

**Winthrop University Faculty Conference**  
**August 19, 2005**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Plowden Auditorium**

**I. Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2005 Faculty Conference**

At 2:00 pm, Dr. Timothy K. Daugherty, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order in the presence of a quorum of the membership. Minutes from the April 22, 2005 meeting were approved.

**II. Welcome and report from June 3, 2005 Board of Trustees Meeting**

After a brief welcome from Dr. Daugherty, Dr. Marilyn Smith (immediate past chair of Faculty Conference) gave a comprehensive report of the activities of the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustees meeting. Dr. Smith highlighted some of the important accomplishments and goals reported by the Academic Vice President and each of the Deans or their representatives. Of particular note, are President DiGiorgio's budget presentation to the board, which stressed Winthrop's goal of being "one of the best of its kind," and the board's evaluation of the President's performance as "Exceeding Expectations" and the extension of his contract by three years to June 2011. Also noted were the overall academic achievement of Winthrop's student-athletes (2.94 GPA) and the attention being paid by both faculty and students to issues of academic integrity. Dr. Smith concluded with a quotation from President DiGiorgio that he is hopeful about the university's ability to work with state legislators in the coming years.

At the conclusion of the report, Dr. Daugherty called for applause to thank Dr. Smith for her dedicated leadership of Faculty Conference and representation of the faculty to the University Board of Trustees over three years.

**III. Report from the President**

Dr. DiGiorgio also expressed his thanks to Dr. Smith for her leadership and for the good working relationship he enjoyed with her. After an initial meeting with Dr. Daugherty, he looks forward to a similar relationship.

The President indicated that he wanted to avoid excessive repetition of items he has presented at various venues, typical of the opening of the academic year. In particular, he encouraged those who were unable to attend his opening address to access it online through the "President's Office" page of the Winthrop website.

He offered a few details of interest to the faculty that warrant emphasis or were not included in the opening address:

- Winthrop is participating with some 40 other institutions in a new project sponsored by the Lumina Foundation: The Collegiate Learning Assessment Longitudinal Study. "Every freshman this year will participate in a baseline assessment activity for this project. Participation in the Lumina Learning Assessment project will enable us to more deeply study our student outcomes over a four-year period and use that information to improve continuously our work over time" (Opening Address).
- Winthrop has received a federal grant of \$200,000 per year for 4 years to fund the TRIO program, administered through University College, aimed at academic support of students, especially those who are first generation college students in their families.
- Winthrop is aggressively seeking Title III grants to support activities germane to our central purpose as a university.

- Winthrop is participating with a select group of South Carolina institutions in a consortium known by the acronym INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence). This is a cooperative effort with an emphasis on biomedical “overlay” to enhance our already excellent program in biology. The program is funded by a grant of some \$400,000 per year over 5 years.

He also addressed some public policy items:

- The TERI program – the SC legislature recently passed two new regulations:
  - Persons who are participating in TERI who are not yet retired are required as of July 1 to make a greater contribution (6.25%) to the program. A lawsuit has been filed against this rule by four individuals, but it is not deemed a class-action suit at this time.
  - All employees are required to make the increased contribution to their retirement program effective 7-1-05. This was challenged, however, since paychecks for July 1 reflect earnings in June. The state acknowledged this error, and restitution for withdrawals made on July 1 will be made in the September 1 paychecks. (For further information on this, contact Cheryl Southworth or refer to her June 22 email and attached SCRS newsletter.)
- There are three additional legislative bills that Winthrop has been tracking because of the potential effect they may have on our mission:
  - Senate Bill 114, which originally included language about whether or not alternatives to evolution should be taught in all public high schools, has been converted to a “milder” version that states that all instructional materials on an approved list for use in public schools should address the specific academic standards adopted by the state Board of Education. This bill has passed the Senate and is pending in the House. Winthrop is somewhat confident that if this bill becomes law it will not be worrisome, but the amendment process will be carefully monitored as the bill progresses. Further information will be disseminated if response from the Winthrop community seems appropriate.
  - House Bill 3361 was introduced to stipulate a penalty (unspecified) if faculty members deviate from syllabi without their dean’s permission. This bill went nowhere, as expected.
  - Senate Bill 909 was introduced to call for a curriculum for K-12 students to hear a “full range of scientific views.” We think this will have a fate similar to the aforementioned bill, but we are monitoring it and consulting with peer institutions for any possible response.
- The task force on a smoke-free campus submitted its report in the spring and the Winthrop leadership has decided to accept the recommendations made in the report to make the campus a totally smoke-free area. Because there are many implementation issues, the university will take a full year to study how best to take steps toward establishing a smoke-free campus. The new Kinard seating area is not designed to be a smoking area now or in future.
- Making left turns from Oakland Avenue onto Eden Terrace is now not permitted in an effort to increase safety and reduce collisions. Please observe this regulation.
- The President concluded with wishes for a “great year” for the University community.

