

Winthrop University Faculty Conference Minutes

December 2, 2016

Barnes Recital Hall 2 p.m.

- I. Approval of Minutes for September 30, 2016 Faculty Conference
 - a. There was a motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum.
 - b. There was a motion to approve the minutes.
 - c. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- II. Report from the Chair, Dr. John Bird
 - a. Dr. John Bird called on Vice President Jeff Perez to report from the Intercampus Communications Working Group.
 - b. Vice President Perez reported that his committee is looking at a daily email blast for Faculty/Staff as a way to ensure that emails are read. He said that there would be a vetting process for Individual emails.
 - c. Dr. John Bird gave his report from the November 4, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting. The board approved a Bachelor of Science in Special Education with Multi-categorical Teacher Classification. The board also approved budget adjustments.
 - d. Dr. Bird asked all faculty to attend the Holiday Reception at the president's house on December 8 from 2-4 p.m.

- III. Report from the President, Dr. Dan Mahony.
 - a. President Mahony stated that he would give a report on the university budget at the February 24 Faculty Conference meeting.
 - b. President Mahony stated that the current governor was leaving to take a new post in the Trump administration and that there would be a different environment in Columbia with regard to budgets.
 - c. President Mahony updated us on the Strategic Plan which included:
 1. Money for Competitive Compensation
 2. The branding, website design, and recruitment efforts
 3. Program Development
 4. Model Programs
 5. Diversity Training with regard to Search Committees
 6. Facility Projects
 7. Housing
 8. Capacity Study
 9. Fundraising

- IV. Report from Provost/VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. Debra Boyd
 - a. Dr. Boyd stated that SACSCOC was meeting in Atlanta this weekend.

- b. The Provost stated that Winthrop’s Fifth Year Report would be ready in the spring.
 - c. Dr. Boyd discussed how the Family Medical Leave Act applied to faculty.
 - d. Dr. Boyd reported that many searches were taking place on Winthrop’s campus—two dean searches and 21 faculty searches.
 - e. Dr. Boyd stated that the search for a SPAR director would begin in January with a revamped job description.
 - f. The Provost reported on the Campus Heritage Group. They last met on November 21. The relocation of the sculpture “Low Tides” was discussed. Dr. Boyd brought up the issue of how we might want to use the naming of buildings and spaces. The Campus Heritage Group is working with the Council of Student Leaders as well with as our counterparts at Clemson University. One issue being discussed by students and the Heritage group is the idea of a Unity Wall near Scholars Walk.
- V. Academic Council, Dr. Dave Pretty
- a. Dr. Pretty reported the curriculum actions from the November 18 meeting of Academic Council.
 - b. There were three program changes in MUSC, SCST, and ENG that required approval from Faculty Conference and four program changes that did not warrant action.
 - c. Sixty-four course proposals required no action from Faculty Conference.
 - d. Dr. Pretty discussed the course actions from the General Education Committee with regard to the Global, the Humanities and Arts, and the Natural Science requirements.
 - e. The next Academic Council meeting will take place on February 10.
- VI. Committee Reports:
- a. Rules Committee--Dr. Andrew Besmer.
 - 1. Dr. Besmer reported that there is a proposed bylaws change to vote on at the next Faculty Conference. This bylaws change will state that the Parliamentarian of Faculty Conference will notify faculty of the results of Faculty Conference elections.
 - 2. Dr. Besmer reported that his committee is looking at the relationship between the bylaws and the curriculum process to make sure that they agree.
 - 3. Dr. Besmer reported that the bylaws committee is looking at the issue of faculty serving at multiple levels of the tenure and promotion committees. His committee will bring a bylaw change regarding this issue to Faculty Conference in February.
 - b. FCUP-- Dr. Ron Parks.
 - 1. Dr. Ron Parks discussed the issues that were last brought to President Mahony, including
 - a. Efficiency and effectiveness
 - b. Using Wiley for online programs
 - c. Lack of full-time faculty for some programs
 - d. University Strategic Plan committees
- VII. Admissions Report, Vice-President Eduardo Prieto
- a. Vice-President Prieto gave an overview of the current Recruitment Plan for Fall 2017 including the goals, the recruitment focus, and the long-term recruitment plans.
 - b. VP Perez stated that Worldwide Winthrop Day was April 8.

- c. VP Perez mentioned all the dates for First Look Fridays, Preview Days, and Saturday Visits.
- VIII. Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.
- IX. New Business: There was no new business.
- X. Announcements:
- a. Registrar Reminders, Ms. Gina Jones, Registrar. Ms. Jones reminded us that all grades are due on Friday, December 6 at 5 p.m. She encouraged us to submit twice for IF, ID, and F grades.
 - b. Regalia Closet: Dr. Antje Mays. Dr. Mays reported on the status of the regalia closet and invited faculty to participate in collecting regalia for those who need it.
 - c. Other Announcements: Mr. Tim Druke, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Curriculum and Program Support. Mr. Druke reminded us that there was only one graduation ceremony in December.
 - d. Academic Representative to Athletics, Dr. Trent Kull. Dr. Kull announced that 165 athletes had grade point averages over 3.0 last year and that 40 made the Academic Honor Roll with 4.0s.
 - e. International Center, Dr. Leigh Poole. Dr. Poole announced scholarships for students wishing to study abroad. She also mentioned that there would be a day for faculty and staff to renew passports in early January.
 - f. Dr. John Bird reminded us of the 4th Annual Winthrop Teaching and Learning Conference to take place on March 24.
- XI. Adjournment:
Faculty Conference was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Williams
Secretary, Faculty Conference