrop University Faculty Conference

October 7, 2011

2:00 pm Whitton Auditorium, Carroll Hall

A quorum was not reached, but at 72 members present, we had >20% in attendance. A motion to do business was unanimously approved by voice vote. Meeting began at 2:07pm.

I. Approval of minutes for August 19, 2011 Faculty Conference

- Minutes approved as submitted by unanimous voice vote.

II. Report from the Chair, Cliff Calloway

- A brief report on the August 22, 2011 special meeting of the Board of Trustees was presented. The Board unanimously approved a resolution to issue a general obligation state bond not to exceed \$2.6 million. The bond is covered under the existing debt service and requires no additional revenue or fees from the university. The bond will be used for deferred maintenance to the Dacus Library, Dinkins, the former Bookworm and roof repairs for several buildings.

III. Report from the President, Anthony DiGiorgio

- The President was not in attendance, but had sent an email to the faculty detailing the comments he was to make at the meeting.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Debra Boyd

- Dr. Boyd noted her top three items to report from the Academic Leadership Retreat.
 - Discussion on the intersection between the ULC and the Touchstone Program. Assuring students and faculty of these connections. Efforts to do a better job of conveying the connections to students.
 - Time...Dr. Boyd acknowledged faculty's concern with having adequate time to accomplish university obligations. Dr. Boyd encouraged faculty to reflect on what we can do to prioritize and organize.
 - Technology...What is it? How do we use it? It is not the focus of the course, but rather technology supports pedagogy.
- "R&R" Recruitment and Retention. Mid-semester reporting of grades aids in retaining students. Dr. Boyd urged faculty to direct students who are excelling and struggling to support services.
- External reporting to federal government regarding financial aid. If we want to distribute Federal Financial Aid, we are required to report attendance. This is a federal mandate. Dr. Boyd will send an email reminder to prompt faculty to report attendance and participation.
 - Question from floor: What sort of attendance records need be kept? Response: Student must only have attended or participated in one event for this reporting. Instructions will be included in the email.

V. Committee Reports

- Academic Council- Dr. Will Kiblinger
 - A written report was included with the agenda and posted online.
 - Two items were presented requiring action by Faculty Conference.

Action	Degree	Major	Conc.	College	Department	Faculty Conference Action
ADD	BA	THTR	MTR	VPA	Theatre and Dance	Approved unanimously by voice vote
DROP	BS	NUTR	FSMG	ASC	Human Nutrition	Approved unanimously by voice vote

- Additional program modifications, course additions and changes were also described.
- No questions or concerns from faculty regarding other action items.

- Library—Dr. Melissa Carsten
 - A written report was submitted with the agenda and posted online. No questions from faculty.
- Roles and Rewards—Dr. Beth Costner
 - A written report was submitted with the agenda and posted online.
 - Question: Tuition break/waiver for families and state law? Dr. Beth Costner responded of the possibility to pursue scholarship money for dependents through the Foundation. President DiGiorgio expressed concern that the state regulation cannot be changed in the current economic climate.
- Faculty Personnel Committee—Dr. Carol Shields
 - Special Election to complete A.J. Angulo’s (Education) term on the Faculty Personnel Committee (Ballots distributed.)
 - No nominations from the floor.
 - Tim Boylan, Arts & Sciences (Political Science) elected

VI. Unfinished Business

- Academic Freedom and Tenure – Dr. Dave Pretty
 - The Academic Freedom and Tenure committee met on August 26, 2011 to reformulate the University’s Statement on Academic Freedom as mandated by the April 22, 2011 Faculty Conference.
 - The committee submitted the following proposed statement:

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, write, or otherwise legally express themselves as private citizens without institutional discipline or restraint.*

** When speaking, writing, or otherwise legally expressing themselves as private citizens: Members of the 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.*

- Question: How is the statement separate from current university policy? Dr. Boyd’s response: Not a change. This new proposal captures better, letter and spirit, the AAUP statement.
- Question: What is, or how do we codify the definition of “personal time”? Dr. Boyd’s response: Not a distinct definition from AAUP, as this is a difficult issue for scholars.
- Concern: Issue regarding use of “private citizens”. Response: Prior to this draft, the President required the committee to include the asterisk and describe the definition of private citizen.
- After discussion, the proposed statement was approved by unanimous voice vote and sent back to the administration—with the addition of a comma after “Furthermore” in final sentence.
- The Statement on Academic Freedom was accepted by the University Administration without further revision.

- VII. New Business
- None.
- VIII. Announcements
- From the Registrar Gina Jones
 - Reminder of important dates sent to Dr. Calloway to announce
 - Other Announcements
 - Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan- Office of Undergraduate Research website is up and running. Big South Undergraduate Research Symposium to be hosted by Winthrop, April 13 & 14. Information will be up soon.
 - Deadline extended for current travel period.
 - Question: Are there changes to guidelines? Response: No changes, although supplemental funding through individual colleges.
 - Question: What of funding for graduate travel? Response: Handled through graduate school.
 - Dr. Jennifer Disney- Three students have applied for Rhodes Scholarships.
 - Pat Graham, interim Dean of Graduate School & Summer session.
 - Survey data from last year indicates that students begin planning for summer school in the fall.....schedules need to be posted as early as possible. Flyer to be sent via email next week.
 - Dr. Cheryl Fortner-Wood--WU McNair deadline is November 1st. (Including references letters)
- IX. Adjournment
- Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Laura Dougherty
Department of Theatre & Dance