

**Faculty Leadership Committee Report
From the April 13, 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting**

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

from Don Rogers

The Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Affairs met from 9:00 – 10:55 a.m. on Friday, April 13, 2012 in 103 Dinkins. After approving minutes from the February 17, 2012 meeting, the committee heard an impressive presentation from Dean Gloria Jones of University College. She reported on the college's activities this year to increase student achievement and student engagement by improving students' global knowledge (GLI), hosting BigSURS, encouraging students to apply for opportunities through ONCA, instituting a mid-term grade reporting system, preparing to open the Resource Center for Adult Students, and opening the Academic Instruction and Testing Center. The common book for next year will be *Where Am I Wearing?* by Timmerman.

Associate Vice President Karen Jones indicated that AAAS is already at work on the SACS five-year report. There followed updates from the academic deans. Dean Mark Herring reported that renovations are scheduled to begin in Dacus Library this summer. He also reported that the iPad program has been very successful and that the ebrary program has realized significant savings in book purchases. Interim Dean Peter Judge (Arts and Sciences) reported that the Winthrop Eagle STEM Scholars Program will award its first 10 scholarships for next year. He also stated that mathematics has been awarded a SC DOE grant to host an AP Calculus Institute this summer. A new course, PLSC390, will be offered this fall in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. Dean David Wohl (Visual and Performing Arts) reported that this is the first time VPA has been involved with BigSURS. He also reported on the Wells Fargo/Quail Hollow sculpture collaboration project. The Medal of Honor in the Arts program was extremely successful. CVPA will be sponsoring an Arts Crawl on Friday, April 20. Adjunct Professor of Music Joe Miller won a regional film music competition in Atlanta. A logo for the US Army 178th Engineers Battalion, designed by senior design major Matthew Andrews, was selected as the official insignia of the unit. Dean Jeannie Rakestraw (Education) reported on the establishment of the Rex Institute for Education Renewal and Partnership. She also reported on the success of the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program where the College hosted 24 international teachers. Interim Graduate Dean Debra Boyd reported that the search for graduate dean is underway. She also reported on the new graduate assistantship policy in effect for next year. Assistant Dean Cara Peters (Business) reported that the MBA program has been completely revised. The Sustainable Business option has its first cohort of freshman majors. She also reported on the enhanced faculty development opportunities in the College.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Debra Boyd reported on the extensive work of faculty and students over this academic year. She indicated that faculty are a vital part of the university's recruiting and retention efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LIFE

from Courtney Starrett

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the prior meeting were approved. The major announcements of the last month were highlighted: the announcement of President DiGiorgio's retirement and the hiring of the new basketball coach.

Report from Tom Hickman, Director of Athletics:

Noted the outstanding GPA standings of both the men's and women's teams. Men's overall GPA average was 2.98 and the women's overall average was 3.23. It was also noted that there were 72 student athletes who carried a 3.4 average.

Matt Horn (men's soccer) was a finalist for the Walter Byers Award (\$24,000 scholarship) and will attend UNC-Chapel Hill for medical school.

Big South Conference officially accepts Longwood University as full member. Big South now is 4 NC, 4 SC and 4 VA schools.

Winthrop to start sponsoring women's lacrosse in 2013.

NCAA Board of Directors votes to allow multiyear scholarships for the first time since 1972 (noted that this is now allowed and not required). The BoD also voted to increase eligibility standards to compete the first year. The score is now 2.0 to practice and 2.3 to compete.

Report from the Division of Student Life:

Clubs and Organizations: Include ministry, honorary, Greek, service & professional (150+ orgs). "Enhancing student development through on campus involvement."

Students involved in clubs and organizations are fully engaged. Increases happiness through sense of community and retention. Promotes personal and interpersonal growth.

How student organizations are accomplishing the ULCs:

1. Critical thinking and problem solving through event requests and a Spring '12 workshop series on how to recruit and retain members.
2. Personal and social responsibility with a 2.5 GPA minimum for orgs and Alpha Delta Pi maintaining 3.4GPA with 54 members and 95% retention. Social responsibility highlighted by 15,000 service hours and \$40,000 raised for national, regional and local charities.
3. Interconnected nature of the world and time in which they live by hosting and attending cultural events. There were over 35 events last semester by orgs.
4. Communicate effectively. Highlighted how intramural sports due this. Example being a volleyball tournament hosted by WU. Students surveyed teams to see how they did and get feedback from attending universities on how it could be improved.

