



Winthrop University Faculty Conference

October 1, 2021

2:00 p.m., Blackboard Collaborate

AGENDA

I.	Approval of the Minutes for the August 20, 2021, Faculty Conference Meeting	Jennifer Jordan
II.	Report from the FC Chair	
III.	Report from the President	George Hynd
IV.	Report from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs	Adrienne McCormick
V.	Report from the Registrar	Gina Jones
VI.	Report from Academic Council	Alice McLaine
VII.	Report from the Office of Accessibility	Chris Keck
VIII.	Report from the Associate Vice President of Facilities	James Grigg
IX.	Unfinished Business	
X.	New Business	
XI.	Announcements	
XII.	Adjournment	
XIII.	Have an amazing semester!!!!	
XIV.		

Faculty Conference Minutes: 10/1/2021

(Minutes prepared by Dr. Ephraim Scott Sommers, Asst. Prof. of English)

--Meeting called to order at 2:01PM

--We have a quorum at 178 faculty conference attendees.

I. Approval of the Minutes for the April 23, 2021, Faculty Conference Meeting

-Motion made to approve minutes by Jo Koster; seconded by Brandon (BRB)

-Motion Passed

II. Report from the FC Chair (Jennifer Jordan)

-The Chair discussed a recent survey for the presidential search committee. The chair appreciates the feedback to move forward for the decision of the next president.

-The Chair identified three strategies: a mission statement, an academic master plan, and a facilities master plan.

-The Chair believes it will take a lot of effort on our part to stay positive and to make changes. If anyone would like to put ideas forward, the Chair made themselves available to listen to the faculty's voice.

III. Report from the President (George Hynd)

-The President encouraged all faculty to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather, and enjoy working with our staff and wonderful students.

-Winthrop Family Day is tomorrow.

-The president shared on four major topics:

*-1. **Covid**-adhering to good safety protocol have allowed us to launch into this semester and do very well at mitigating the effects of Covid. 549 respondents to a recent survey, 245 Faculty, 236 staff. Of those that responded, 93.7% indicated that they have been vaccinated. We estimate 67%-ish of our student body are vaccinated. 81% of all athletes on campus are vaccinated. 81% said they would get the booster shot once it's available. "Winthrop will continue to have a mask requirement for the foreseeable future."*

*-2. **The Budget**-We only have 1550 students living on campus, down from 2100 from just a few years ago. We have already developed some preliminary budget targets to work with over the next three years, and would like to present that soon to the Board of Trustees at the end of October. We will be achieving our budget targets by way of vacated positions. "It is not a good model and something that we are looking to correct." We will also have to reduce our fiscal budget in the next three years as well*

based on the low enrollment this year. We will very careful in the future about hiring new positions. This is our first step forward of making financial requests to the SC house and senate, especially for some improvements to campus facilities.

***-3. Enrollment-**We had planned for a 4% reduction in our enrollments this year, 2% in the next two years. The actual results were that we were down 10.8% in undergraduate and 1.7% in graduate this year. We have 5115 total students this year. Overall, we are down 8.3% in our enrollments on campus so far this year. Joe Miller is trying to develop a strategic marketing enrollment plan/strategy over the next few years to get more students to enroll at Winthrop in the future. This will take some financial investment.*

***-4. The Future-**Emeritus Faculty will now be able to continue using their email after retirement.*

Questions:

Wanda Koszewski: Why is this plan (that provost Adrienne is working on) being presented to the BOT with no faculty input and faculty will not have any heads up?

Answer: The provost is determining the best path forward and this is on the FCUP agenda for next week.

Question:

Chair: Can everyone get the booster?

Answer: Yes, everyone can get it.

IV. Report from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs (Adrienne McCormick)

-The Provost delivered updates on the Academic Master Plan:

-Program profile review and health metrics (we are refining them)

-New Program Outlook: Health/Design/Innovation.

-DPU/health programs ad-hoc committee

-Department curricular innovations can and must continue

-Transfer Pathways launched (Policy work continues)

-Student Success Ecosystem

-QEP proposal on career readiness

-IT/AA infrastructure team

-Gen Ed / ULC assessment and alignment work

-ACUE training modules through CPE Faculty

-Provost and Dean Evaluations happening in mid-October

-Provost Fellow position to do some work improving how we organize and update our Academic Affairs personnel policies.

-Congrats to Kelly Costner and Lisa Johnson co-authored and were just awarded a 2.8m dollar grant focusing on pedagogies for English language learners.

