

<b>I. Call the meeting to order Approval of the Minutes for the 11-19-2021 Faculty Conference Meeting</b>	
<b>II. Report from the FC Chair</b>	<b>Jennifer Jordan</b>
<b>III. Report from the BOT</b>	<b>Kathy Bigham Kimberly Faust</b>
<b>III. Report From the President</b>	<b>George Hynd</b>
<b>III. Report from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Division of Finance and Business Affairs</b>	<b>Adrienne McCormick Justin Oates</b>
<b>IV. Report from Academic Council</b>	<b>Alice McLaine</b>
<b>V. Report From the Rules Committee Chair</b>	<b>Arran Hamm</b>
<b>V. Report from Council of Student Leaders</b>	<b>Erin Emiroglu</b>
<b>VI. Report From Registrars office</b>	<b>Gina Jones</b>
<b>VII. Unfinished Business</b>	
<b>VIII. New Business-Proposed resolution, Elections</b>	<b>Jenifer Jordan</b>
<b>IX. Announcements</b>	<b>Kimarie Whetstone Patrice Bruneau</b>
<b>X. Adjournment</b>	

## **Faculty Conference Minutes: 4/22/2022**

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

*--Meeting called to order at 2:01PM*

*--We have a quorum at 106 faculty conference attendees.*

### **I. Approval of the Minutes for the February 25, 2022, Faculty Conference Meeting**

*-Motion made to approve minutes by Jo Koster; seconded by Kristi Schoepfer*

*-Motion Passed.*

### **II. Report from the FC Chair (Jennifer Jordan)**

*-Resolutions approved by the board are online. (There were three)*

*-Julie Fowler has been appointed as chair of a group re-write the bylaws.*

*-The FC chair feels included by the board.*

*-The Chair wants the board to be clear about what their purview is.*

*-The Chair feels like she is being heard by the Board despite not having a "seat at the table."*

*-Dr. Hynd was thanked for his service.*

*-Dr. Jane Laroche & Janet Smalley were also thanked for their service, it being their last year on the Board.*

### **III. Report from the BOT (Kimberly Faust and Kathy Bigham)**

*-The main objective of the board is to hire and/or fire the president.*

*-They also focus on marketing dollars and the university bottom line as they work to raise enrollment.*

*-The board delegates the day to day running of the university to the president.*

*-Jennifer is a liaison as faculty representative and now the door is much wider open who can reach out to the board to ask a question or to get clarity.*

*-Kathy believes the BOT and the FC chair/liaison have a very positive relationship currently.*

*-The board is not writing resolutions on its own, unless they have to do with the president's hiring or with thanking people for their service/donations. The other resolutions are simply voted on by the board.*

*-Other resolutions come to the Board from the president.*

*-The BOT doesn't look at your tenure and promotion packets, they simply entrust that process which goes through the president and provost and on down.*

*-In reality, "a seat at the table" with the BOT should mean that faculty and students get involved earlier in the governing and vetting process before things get to the board.*

*-Not everything is a rubber stamped "yes." Sometimes questions are asked or sometimes issues are tabled until more information can be gathered.*

*-When the president says “this is what Winthrop needs,” the board is nearly always going to say yes.*

**Question: Scott Huffmon #2**

2:17 PM

So who wrote the resolution changing the public speaking rules?

*Answer: The public speaking rules didn't change. We always lived by the rules that we have in writing but they were never written down. The board decided to write a policy which is just what they'd already been practicing but had never written down.*

**Question: Wendy (she/her)**

2:17 PM

For clarification, did Kathy say that one of the two, primary roles of the Board was to terminate presidents?

*Answer: No, it is our main job to hire, evaluate, and if necessary, terminate the president.*

**Question: Ginger Williams**

2:18 PM

Will the board consider reinstating our faculty representative seat at the table?

*Answer: We currently have a faculty liaison and that relationship is working very well, better than anything has in the past in terms of communication. Right now we are “tweaking” our by-laws. That committees work has just begun so I really can't answer that at this time. It would have to come from committee members.*

**Question: Jennifer Leigh Disney**

2:18 PM

Last summer there was a Board Resolution that I believe made changes to the Board By-Laws regarding the Fac and Student Reps becoming Liaisons and not having a seat at the table, and limiting the number of minutes someone could speak to the Board to 3 min. Are you saying the

Board did not write these resolution changes to its own By-Laws? These were recommended by the President and the Administration?