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) AmeriCorps (@ WU since 2005)

Worked at Winthrop on service learning projects:

1. Reading Tent Project with ACAD 101, a partnership with the University College, New Student Orientation and the Center for Career and Civic Engagement.
2. Veterans Day: 6000 + names honored by 38 faculty, staff and students.
3. MLK Service Day: 208 students, faculty and staff gave 832 collective hours at 9 partner sites, to make a day on rather than day off.
4. Alternative Spring Break: Pittsburg, New Orleans, and Florida.
5. Homework Clinic: 45 students mentor 27 children daily.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

from Scott Huffmon

The Committee on Institutional Advancement and Development met Friday, April 13th at 9:00 in Macfeat House. The committee received an update on recruitment and admissions activities for new freshman and transfer students. Admitted students are up 10% and deposits have increased by 31% over 2011 numbers. Quality indicators, such as 124 Palmetto Fellow admits, are also strong. Transfer students are up nearly 8% over 2011, including a 3% increase in non-traditional student population.

The next discussion included an update on Winthrop's Content Management System (CMS) for the University's website, including conversion of recruitment information, academic marketing and areas related to student life.

Following the CMS discussion was an update and presentation on the second annual World Wide Winthrop Day, March 31. Highlights included the "Class of 2016" Facebook page and involvement by local groups and around the world. Almost 1700 newly admitted students and family members visited; 523 attended the virtual Facebook event and 153 interactions were posted on Facebook, including 650 "likes" and 126 uploaded photos.

The University Development and Alumni Relations presentation included updates to the Campaign for Distinction (over \$36 million). Highlights from the Medal of Honor in the Arts, the dedication of the James and Susan Rex Institute for Educational Renewal & Partnerships, meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and Winthrop Fund Loyalty Council and the University Foundation Board of Directors meeting were also presented. Parent giving rose substantially in 2011, increasing more than 246%, including 50% increase of parent donor gifts to the Winthrop Foundation.

The final presentation was an update on Alumni Engagement and results of the most recent Alumni Attitude Survey. Sixteen attributes were identified on which to base the engagement of each alumni. The benefits include a quantitative rather than anecdotal analysis, ability to create customized engagement opportunities and quantify the impact for the University.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

from Bill Rogers

The Winthrop University Board of Trustees Finance Committee met at 9:00 AM to discuss two major topics. Three of the four members of the Committee, Karl Folkens (Chair), Dalton Floyd and Glenn McColl, attended the session.

The first agenda item was the external audit performed by Cline Brandt Kochenower & Co, from Gaffney, S.C, now in the fifth year of their five-year contract.

Mr. Kochenower gave an overview to the group as some members of the Committee were not able to be at the November meeting when the audit was also discussed. The Committee discussed with Kochenower what possible strategies were available to Winthrop in the event of any looming short-falls or other financial concerns. The auditors praised the Winthrop finance officers for their excellent work. They also stressed that although Winthrop is doing a good job managing its resources and that the on-going audit process has not found any irregularities, the University must continue to be vigilant to prevent problems in the future, whether from improper behavior in procurement, etc., or from sudden decreases in cash flow.

An area that appeared to need clarification was the Conflict of Interest Policy as it applies to Winthrop Foundation members. There is a policy in place for Trustees but it was unclear whether Foundation members are covered at present. The Committee chair made such a policy an agenda item for the next meeting in June.

The auditors and the representatives from Winthrop's Office of Finance and Budget agreed that the field test conducted this past February regarding Winthrop's fiscal operations was a success. It came at a particularly good time for all involved and gave them more opportunities to discuss issues. Unlike previous years there was no computer system conversion of other such activities that interfered with the work. There will be a final field test session this August.

One area of concern for all state agencies, not just Winthrop, is the underfunded South Carolina State Retirement System, which is facing a 13-14% shortfall. All state agencies will receive a pro rata demand for their share of the underfunded amount. This will hit in the 2013/2014 year and Winthrop will have to budget for that.

The auditors left at 10:00 and the meeting continued with the second major item, Winthrop's on-going operations.

A) The first topic was "Entity Risk Assessment", an on-going effort to broaden risk recognition beyond safety/liability issues to such concerns as larger environmental risks. Relevant monitoring and assessment activities will fall to Walter Hardin, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management.