#### **IV. Report from the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Moore welcomed all to a new academic year and encouraged everyone to read the Vision of Distinction in its entirety, but particularly called attention to the Academic Life section where strategic goals for the year are spelled out in detail. He highlighted especially the delivery of all the components of the new General Education program and the continued effort to intensify focus on student learning as the centerpiece of the University's mission. He called attention to the fact that this can be termed a "bulge year" in which juniors and seniors will be experiencing the last of the "old" General Education program while freshmen and sophomores are going through the fully implemented "new" program. A key issue for this year is the discussion of the importance and focus on "deep learning." He is charging the deans, and they in turn the department chairs, to engage the faculty in special attention to this concept of student learning and how it is promoted and accomplished. An important part of the discussion is continued review of faculty roles and rewards: how we look at what faculty do to promote student deep learning and how we reward that effort. He encouraged all to be a part of that discussion.

He stressed that as a full-time administrator he loves his work but is daily aware that the work he does only has meaning because it is based on what faculty do to deliver our educational programs and promote student learning. We "live the institution into being" every day. If it is not what it should be, we should be discussing what we can do. He stated he is excited about watching the faculty bring about both what the university is and should be and joining in the conversation on how that happens.

He recognized three faculty members who are returning from sabbatical years: Dr. Timothy Boylan, Dr. Seymour Simmons, and Dr. Jordan Cao.

Dr. Moore then introduced the deans who introduced new faculty.

Dean Debra Boyd, College of Arts and Sciences, first mentioned several faculty members who have taken on new roles:

Dr. Joe Prus – new chair of the Department of Psychology

Dr. Jon Marx – acting chair of the Sociology department during Dr. Doug Eckberg's sabbatical year

Dr. Gloria Jones – sole chair of the English department, as Dr. Marge Tebo-Messina devotes more time to the Teaching and Learning Center.

Dr. Kelly Richardson – director of Freshman Writing

Dr. Adolphus Belk – director of the African-American Studies Program

New faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences are:

Dr. Catalina Adams, Instructor in Spanish (PhD U.C. Davis)

Dr. James M. Hanna, Jr. – Assistant Professor of Chemistry (PhD U.C. San Diego)

Dr. Kristin B. Kiblinger – Assistant Professor of Religious Studies (PhD U. Chicago)

Dr. William P. Kiblinger – Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religious Studies (PhD Chicago)

Dr. Opolot J. Okia – Assistant Professor of History (PhD West Virginia)

Dr. Padmini H. Patwardan – Assistant Professor of Mass Communication (PhD So. Ill.)

Mr. Christopher D. Storie – Instructor in Geography (ABD Wilfrid Laurier U., Ontario, Canada)

Mr. Bradley G. Tripp – Instructor in Sociology (ABD Florida)

Dean Roger Weikle, College of Business Administration, introduced new faculty:

Dr. Lynn A. DeNoia – Professor of Computer Science (PhD Brown)

Dr. J. Bret Becton – Assistant Professor of Management (PhD Auburn)

Dr. Michael C. Matthews – Assistant Professor of Health Services Management (PhD Alabama, Birmingham)

Ms. Robin L. Soster – Visiting Assistant Professor of Marketing (MBA USC, Columbia)

Dean Patricia Graham, Richard W. Riley College of Education, introduced new faculty:

