

**Winthrop University Faculty Conference**  
**April 22, 2005**  
**2:00 pm**  
**Recital Hall**

**I. Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2005 Faculty Conference**

At 2:00, Dr. Marilyn Smith, Chair of Faculty Conference, called the meeting to order and entertained a motion to do business, which was approved. The minutes from the March 4, 2005 Faculty Conference were approved.

**II. Welcome and report from April 8, 2005 Board of Trustees Meeting**

Dr. Smith then reported on the activities from the April 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees Meeting, beginning with the Academic Affairs committee. She shared that Dr. Moore reported about the progress related to GNED 102, CRTW 201, the implementation of the new general education program while still offering the previous program, the Masters of Social Work program, faculty recruitment, the graduate program reviews, and the participation in the AACU Institute this year.

Next, the deans shared information from their respective academic units. Dean Boyd noted that the College of Arts and Sciences had hosted social work and science meetings this spring. Dean Weikle reported on the strategic planning retreat the College of Business Administration had held in the spring, and that a team of students had won the Students in Free Enterprise award. Dean Herring reported on PASCAL implementation and savings. Dean Lewis reported on the Common Book for 2005, TLC orientation for staff, and Honors students' presentations at conferences. Dean Svedlow shared information about the review of roles and rewards for VPA faculty, summer programs for 13-18 year olds, the Master of Arts in Arts Administration, and the organ repair campaign. Dean Graham, Dr. Sue Peck, and Dr. Barbara Blackburn then gave a presentation on the Master of Education in Middle Level Education. Current students, graduates, and a middle school principal discussed the value of the program.

Dr. Smith then noted that at the meeting of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees, the following visitors were introduced: Dr. Tim Daugherty, 2005-2007 Chair of the Faculty and Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees as well as Mr. Willie Lyles, 2005-2006 Chair of the Council of Student Leaders and Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. She then reported that the Finance Committee brought forth a proposal to issue \$17 million in State Institutional Bonds for the construction of the Lois Rhame West Health and Physical Education Center. Next, Dr. Smith noted that the University Relations Committee heard reports about the successful Alumni Weekend and the Reunion Weekend, Winthrop's NCAA Academic Progress Rate, the completion of our Big South Compliance Review, and the renewal of the bookstore contract with Follett for a ten-year, rather than five-year term.

Dr. Smith's report to the Board included updates on program revisions, updated definitions of Cultural Events and the corresponding Guidelines, our "Recommended Practices for Winthrop Faculty Regarding the Disposal of Examination Copies of

Textbooks,” campus discussions sponsored by the Task Force on Academic and Institutional Integrity, and the issues discussed by the Faculty Concerns Committee. She noted that the Student Representative to the Board reported that the students have been very involved in the Relay for Life and have raised \$24,000 for cancer research.

Finally, she stated that all of the items from Dr. DiGiorgio’s report to the Board were included in his presentation to the faculty and staff on April 12 and 13 except the two following items: 1) our efforts against having dual GPA calculations for scholarship calculations and 2) the April 27 election by the General Assembly of a new Board member to replace Mr. Bob Thompson.

### **III. Report from the President**

Dr. DiGiorgio began by noting the upcoming Alumni/Reunion Weekend before focusing on state issues. He reminded faculty of the information that he has sent throughout the year reporting on the General Assembly. He stated that nothing has changed since his last report, but he provided a quick summary of the major events:

- we are going to lose about \$35,000 from this year’s budget
- we are not receiving any new money from the state
- the state has mandated a 4% salary increase
- this salary increase will cost Winthrop about \$800,000
- this additional money will come from tuition increases

Dr. DiGiorgio then discussed how the Life Sciences Act, which would provide \$225 million dollars for research universities, had been ruled unconstitutional and had to be “unbundled.” Parts of the Act are now going through slowly; some of these will be helpful to Winthrop, such as the ability to provide bonuses and to have the right of eminent domain. Dr. DiGiorgio then noted his campus presentations that laid out the future direction of Winthrop in programmatic elements and the infrastructure and physical development of the campus. He reminded faculty that these presentations were online, and that anonymous questions/comments could be made through the website.