*Answer: They weren't recommendations. It was the board thinking about what is in the best interest of the shared governance of the university. How can we best get the information the board needs to make informed decisions. The board said let's get some standards with this, what will be asked of the person in this position, how can we re-evaluate. We haven't given a chance to make sure whether or not this system will work. The new system has been working well for the board. Typically, they would get a written report, the FC rep would read it to the board, and they would ask questions at that time. Now, a lot of things that come up have already been brought up before the fact and discussed. From our perspective, we feel like you (FC) have more of a voice with the board.*

**Question: summarized by Kimarie**

2:24 PM

Were the previous FC chairs not communicative? What was not working?

*Answer: I didn't have a cell number of a faculty member if I needed feedback on an issue. FC Chairs would report a problem but it was very clear they had not gone up through the proper administrative processes. In the past, someone had worked around the president and the provost, rather than working through all of the levels, following the official protocol.*

**A question asked** about the MOUs. (At this point, Kimarie begun summarizing groups of questions by subject matter).

*Answer: People signing these MOUs didn't have the authority to sign these, and there are insurance issues involved. It's about insurance coverage, making sure that we're following all the processes. The same goes for contracts, the board must sign off on contracts. We need a clean process at all levels so we are covered.*

**Question: Clarification** on the current term limits for board members?

*Answer: 6 year term but there are no term limits. The two people elected by alumni only have a maximum of two six-year terms. The governor's appointee would be at the pleasure of the sitting governor. It is a long process of election through the legislature.*

**Question:** Criteria you might have if you were to terminate the president or how you define best interests of the university.

*Answer: Everything is confidential with personnel. "Failure to do the job." The same reason that any one of us would be terminated. The board would have to decide what that means. The president has a contract, so if the president is found to be in violation of that contract, then a process begins of re-evaluation, based on performance.*

*We do this job because we love this university. There is no compensation. The trustees travel to every committee meeting, sometimes three and four hours away. There is not even a reimbursement for gas. We do it because we care about the university. I hope we can move forward with a new leaf and a new president, that y'all can see that every decision we make, it is because it's what we think is best for the university. There is no benefit for the board members. 13 of the 15 board members are Winthrop Alumni. They are doing this because they have the best interest of the university at heart. They make decisions at a much higher level. That's sometimes difficult to understand. They are also privy to information that can't be made public (financial or political information). There needs to be trust on both sides. We never let political influence impact our decisions as a board.*

#### **IV. Report from the President (George Hynd)**

- We had a scholarship and donor luncheon today. It went longer than I'd intended.*
- We are in conversation with president elect Serna (keeping him up to date with daily business of the university & various initiatives).*
- WU plan had a five year admin review and is available on the president's website. It goes into the metrics & projections about how those metrics might look in the future.*
- Very quick snapshot: generally speaking, goal five, was deemed most successful, 65% of the metrics were meant. Goal one, only 45% of metrics were meant. 8 target metrics were met over the last five years (scholarships, lower debt ratio, etc). Six metrics were not met (alumni giving rate, student satisfaction with support services, etc).*
- We have some good data to move forward. Under the new president, WU plan may change under his guidance. This review will be informative to him.*
- State of University address will be virtual later this week.*
- During the state of university, Pres. will go over the six initiatives.*
- Pres. Farewell reception on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11AM. All faculty and staff are invited.*

#### **Question: Tom Polaski**

2:58 PM

In your email of April 14, you noted that "Consultants also will be used to analyze our academic offerings in light of market analysis, student demand, and higher education trends." Can you explain how this initiative relates to the Academic Master Plan, which administrators, faculty and staff have expended effort on over the past academic year?

*Answer: Dr. Serna is excited about all of these issues. He also has every right to ask for more analysis in developing his strategic plan during his term as president.*

**V. Report from the Provost & Division of Finance (Adrienne McCormick & Justin Oates)**

- Provost thanks all those involved with SACSCOC work & Spring ACUE Trainees.*
- New ACUE Training in Summer and Fall courses available. Please refer to powerpoint slides from Provost's report.*
- Dean Beth Green Costner will begin as dean of the college of ed. in fall.*
- New Tenure and Promotion approval process worked well.*
- new tenure recipients were congratulated and honored.*
- new full professor promotions were congratulated and honored.*
- New associate professors were congratulated and honored.*
- There were some metrics shared about loss of faculty and staff. (refer to slides).*
- we ran ten TT searches this year.*
- We are at a 12:1 faculty to student ratio.*
- Deans have autonomy to make decisions in their units.*
- Some staff personnel updates were shared here, seven successful staff searches.*
- Enrollment updates (see slides): we've closed the gaps on our admits.*
- We've most definitely got admits news out earlier and that's been a benefit.*
  
- Budget (Justin) (please refer to his slides)*
- information numbers were shared regarding the financial outlook, some of which is uncertain. There are a few highlights as follows:*
- we need a reduction of 8.2 million dollars across the board.*
- we are reducing faculty, staff and admin*
- Our net position is the highest it has been in years.*
- of our total budget, 70% is tuition. Our undergrad has gone down 18%. Our revenue budget has gone down 11% and we no longer receive emergency funds.*

**Question: • Geust**

3:27 PM

If the state reimburses the demolition of the residence halls, what then happens to the \$3.3M that is available from the Fy22 net position balance?