-Congrats to Dean Rakestraw who will be retiring in December. We are appointing an interim dean and then launching a national search soon.

-Question (Dr. Hye-Sung Kim): I think the reason why there is a perception that the current academic master plan is equivalent to program/budget cuts is that what we have been communicated about the solutions to increase the overall health are through program/employee/budget cuts. What is the overall "health" the master plan tries to achieve? Any specific enrollment goals, # of programs, # of credit hrs productions, etc.?

-Answer: There are many solutions. The plan should drive new ideas. A key other plan is strategic enrollment management plan. That's a different thing with very specific enrollment targets by degree track. This would inform when we sunset program. We need to balance expense to revenue. All these different plans, including the budget plan must intersect.

V. Report from the Registrar (Gina Jones)

-Interim grading began today. Please get interim grades in by Thursday, October 7th at 5pm.

-We are implementing a new course software program this fall. This will be rolled out in November. WE will reach out to department chairs soon.

VI. Report from Academic Council (Alice McLaine)

-Six Motions to vote on today

***-1. REACH ACT** has been passed by the South Carolina Legislature*

-Motion is to re-name document to be in line with the reach act.

-Motion passes.

***-2. Motion that assessment of the components of the General Education Program** occurs over a three-year cycle beginning in the 2021-2022 academic year and follows this schedule:*

The components assessed in 2021-2022 will be: ACAD101, Oral Communication, Quantitative Skills, Founding Documents

• The components assessed in 2022-2023 will be: Social Sciences, Intensive Writing, Historical Perspectives, Global Perspectives

• The components assess in 2023-2024 will be: the General Education Core (ACAD101, WRIT101, HMXP102, CRTW201, HXCT301), Physical Activity, Natural Sciences, Technology, humanities and Arts.

-There was some discussion about process, and about the difference between this motion and the five year renewal for the GNED program which had been suspended

temporarily. There was also some concern raised about the number of ENGL courses assessed at the same time in one year.

-Motion Passes

-3. Motion to the specific measurable Student Learning Objectives to the evaluation of student learning in Founding Documents and Oral Communication general education courses

- Founding Documents
- Students will identify the social and political contexts of the Founding Documents (US Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation) and at least five essays of the Federalist Papers.
- Students will identify the social and political contexts of one or more documents that are foundational to the African American Freedom struggle.
- Oral Communication
- Students will demonstrate oral communication skills appropriate to the discipline, including discussion of a variety of presentation styles, organizational techniques, and list of appropriate visual aids in presentations.
- Students will show competence in oral communication. These opportunities should include the following: individual presentations, group presentations, speeches (informative or persuasive), debates (formal or informal), and participation in group work and class discussion.

-There were concerns raised about whether or not a course had to include ALL opportunities raised in SLO#2. It does not. The committee will wordsmith this going forward.

-Motion Passes

-4. Based on the work of and proposals from the General Education Curriculum Committee

Motion that each component of the General Education Program be tied to at least one common University Level Competency (ULC). The common ULCs are:

- ULC 1: Writing/Critical Thinking, Technology, Quantitative Skills, Natural Science
- ULC 2: Writing/Critical Thinking, ACAD101, Founding Documents, Physical Activity
- ULC 3: Writing/Critical Thinking, Global Perspectives, Historical Perspectives, Social Sciences
- ULC 4: Writing/Critical Thinking, Oral Communication, Intensive Writing, humanities and Arts

-Motion Passes

-5. Motion to approve the Full Degree Transfer Policy.

- Full proposal available in Academic Council Supporting Documents
- Transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science from an accredited 2-year institution in SC are eligible to waive most requirements of Winthrop University General Education Program

- Degree must include at least 60 credits of degree-level coursework
 - Degree must include at least 6 credits of composition or writing intensive coursework (typically ENG101 and ENG102)
 - All graduates must earn credit for a course that meets the Founding Documents requirement of the REACH Act; either through transfer credits or WU course
 - Winthrop specific requirement of a third writing intensive course (HXCT301)
 - Only courses in which a grade of C- or better was earned will count toward credit hours
 - All degree specific requirements must be met regardless of connection to GE
- Motion Passes**

-6. Motion to approve the Academic Forgiveness Policy.

