



Winthrop University Faculty Conference

August 20, 2021

2:00 p.m., Blackboard Collaborate

AGENDA

I.	Approval of the Minutes for the April 23, 2021, Faculty Conference Meeting	Jennifer Jordan
II.	Report from the FC Chair	
III.	Report From the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee	Julie Fowler
IV.	Report from the Board of Trustees	Kathy Bingham
V.	Report from the President	George Hynd
VI.	Report from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs	Adrienne McCormick
VII.	Report from the Registrar, Office of Records and Registration	Gina Jones
VIII.	Report from the Director of General Education Program	Wendy Sellers
IX.	Committee Reports Rules Committee	Aaron Hamm
X.	Unfinished Business	
XI.	New Business	
XII.	Announcements	
XIII.	Adjournment	
Have an amazing semester!!!!		

Winthrop University Faculty Conference

August 20, 2021

2:00 p.m., Blackboard Collaborate

Faculty Conference Minutes: 8/20/2021

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

--Meeting called to order at 2:01PM

--We have a quorum at 226 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 Lisa Harris

-Motion Passed

II. Report from the FC Chair (Jennifer Jordan)

-New parliamentarian and secretary were welcomed.

-Full Report sent via email.

-Newly promoted and tenured faculty were congratulated.

III. Report From the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee (Julie Fowler)

-Much of what was delivered in today's report can be found online at www.winthrop.edu/president-search where interested parties will find monthly updates on the presidential search directly from Dr. Fowler, including timelines, committee information, etc. Faculty will also receive updates via email. Faculty may also submit relevant questions regarding the presidential search via email at the following address: search@winthrop.edu.

-The chair made sure to note that the dates on the presidential search timeline may be fluid with late November as the goal for semi-finalist interviews (for ten candidates).

-Three finalist candidates could visit either December or early January.

-It may be February or March by the time we name a new president.

-There were twenty members on the search committee chosen from a pool of 120 applicants. A diverse and balanced group was chosen to serve from a wide range of backgrounds, experience, college affiliation, etc.

-The chair emphasized the need for faculty involvement at all stages of the search.

-The chair discussed how certain chairs and co-chairs were chosen to serve.

IV. Report from the Board of Trustees (Kathy Bingham)

-Resolutions/changes to the bylaws adopted by the Winthrop University Board of Trustees can be found in the Faculty Conference Chair's Full Report, delivered via email.

-Miss Bingham briefly discussed these resolutions and changes.

V. Report from the President (George Hynd)

- The president delivered his remarks. Overall enrollment at Winthrop is 4700. Overall enrollment is down 12% for undergraduates. Graduate student enrollment is up by a small percentage.*
- We will have a vaccination clinic on campus. We are now requiring masks on campus.*
- The president looks forward to continuing work this year on: Budget, Campus Academic Master Plan, Campus Facilities Master Planning Process, Administrative Review of the Winthrop Plan, and the University Advancement Team.*
- Joe Miller was introduced and welcomed as new VP of enrollment management and marketing.*
- Winthrop revenues are expected to fall 3.6% or 4.2 Million this academic year. We are projected to use 6 Million of funding to help in 2021/22*
- Operating expenses this year are expected to rise by 1.6% or 1.8-Million Dollars. This includes a 2.5% increase to faculty salaries (of which Winthrop must cover the Lion's share).*
- Winthrop's Net Position should decrease by about 5 Million dollars this year.*
- We do have 2 Million dollars in our capital reserve which we will use for technology upgrades (from federal funds).*
- We will continue our strategic hiring freeze as a way to help our budget situation in our three-year budget model in the years ahead.*
- We will start to address the compensation issues this year after receiving the results of the study.*
- Question** (submitted by "rp"): People are not afraid of change as much as they are afraid of the unknown (because of concern it will be negative for one personally and/or professionally). Are there (or could there be) some announced timeframe after the 3-year budget is approved Monday that share the institution's plan for any reduction in force or furlough decisions, cuts to majors/minors/other programs, etc?*
- Answer:** "We are going to continue to look at all sorts of different fronts. We are not considering furloughs. We have other levers we might look into: voluntary separation, voluntary early retirement. We have not made any firm decision, but we are exploring all options, and as soon as we make a decision, we will come forward with that. We understand your anxiety."*

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

- Full Report sent via email.*
- The provost pointed out updates to the mask mandate.*
- The provost welcomed new faculty and mentioned numerous staff changes.*
- New staff members were welcomed.*
- Chair and leadership changes/transitions were announced.*
- The provost hopes to have the results of the Acad. Master Plan soon.*