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**Adrienne McCormick**

3:28 PM

Geust (Guest?) Those funds are restricted to capital investments, regardless of what project we spend them on.

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**Geust**

3:29 PM

Geust is correct. But, I'm curious about whether or not other capital needs will be addressed.

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**Adrienne McCormick**

3:30 PM

Oh yes, there are many capital expenditures planned for next year that are not being funded out of net position.

*Answer (Justin): It's capitals and auxiliaries. I'm not sure of how much the state would give us. Those expenditures are not outlined here. Auxiliary funds can only be used on residence hall and dining facilities, for example.*

*-facilities timelines website can be found here:  
[winthrop.edu/facilitymgmt/projects.aspx](http://winthrop.edu/facilitymgmt/projects.aspx)*

## **VI. Report from Academic Council (Alice McLaine)**

*-(please also refer to slides for specific language on summary of course approvals, recertification processes, new concentrations, program modifications, the cultural events committee guidelines changes too cultural events, )*

*-thanks were offered to those who brought forth proposals and to those who did significant work in committees this year.*

**- Casey Cothran**

3:46 PM

I've heard repeated critiques of these Cultural events revisions... will they be voted on or discussed by anyone other than the committee?

*Answer (Matt Ferrell): There have been no changes, just clarifications, what the original guidelines stated, etc.*

*-There were many comments about what culture is and some discussion.*

*-There was a motion to suspend this discussion until later made by Jo Koster and seconded by Dr. Brownson.*

*-Proposals from the student success and retention workgroup were (please refer to slides for exact language)*

*-Proposals were made from the Registrar (please refer to slides).*

*-There was some discussion here about withdrawal dates being too late and the difference between a UF and/or F. (please refer to chat/video recording)*

*-All these proposals were voted on via Qualtrics survey.*

**VII. Report from The Rules Committee Chair (Arran Hamm)**

*-Some changes to language in the bylaws were proposed here. (Please refer to slides)*

*-Voted on via Qualtrics survey.*

*-Motion to put on next FC agenda by Jo Koster. Second by Dr. Brownson.*

**VIII. Report from FCUP Chair-Michael Matthews**

*-FCUP members were thanked.*

*-Some things that were discussed in FCUP:*

*-Better Communication with admin about budget cuts*

*-Enrollment, marketing discussions were had with administration*

*-Requesting a calendar for all HR training*

*-Still asking for salary compensation study to be released*

*-Key performance indicators and accountability metrics*

*-Working on updating the Winthrop mission statement*

*-Covid and mask policy*

*-President and Provost were thanked.*

**IX. Report from Council of Student Leaders (Erin Emiroglu)**

*-They are working on doing something for faculty. This student wasn't able to attend.*

**X. Report from the Registrar's Office (Gina Jones)**

*-Important dates for due dates of final grades were shared (please refer to slides or your email).*

*-The scheduling software is live, targeting August 1<sup>st</sup> as a go live date.*

**XI. Unfinished Business**

*-None.*



**XII. New Business, Proposed Resolution, Elections (Jennifer Jordan)**

*-Several positions are open for elections.*

*-Nominations: Alex Perri (Academic Council)*

*-Move to close nominations: Wanda Koszewski and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Brownson.*

*-Voting to take place via Qualtrics link.*

*-Resolution from USC was introduced:*

*-the FC chair asked for personal responses and we can revisit this again in the fall.*

**XIII. Announcements (Kimarie Whetstone and Patrice Bruneau)**

*-Jane LaRoche's comments were in the chat.*

*-Patrice's comments: ongoing projects, security cameras, emergency phones, wifi upgrades, classroom tech, phone systems...a lot of these upgrades were done for matters of security, especially in residence halls. Please visit the technology Winthrop page for updates on these and other tech updates at Winthrop.*

*-Kimarie's comments: [tinyurl.com/SP22WOOLUpdates](https://tinyurl.com/SP22WOOLUpdates)  
(updates from office of online learning)*

**XIV. Adjournment**

*-Motion to adjourn by Jo Koster ; Seconded by Alex Perri*

*-Meeting Adjourned at 5 PM*