- Full proposal available in Academic Council Supporting Documents
- At the time of admission or readmission to Winthrop, a student may choose to evoke the “academic forgiveness policy” for coursework taken five or more years previously at Winthrop or another institution
- Current policy allows forgiveness of old Winthrop coursework from their Winthrop GPA
- Expands forgiveness to admission decisions when academic work from another institution that is five or more years old might prevent enrollment due to GPA considerations
- Does not supersede degree specific requirements set by a program or external body
- Students seeking financial aid must meet all stated guidelines and policies

-Motion Passes

VII. Report from the Office of Accessibility (Chris Keck & Karen Medlin)

- Address Change: Ground Floor of the Bancroft Annex
- Letters of Accommodations have already gone out. (Students should meet with faculty to discuss these accommodations).
- It is ok for professor to reach out to student as well.
- Alternative Testing Agreements must be completed before uploading testing materials into AIM, preferably the day before the test.

VIII. Report from the Associate Vice President of Facilities (James Grigg)

- The AVP would like to recognize everything their staff does to keep the University running. For emergencies, please call 803-323-2469
- Project MGMT, Operations, EHS, Sustainability, Emergency MGMT
- They also relocate animals.

-We have some challenges on the outside and inside, a steam leak, some tile issues. We have exterior issues as well.

-We have a lot of projects over the next few years. (Steam repair will cost \$2,140,000). Thomson flooring-\$475K, Phelps WIFI, \$250K. Digs floor: \$475K. WIFI Upgrade: \$2Million, Classroom AV\$2.86Million. Alumni Foundation fundraising for \$500K toward restoration project of their fountain. We're also looking at upgrading furniture. McLaurin interior renovation: \$400K.

-Facilities in a very busy planning phase.

-Look for updates on these projects on the facilities website:

www.Winthrop.edu/campusmasterplan

-Byrnes auditorium is in the middle of an insurance settlement court case and is on hold until it is ruled upon.

IX. Unfinished Business

- Update from Ad Hoc Committee on Personnel Policies have incorporated comments and concerns from the April 2021 Faculty Conference into our recommendations

- We have compiled bibliographies of research on implicit bias in student evaluations of teaching and on compiling teaching portfolios which will be posted on a Dacus LibGuide...you can get to this on the library resource page.*

libguides.library.winthrop.edu/tandp

The Committee would like to move to a teaching portfolio method of evaluation.

- We will be sending all teaching faculty a BRIEF, anonymous Qualtrics survey next week that will have links to our updated recommendations and bibliographies.*

- We are in the process of soliciting student input*

- We hope to report at Faculty Conference in November*

- Questions for the committee to Jo Koster:*

kosterj@winthrop.edu

X. New Business

- It is mandatory annual Cyber Security Training time-get it finished by October 31st

- Save the Date: SOURCE is Friday, April 15th, 2022.

- It will be a hybrid event with face-to-face poster sessions and performances. Students will have f2f or virtual options for oral presentations.*

- There will be cash prizes again this year for the best presentations in each category.*

- Abstract submission for the Annual Compilation Book and SOURCE will be open November 1st - March 1st. It will look a little different this year (much more streamlined and user friendly). Please remember to help us capture all undergraduate research activity including summer 2021 projects and classroom*

research projects.

- We are supporting student travel to present at conferences this year.

Please encourage students to apply for support at

Winthrop University: Undergraduate Research.

- The Research Mentor Interest Database is live! <https://bit.ly/WUMentors>
- The search function is a SharePoint based database, so users need to be logged in with their Winthrop credentials (students are eligible).
- The database is NOT complete - we've had ~50 mentors complete the survey.

Please help us by completing the survey so we can make the database as complete as possible. <https://forms.office.com/r/b1yubKTrWu>

-The SURE Poster Presentation is

happening NOW (3:00 - 5:00) in Richardson

Ballroom. Please swing by to support the

students!

XI. Announcements

Extended Education (EE) is Redesigning the University CPE Website to:

- Increase the visibility of upcoming offerings
- Promote and highlight offerings by the University, beyond traditional degree programs, that are launched to better serve the RH, YC, and the state of SC.

Key Points That Will Be Highlighted

1. CPE Mission

Winthrop University is dedicated to serving the nation and the state of South Carolina by offering Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) courses and programs that are

designed to meet identifiable community needs in professional development, workforce training, and lifelong learning.

2. Winthrop CPE Offerings are

- Affordable
- Learner-centered
- High Quality / High Value
- Flexible and Accessible

EE would be happy to list all non-degree programs offered by the University, whether they are noncredit or for credit on the CPE site.

Contact: guilbaudp@winthrop.edu or brinkleya@winthrop.edu

XII. Adjournment

-Motion to adjourn by Dr. Jo Koster; Seconded by Dr. BRB

-Meeting Adjourned at 3:43 PM