

Winthrop University Faculty Conference Minutes

April 22, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Dina's Place, Digiorgio Student Center

- I. **Approval of minutes for March 4, 2016 Faculty Conference**
 - a. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. **Report from the Chair: Dr. John Bird**
 - a. John Bird reported on the March 11 Board of Trustees Meeting, which included the following items:
 1. Update on Competitive Compensation Committee
 2. Update on enrollment
 3. Update on fundraising
 4. Update on budget and bond refunding
 5. Update on the strategic plan
- III. **Report from the President, Dr. Dan Mahony**
 - a. Dr. Mahony updated the faculty on the Strategic Plan, which is underway.
 - b. Dr. Mahony reported that four candidates for Athletic Director would be coming to campus the following week. President Mahoney asked the faculty for their assistance in deep referencing the candidates.
 - c. Dr. Mahony shared draft reports from the following areas: University Values, Strategic Goals, and a New Vision of Distinction.
 - d. Dr. Mahony asked for questions from the faculty.
 1. Dr. Mike Lipscomb asked the president a general question about our financial challenges and how we work through the tensions that are byproducts of those financial challenges.
 2. President Mahony stressed that a group is working on our budget model, but that in general we would be adopting a data driven approach to increasing faculty and staff.
 3. Dr. Jennifer Solomon asked a question regarding the faculty workload, especially the increasing bureaucratic responsibilities.
 4. Two faculty members raised questions about the declining facilities on campus, especially in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.
 5. Dr. Mahony responded that we would be looking for ways to increase our enrollment to deal with the ongoing financial challenges.
 6. Dr. Mahony explained the competitive compensation program that would be implemented shortly. He also informed us of the South Carolina legislature's proposals for state wage increases at that time. (He said that we were most likely looking at a 3% wage increase.)
- IV. **Report from the Provost/ Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Debra Boyd**
 - a. Dr. Boyd thanked the faculty for their attendance and expressed appreciation for all we do at Winthrop.

- b. Dr. Boyd asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Irene Boland and Dr. Paul Myrtka, who both passed away during the past year.
- c. Dr. Boyd thanked the various working groups that had been hard at work all year.
- d. Dr. Boyd explained the plans for the upcoming (three) commencement exercises, as well as the investiture of President Mahoney. She asked us to RSVP as to our plans to attend.

V. **Academic Council Report**, Dr. Dave Pretty

- a. Dr. Pretty summarized the program changes that had passed Academic Council, including those from Fine Arts, Mathematics, Interdisciplinary Studies, Music, Management, Management and Marketing, Biology, and Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Studies. All program changes passed unanimously without any discussion.
- b. Dr. Pretty presented the program changes for degree programs that had been unanimously passed by Academic Council. All of the program changes for degree programs (12) passed unanimously without discussion.
- c. Dr. Pretty presented the program changes for minors that had been approved by Academic Council, which did not demand Faculty Conference action.
- d. Dr. Pretty presented the course changes that were approved by CUC and did not require any further action.
- e. Dr. Pretty presented a new course, Math 11x, which had been approved by Academic Council as a newly certified General Education Course. The course was approved unanimously by Faculty Conference.
- f. Dr. Pretty presented the courses that were re-certified by the General Education Committee and required no further action.

VI. **Committee Reports (Reports can be found online)**

- a. Rules Committee, Dr. Guy Reel
- b. Library, Dr. Laura Gardner
- c. Faculty Personnel, Dr. Dave Pretty
- d. Academic Freedom and Tenure, Dr. Carol Marchel
- e. Financial Exigency, Dr. Dave Pretty
- f. Academic Conduct, Dr. Laura Ullrich
- g. Undergraduate Petition, Dr. Kavin Ming
- h. Undergraduate Curriculum, Dr. Will Thacker
- i. Faculty Committee on University Priorities, Dr. Michael Williams
- j. Faculty Committee on University Life, Dr. Stacey Davidson

VII. **Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws**, Dr. Guy Reel

- a. Dr. Guy Reel presented the several changes to the bylaws in an effort to make them read more clearly and reflect better practices. The list of changes made to the bylaws included: requiring standing committees to elect secretaries, adding University College to the list of academic divisions, requiring the Faculty Conference Parliamentarian to tally votes after elections rather than the Secretary, and other changes, all of which will be available online. All of the changes were accepted unanimously.

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Announcements

- a. The registrar, Ms. Gina Jones, reminded us of grade deadlines for the spring semester.
- b. Dr. Gloria Jones, Dean of University College, reminded us about the Source Awards Ceremony.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Williams, Secretary