

Faculty Conference Liaison Report to the Winthrop University Board of Trustees

Faculty Conference Leadership

Chair – Dr. Adam Glover (Associate Professor of Spanish)

Since the last Faculty Conference Liaison Report in summer 2023, faculty have been actively engaged in numerous activities on campus. The following items are of special note:

Engagement in the Strategic Planning Process

Faculty continue to participate actively in the Strategic Planning Process, both as members of the Steering Committee and as participants in focus groups and individual interviews with BRG. As the Strategic Planning Process concludes, we appreciate the opportunity to have participated in setting the agenda for the university, and we look forward to seeing the plan become a reality.

Provost Search

The faculty is also involved in the search for Winthrop's next Provost. I worked with the deans from the four degree-granting colleges to select four faculty representatives to serve on the search committee. The Provost is critical to Winthrop's primary educational mission, and as the search process takes shape, we anticipate additional opportunities for faculty involvement.

University Priorities

In my role as Faculty Conference Chair, I also serve as an *ex officio* member of the Faculty Committee on University Priorities (FCUP). FCUP meets regularly with the president and provost to voice faculty concerns and work collaboratively to identify and implement solutions. Over the past year, the committee has been engaged in an extensive analysis of faculty perceptions of communication practices at Winthrop. We will soon meet with the president and provost to present the findings of our study and suggest ways to develop a comprehensive, university-wide communication strategy.

Optimism and Morale

I cannot speak for every Winthrop faculty member, but I detect a nascent sense of optimism around campus. Improving enrollment numbers are no doubt part of the story, but I also detect a broad and growing confidence among my colleagues in President Serna's leadership and vision for the university. Much remains to be done, of course, but Winthrop's future seems to be brighter than it has in a while.