

**Faculty Conference Minutes**  
**Frances May Barnes Recital Hall**  
**April 13, 2001**

**I. Approval of Minutes From March 16, 2001 Faculty Conference Minutes**

A motion to conduct business in the absence of a quorum was made, seconded, and approved. The March 16, 2001 Faculty Conference Minutes were approved as presented.

**II. Report from the April 6, 2001 Board of Trustees Meetings – Dr. Jim Johnston**

Dr. Johnston reported on the meetings for Board's Academic Affairs, University Relations, and Finance committees and on the Board's meeting. The Academic Affairs Committee received an update on the SACS accreditation visit, the general education program review, and the status of the Masters of Arts in Arts Administration, which is being submitted to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for approval in April. The Committee was also updated on the Dalton Chair in Environmental Sciences recruiting process, the CHE notification for a center on cell and molecular studies, and Title II reporting for the Richard W. Riley College of Education.

The University Relations Committee was updated on proposed NCAA changes tying the number of scholarships to graduation rates. Birmingham Southern will be joining the Big South Conference in 2003. University Advancement reported that \$21 to \$22 million of the \$26 million goal has been raised. The campaign ends in November 2002. Student Life reported an increase in fall admissions of 24% and 12% for transfer students and freshmen, respectively. The food service contract with ARA will be formalized in July. Resident Life's campaign for increasing dormitory retention was reviewed.

The Finance Committee reviewed the 2000-2001 budget. The Committee was informed that the University might be required to return \$250,000 to the State for the current fiscal year. No news was received on state funding for 2001-2002 academic year. The Sims contractor expects the renovation to be completed in July 2001. Individuals walking through the facility expect a completion date in October or November.

During the meeting of the full Board, Dr. Herring of Dacus Library indicated that the library has eight months of capacity remaining and a new or renovated library is required. In the past, costs were estimated at \$27-\$28 million for a new facility. Dr. Herring estimates costs of \$17-\$18 million. About five years are required for obtaining the necessary state funding. The advantages and disadvantages of sharing libraries with Rock Hill/York were presented. The disadvantages appeared to outnumber the advantages.

The Board was also advised that the SGA is reviewing the present student government structure. The Board passed a resolution commending Dr. Nic Ross and Dr. Sarah Stallings, and Ms. Christie Goodner on the SACS self-study. Dr. Johnston gave congratulations on behalf of the faculty. The Board was informed of the end to the publication of the *Tatler*. The executive offices will investigate other options as a group of students try to revive the publication for next year. The President reported on next year's budget. General funding expectations include an 8-10% decrease. The amount of the bond bill is still unknown. The Richard W. Riley College of Education's counseling programs received their initial accreditation for a seven-year period. Congratulations to the College. The University is involved in the Urban Core planning activities. The Board of Trustees' next meeting will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> when the Board sets next year's tuition and finalizes the budget if state funding levels are known.

**III. Report from the President – Dr. Anthony J. DiGiorgio**

President DiGiorgio is out of town attending a meeting of college presidents. Brien Lewis reported on behalf of the President. Appreciation was expressed for this year's successes. A budget update includes the House's plan for a 10.7% funding decrease and no decrease in the Governor's plan. The Senate is presently working on a plan. The House's version of the bond bill includes \$7 million for the West Center. The Senate is not supporting a bond bill. Appreciation and congratulations were given to Macfeat Laboratory School for their recent accreditation. Appreciation and congratulations were also given on the SACS accreditation. This year's review resulted in six recommendations and four commendations. Typically, institutions receive an average of 23 recommendations.

**IV. Committee Reports**

General Education – Professor Marilyn Sarrow

The six faculty members for the Human Experience II inquiry course will be appointed next week and will design the course during the summer. This fall, the evaluations for spring's Human Experience I will be reviewed. Both courses will be offered this fall. Three individuals will study the feasibility of offering a course focusing on one area of the world each year. A proposal includes offering a one-hour course on the global community experience and

includes cultural events. Professor Bud Katter wrote a grant to supplement the critical thinking work. The grant requires examining critical thinking in other courses and training faculty on incorporating critical thinking in their courses. This summer the General Education Task Force will address five problems. The problems involve student retention, the role of CISM in retention, dealing with intensive writing and oral communication, problems associated with transfer students, and the technical competencies. The SACS visiting team complimented Winthrop on the general education project. The outer core will be presented next to the faculty in the fall.

Academic Council – Dr. Will Thacker

The Council approved studying the global community experience.

Committee on Faculty Personnel – Dr. Jean Silagyi-Rebovich

The Committee moved that the Rules Committee study the election tallying procedures as prescribed in the faculty manual and compare the procedures with the Kerley method of tallying election results as noted at the bottom of the web page for *Math Links* found on the Department of Mathematics' web site. The purpose is to ensure that the two methods are one and the same and provide consistent results. It is further moved that the Rules Committee will report its findings and, if any, recommendations to the Faculty Conference during the Fall 2001 term. No second was required. The motion was approved.

Faculty Concerns – Dr. Janice Chism

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met with Brien Lewis and Frank Ardaiole. President DiGiorgio was ill and Dr. Wilson was out of town. Topics discussed at the most recent meeting included summer school salaries. At the last meeting with President DiGiorgio, the Committee was promised a copy of a summer school salary survey to be completed by Francis Marion University. The survey was not completed. Winthrop administration is encouraged to investigate faculty summer school salaries and ensure that the salaries are competitive. The administration is also encouraged to investigate ways to energetically promote summer school.

**V. Old Business**

There was not any old business.

**VI. New Business**

The Board's manual documents that the Chair of the Faculty Conference is to participate in the meetings of the Academic Affairs Committee. Because the three Board Committees meet simultaneously, no faculty representative participates in the meetings of the University Affairs and Finance Committees. Dr. Johnston will recommend to the Board that the chair of the faculty's Budget Priorities Committee be a codified member of the Financial Affairs Committee. Meanwhile, Dr. Johnston will encourage committee-meeting attendance by the Budget Priorities Committee Chair.

A conference member recommended that the University's representative to the Urban Core seek faculty input on topics discussed in the Urban Core's planning sessions.

**VII. Announcements**

The Graduate Faculty Conference will meet before the standing committee meetings. The standing committees are asked to wait until all committee members are present before electing chairs.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The Faculty Conference adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele C. Henderson  
Faculty Conference Secretary