Ms. Abigail J. Armstrong – Instructor in Middle Level Education (MEd Winthrop)  
Ms. Christi P. Knight – Instructor in Early Childhood Education (MEd Winthrop)  
Dr. Mary B. Martin – Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership (PhD UNC Chapel Hill)  
Dr. Mark W. Mitchell – Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership (EdD Arkansas)  
Dr. Deana R. Peterson – Assistant Professor of Special Education (EdD Virginia Tech)  
Dr. Nakia S. Pope – Assistant Professor of Social Foundations of Education (PhD Virginia)  
Dr. Carolyn C. Shields – Associate Professor of Educational Psychology (PhD USC Columbia)  
Dr. Warren D. Sipp – Assistant Professor of Health and Phys. Ed. (PhD. Pittsburgh)  
Ms. Carolyn B. Thackston – Instructor in Family and Consumer Sciences (MAT Winthrop Coll)  
Dr. Linda Winter – Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology (PhD Georgia)  
Ms. Elaine A. Young – Instructor of Elementary Education (Doc. cand. USC, Columbia)

Acting Dean Donald Rogers of the College of Visual and Performing Arts announced that Dr. Jeannie Woods will take on the additional responsibility as Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Rogers also introduced new faculty in the College

#### Art & Design

Mr. G. David Brown – Asst. Professor of Illustration (MA Univ. Texas, SW Med Center, Dallas)  
Ms. Jennifer Belk – Asst. Professor of Interior Design – (MArtEd Virginia Commonwealth)  
(began in January 2005)

#### Music

Ms. Connie Hale – Instructor Elem. Music Education (Ph.D. cand. Kansas State Univ.)

#### Theatre & Dance

Dr. Andrew Vorder Bruegge – Chair and Assoc. Prof. Theatre & Dance (Ph.D. U. Missouri)  
Ms. Stacy G. McConnell – Asst. Prof. of Dance (MFA Florida State)

#### Exchange Program

Prof. Tellef Juva – Visiting Artist in Music (Piano)  
From Agder University, Kristiansand, NORWAY  
Exchange with Dr. Eugene Barban for ½ a semester

### **VII. Committee Reports and Introduction of 2005-2006 Committee Chairs**

A. Academic Council – Dr. Frank Pullano, chair, announced that Academic Council will meet on September 9; agenda will go out on September 2. He asked that anyone, particularly deans and chairs, who want to receive the agenda, should contact him.

- He also announced that CUI members this year will be Dr. Clarence Coleman, Business Administration (chair), Dr. Rebecca Evers, Education, and representatives from Arts and Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts are yet to be named.

- Finally, Dr. Thomas Polaski is the new chair of the General Education Committee.

#### B. Other Committees

i. University Task Force on Academic and Institutional Integrity – for the benefit of new faculty, Dr. Alice Burmeister explained that the task force has enjoyed two years of good work and progress in promoting discussion of issues of integrity. It remains to be seen what form the task force will take on in the coming year, but she encouraged all to be aware and involved in the work of promoting greater academic and institutional integrity.

C. Introduction of Chairs for the Standing Committees of Faculty Conference

Dr. Daugherty introduced the chairs for the following standing committees:

- Dr. Jean Silagyi-Rebovich, Academic Freedom and Tenure
- Dr. Chlotia Garrison, Admissions Advisory
- Dr. Jo Koster, Budget Priorities
- Dr. Louis Pantusco (Fall) & Dr. Julian Smith (Spring), Faculty Concerns
- Dr. Sandra Wilson, Faculty Personnel
- Dr. Anne Olsen, Library
- Dr. Clarence Coleman, Petitions
- Dr. Frank Pullano, Academic Council
- Dr. Beth Costner, Rules

**VIII. Unfinished Business** – none

**IX. New Business** – none

**X. Announcements**

- Dr. Jennifer Solomon announced the Rock Hill and Winthrop appearances of Cedric Jennings, subject of the common book for this academic year, *Hope in the Unseen*.
- Dr. Solomon also called attention to the “Academic Success Communities” that have been formed to promote student learning and invited faculty to participate as appropriate.
- Thirdly, Dr. Solomon recalled the President’s remarks on the TRIO grant and mentioned that Rose Gray has been hired to direct this program of support for students. She thanked Dean Debra Boyd for providing space in Kinard Hall for this program.
- Dr. Moore encouraged all to attend Convocation on Monday, August 22.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3 P.M.

**Next Faculty Conference meeting will be Friday, September 30.**