Mr. McColl suggested that Winthrop also should take advantage of state agencies to get help with the process. There are professionals in state government who could advise Winthrop rather than paying outside consultants at \$50-60,000 for a contracted consultation.

B) There will be a Request for Proposal sent out in June (?) for another five-year external auditor contract.

C) RESOLUTIONS

1) J.P. McKee, Vice President for Finance and Business, requested the Committee's approval of another \$2 million for instructional equipment and software to be expended in the next academic year. The Committee approved the expenditure.

- 2) The Committee also approved the following recommended increases in student fees:
 - i) A 2.9% in the cost of on-campus housing
 - ii) A 4.9% in food costs
 - iii) A 2% increase in pay for Residence Hall employees if the Legislature passes the state employee raise presently in the budget.
 - iv) A change in the Health and Counseling Fee policy. From now on, only undergraduates taking at least 6 hours and graduate students taking at least 9 hours will be automatically covered. For students taking fewer hours, there will be a \$120 per semester charge for unlimited use of the Health and Counseling Center.

D) For Discussion Only

1) The Committee discussed the fees charged by McFeat Lab School. The concern is whether they are commensurate with prevailing rates elsewhere in the area. The Committee agreed that a pricing policy needs to be created, but it should also take into account the unique features of McFeat, especially the educational uses to which it is put by the University.

2) Vice-President McKee noted that at present the Legislature is working with a proposed budget that has essentially the same basic level of funding for Winthrop as last year but without the one-time \$500,000 amount in last year's budget that helped cover technology, deferred maintenance and health insurance increases. He also noted that presently there are the proposed 2% state employee salary increase and the pension short-fall to consider.

3) It appears that Winthrop Day attendance was up from last year and that the number of transfers to Winthrop appears to be up from years past.

The meeting concluded at 11 AM.

FULL BOARD MEETING

from Cliff Calloway

Friday, April 13th, 2012

The full Board met at 1:00 pm on April 13th, 2012 in the Gold Room of the DiGiorgio Campus Center. No comments were provided during the Public Comment period. The meeting began with the Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from the February 17-18, 2012 Board of Trustees' retreat.

Following the Approval of Minutes, the Executive Committee and Board Chair report began with the presentation of two resolutions; to honor Mr. Brien Lewis for Meritorious Service to Winthrop University as he leaves to become President of Catawba College and a resolution to Congratulate Nantong University on its 100th year Anniversary. Both resolutions were unanimously passed by voice vote.

The next part of the Board Chair report included an introduction of the Search Committee for Winthrop's tenth President and an overview of the search process and timeline. A website will highlight the search process, procedures and progress. This Board Chair report concluded with two resolutions, a Charge and Operating Guidelines for the Search Committee and the Solicitation of an Executive Search Firm to Assist with Selection of the tenth President. Both resolutions were unanimously passed by voice vote.

Each Committee of the Board (Academic Affairs, Finance, Student Life and Institutional Advancement and Development) offered a report on their morning meetings. Summaries of the morning meetings are included above.

The Committee on Finance presented two resolutions for full Board approval. The first regarding room and board fees for the fiscal year 2012-13 and the second, to approve acquisitions of Instructional Technology equipment and software through the South Carolina Master Lease program as highlighted in the Committee on Finance's report above. Both resolutions were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Following the Committee reports, the Faculty Representative to the Board gave a brief report highlighting the changes and approvals in several academic programs since the last Board meeting and the Faculty Conference change in grade point average (gpa) standards for first and second year students to remain in good standing. An update on the University's involvement in BigSURS and undergraduate research was also highlighted along with a newly awarded \$600K grant from the National Science Foundation for STEM scholarships to students with financial need.

Dr. DiGiorgio finished the meeting commenting on the general state of South Carolina's economy...as steadier, but with no foreseeable improvement in public sector finances. He highlighted the potential impact to the University in regards to the state's underfunded retirement program, the legislative consideration of a potential 2% increase in salary for state employees and the rising cost of health care, as precursor topics for future Board budget considerations. Finally, Dr. DiGiorgio commented on several articles in the recent issue of the Johnsonian and the wonderful comments made by senior students about their experiences while at Winthrop.

With no other old or new business, the Board adjourned.