

Winthrop University Faculty Conference
April 25, 2003
2:00 pm
Barnes Recital Hall

I. Approval of March 21, 2003 Faculty Conference Minutes

Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. 20% of faculty were present; a motion was taken to do business and was approved. The minutes of the March 21 Faculty Conference were approved.

II. Welcome

Dr. Smith presented several items from the April 11 Board of Trustees meeting. As faculty representative, she serves on the Academic Affairs Committee and noted the following activities: Dr. Wilson reported on the status of this year's recruiting efforts and the Intellectual Property Rights proposal that will be submitted to the Board from Academic Council. The Intellectual Rights Proposal will be an administrative decision with Academic Council feedback as part of the process. Dr. Tuttle asked for more information regarding positions that were frozen and the impact on the balance of full-time and part-time faculty. Dr. Smith noted that the Board was sensitive to this issue. Mr. Thompson, Chair of the Committee, noted that the recent "internal promotions reflect the level of talent we have here at Winthrop." Dr. Smith reported on the status of the implementation of the new general education program. This report was also e-mailed to members of Faculty Conference. Finally, the College of Education presented on the Teaching Fellows Program, which demonstrated the high quality students in the College of Education. Also, the Board saw a demonstration of many of the features of a smart classroom that can be used to facilitate and enhance learning. The presentation was done by life sciences faculty and students and academic computing staff.

At the full Board of Trustees meeting, the Board recognized Drs. Moore, Boyd, and Smith on their recent promotions. In his report from the Academic Affairs Committee, Mr. Thompson noted that the General Education revision is a rare effort for a public university as it pulls together three distinct aspects: interdisciplinary teaching, the infusion of writing across the curriculum, and the development of critical thinking. He stated that the result is quite distinctive, and he extended congratulations to all who were part of the revision process. Dr. Martin reported state budget cuts; it was unknown whether tuition increases will be capped this year. The University Relations Committee had received reports from University Advancement, the Alumni Association, Admissions, and Athletics, and they have reviewed student publication and student leadership programs.

New Student Representative Richard Fowler will be the Chair of the Council of Student Leaders for the 2003-2004 academic year. Mr. Fowler is a rising sophomore from Dallas, North Carolina and represents the Resident Students Association on the Council. Andrew Markners, the current Student Representative to the Board, reviewed the Resolution passed by the Council of Student Leaders, encouraging the trustees to pursue funding of the Lois Rhame West Center by student fees.

Dr. DiGiorgio presented the Board with the latest state budget cuts and projected cuts. He also announced that in the just released preliminary rating evaluation for Performance Funding, Winthrop University had scored 2.94 or 98%, thereby earning a "substantially exceeds" rating. The Board recognized the hard work of the faculty and staff with resounding applause. Dr. Smith likewise led Faculty Conference in applause. The next Board meeting will be held the first weekend in June, and Dr. Smith will present her report in August at the next Faculty Conference.

III. Report from the President

Dr. DiGiorgio was unable to attend today's Faculty Conference; however, he had sent his Faculty Update via email on April 24.

IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Melford Wilson was unable to attend today's Faculty Conference because of illness.

V. Committee Reports

Dr. Ginger Williams, Chair of Academic Council, was at a conference, so Dr. Smith reviewed some CUI items; these did not require a vote from Faculty Conference. Also, Kathy Lyon, director of the Honors program, brought forth a proposal for changes in the Honors program that would include a service learning component and the creation of a study abroad option. Dr. Lyon had made this proposal in March 1999; however, action was delayed to accommodate the changes in general education. The proposal creates two options for receiving an Honors Program Degree; the only difference is that the International Honors Program Degree requires international experience. Both degrees would require students to take the following: Writing 101H (if needed), GNED 102H, CRTW 201H, three Honors courses in the major, an Honors Symposium, a Co-op inside major or CMVS 201, Thesis in Major, and HONR 451- Thesis Symposium. The proposal passed unanimously. Dr. Jo Koster also reported that Academic Council had approved a change in the oral intensive/writing requirement. To qualify for writing intensive status, courses would still have to require at least 4000 words of writing but teachers are now able to determine the number of assignments. Some other minor changes have been made to the requirements, and the new regulations will be distributed to all departments. A clarification was also made in regard to the College of Education Competency Review Program about what a student needs for certification and for completion of the program.

Brien Lewis, Chair of the Nature and Character of Winthrop University Committee, noted that the group was meeting the following Tuesday. He hoped to have something for faculty review before summer and noted the committee's appreciation of feedback.

Alice Burmeister, Chair of Faculty Concerns, spoke about items covered in the April 17 meeting with President DiGiorgio. These included salaries for part-time faculty, summer salaries, graduate programs, the decision-making process for the allocation of buildings or spaces to particular academic areas, the Faculty/Staff portion of the Capital Campaign, and a proposal to amend the Faculty Manual to state that Winthrop will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Jennifer Solomon reported from REACH (Winthrop Retention and Student Achievement Project). Based on research, the group found that students left Winthrop because of academic or social reasons. REACH has created support strategies to reach these students including a web site (www.winthrop.edu/retention), a proposal to provide academic support for all freshmen with GPAs below 2.0, and a revision of the Advising toolkit. She thanked the people who had participated in these projects for all of their hard work and encouraged suggestions from the rest of the faculty.

Other annual committee reports were provided in attachments. There were no other oral reports.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

Will Thacker presented a resolution to honor Melford Wilson for Meritorious Service to Winthrop University. This resolution was passed.

Marilyn Smith thanked Faculty Conference for electing her to serve as Chair for next year. She clarified that she would still be able to serve because the Gen Ed position that she was recently appointed to is a 50-75% administrative position with her teaching one class each semester or in summer school for a 10 ½ month appointment. The Faculty Manual states that administrative officers and department chairs may not serve as Chair of Faculty Conference; however, she has no one to supervise. As director of Gen Ed, her role will be primarily to disseminate information. Consequently, her role will not produce a conflict in her duties as Chair.

VIII. Announcements

Dwight Dimaculangan announced that there would be a Graduate Faculty Assembly after the meeting. Tim Druke reminded the faculty about grading deadlines. Finally, Dr. Smith noted that the following Committees would meet after Faculty Conference to hold elections for chairs: Academic Council, Academic Freedom and Tenure, Admissions Advisory, Budget Priorities, Faculty Concerns, Faculty Personnel, General Education, Graduate Council, Library, Petitions, and Rules.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kelly L. Richardson
Faculty Conference Secretary