VII. Report from the Registrar, Office of Records and Registration (Gina Jones)

- The Registrar discussed staff changes as well as some new programs and operating systems they'll be launching in the coming months.*
- We will have an interactive course catalogue that interacts with course management systems.*
- The Registrar once again mentioned three sessions via zoom which are Professional Development sessions on FERPA.*
- Please revisit the Records & Registration website.*
- Please make sure your class rosters are correct.*

VIII. Computing Information and Technology (Patrice Bruneau)

- Winthrop is becoming a laptop campus and students should bring a laptop with them. IT has developed a system to help students choose the best laptop.*
- Classrooms are being updated with better technology and laptop docking stations.*
- IT is planning a full Wi-Fi refresh and expansion, including buildings that traditionally have not had good service.*
- The new password security cycle will now be every 180 days.*
- Everyone must complete cyber security awareness training.*
- Pay stubs will be available via wingspan and will no longer be sent via email.*
- Class Listservs on Monday +2 weeks.*

IX. Report from the Director of General Education Program (Wendy Sellers)

- The Director discussed SACSCOC: Standard 8.2.b Updates, the SACS self-study, which are the development of a curriculum map and an assessment plan. There is also a current assessment of the core curriculum going on now of the following courses: WRIT101/HMXP102/CRTW201+ACAD101.*
- The Director showed the GEN Ed Comm. and the GEN Ed. Assessment Comm. Work plan for 2021-22. The GEC will revise the curriculum map, develop a mission statement, revise founding documents, and revise the course inclusion process.*
- The GEAC will revise the assessment plan, develop assessment rubrics, and revise the course inclusion process.*
- The Director hopes to have the Assessment plan approved (10/1), the curriculum map approved (11/19), the mission statement approved (2/25/22), and the course inclusion process approved (4/22/22). These would all be need to be approved by Faculty Governance.*
- The Director would like to pause recertifications for 2021-2022 in order for everyone involved to catch up.*

*-Motion made to approve Director's **first motion** (pause all recertification of Gen Ed courses for one year, 2021/22) by Jo Koster; seconded by Jennifer Disney
-Motion Passed*

-Second Motion Discussion:

Question (Jason Tselentis): If a class got approved in 2018, for instance, does that mean it'd automatically be re-approved for 2021-2022?

Answer: "Yes. Anything that has been approved, will be approved. This includes classes which are up for re-certification, everything gets a break this year."

Question (Eric Birgbauer): Could the option be given to the Gen Ed committee to pause or selectively approve new courses if absolute necessary?

Answer: "We really want to put everything on hold to make it cleaner." There was some discussion here about writing intensive courses and how to clean up some of the components of the Gen Ed program for better workflow. "We need to put everything on pause to make sure that committees can better streamline the process for the future. Whatever is in the catalogue is fine."

*-Motion made to approve Director's **second motion** (pause all certification of new Gen Ed Courses for one year, 2021/22) by Jo Koster; seconded by Gwen Daley
-Motion Passed.*

-The Director thanked relevant parties for their prior assessment work.

X. Committee Reports

A. Rules Committee (Aaron Hamm)

-Dacus has petitioned for an exception on the faculty rules committee to allow their dept chair to serve (who is their only tenured faculty).

-Motion made to approve motion by Wanda Koszewski; seconded by Kyle Sweeney.

-Motion Passed.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on Personnel Policies (Jo Koster & The Provost)

-Procedural Changes being made to Tenure and Promotion were presented, along with a new timeline (for appeals process to be completed in one academic year) to clarify when an appeal would be filed and then decided upon before May 15th.

-A written statement in interfolio will be provided by leadership in the approval process.

-Transparency for the tenure candidate: applicants can respond with a letter at the college level.

*-Candidate will know how the committee voted but not who voted for what.
-The Provost said that these changes are a result of feedback from faculty.
-The Provost also mentioned that though these Tenure procedures have been altered, the promotion procedures have not yet been adjusted (but will be similarly altered this year).
-The Provost discussed the timeline of responses between committees and candidates. On the whole, candidates will have three days to respond with their own letter.*

XI. Unfinished Business

-None

XII. New Business

-None

XIII. Announcements

-Convocation on Monday at the Coliseum.

XIV. Adjournment

-Motion to adjourn by Dr. BRB; Seconded by Dave Pretty.

-Meeting Adjourned at 4:44PM