The President next reflected on the year, beginning with some of Winthrop’s academic, faculty, and student achievements. He noted that we have had an excellent performance on accreditation and certification visits, which have set new standards. He then noted the highly successful launch of University College, which was created to help make student experiences more coherent and integrated. He noted the seamless integration before saying that ACAD 101 and the Common Book have been major additions. Also, University College has just received a TRIO grant, which will focus on first-generation and low-income students. As a part of the ethos of the Nature and Character of the University and University College, overall we have moved in policy and practice in making Winthrop residential by definition. Freshman students are required to live on campus, and residence halls are establishing and will continue to establish communities such as the successful Honors floors. We have also moved to a set of common academic experiences in the general education program. All of these movements should help to continue to challenge students. Also, we have significantly refined our approach to faculty-staff recruitment, which can be seen on the website, and he noted how the Nature and the Character of the institution is helping to distinguish Winthrop from other schools.

He next cited the extraordinary year of the TLC, with the highly successful WILL program. He also called the staff orientation program here a national model.

Dr. DiGiorgio then noted some individual and organizational student honors:

- Anna Vagstad was named the SC NCAA Woman of the Year.
- For the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years, one of our students will be a Ralph Bunche Political Science Scholar at Duke.
- Another student through an NSF grant will be studying in France this year. Over the life of this program, there have been 60 students, and we have sent 5% of the nation's students who have gone through the program.
- Resident Students' Association (RSA) has been named the best in the state and the Southeast, and it is now vying for a national title.
- Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) has been named the best in the region, and it is now vying for a national title.
- Dinkins Student Union has continued to receive national recognition for its work.
- Two students in Art and Design were in the top 100 in a program that had over 30,000 entries.

Other items that he cited included that we will continue dedicating monetary support for undergraduate research. Also, we are anticipating being a recipient of an INBRE grant, which will help to add a biomedical dimension to our curriculum. Our new enrollment management program, implemented this year, shows that we have about 4300 student applications, and we will select about 1100 of those. The Education Trust cited Winthrop as one of the top ten institutions in the nation for our percentage of minority students that we retain to graduation. He also noted that we have taken on some tough issues such as academic integrity, graduation requirements, smoking on campus, and neighborhood issues.

On the administrative side, the President stated that we have completed the development and financial plans for repositioning the heart of the campus. After Lois Rhame West, the Campus Center, and the Bancroft Tower classroom are built, the sole priority will be a new library. In terms of Energy Management, we have been able to make \$5.2 million of improvements without spending a penny; yearly savings of \$700,000 will be put back into university operations.

Overall, the President said that we have made great progress, and he thanked the faculty for its work. In the future, he says that we can continue to set our sights for nationally competitive awards and Phi Beta Kappa membership as well as move toward a greater international emphasis. While we continue to establish a national presence, the President said that it will also be important for us to stay grounded in our local community, of which Winthrop is a leading citizen. Following his comments, a question was posed about whether the 4% salary increase would be across the board or merit-based. He said that generally the raise is across the board if it is below 2% and if the statute requires that action. However, if Winthrop is given the capability, a merit-approach would more than likely be used.

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

Dr. Moore began by noting areas that we need to make some progress in: minority recruitment of faculty and staff as well as the conversation about faculty roles and rewards. Participation in the upcoming AACU summer Institute should help to re-energize those conversations. He then discussed the findings presented during the Academic Integrity panels and the ideas of Dan Wueste, and how these ideas of integrity connect with faculty roles and rewards and how we promote the pursuit of truth. Dr. Moore concluded by thanking faculty and reminding them that their work is what is the University's ultimate concern.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

Dr. Frank Pullano, Chair of Academic Council, began by thanking Tim Druke, Jo Koster (Chair of CUI), Bill Seyfried (Chair of Gen Ed), and Pat Ballard (Parliamentarian). He then stated the names of the outgoing and incoming members of Academic Council. Dr. Pullano then brought forth CUI items that required Faculty Conference approval: 1) to drop the minor of Mass Communication and 2) to create a new designator FACS, Family and Consumer Services. Both items were approved. The remaining CUI items did not need Faculty Conference approval. (Dr. Pullano had also distributed a copy of his report with these items for this meeting.)

Dr. Pullano then brought forth items from the General Education committee. Two items needed Faculty Conference approval: 1) having GEOL 201: Natural Disasters, which replaced GEOL 102, be approved as meeting the earth science component of the General Education program and 2) the elimination of a sentence from the General Education program that indicates that students would be required to complete some kind of writing course or General Education course with a writing component each academic year. Both items were approved.

Dr. Pullano brought the final item from Academic Council that would need Faculty Conference approval: a modification to the 36-hour rule for Bachelor of Arts degrees. The 2004 – 2005 Winthrop University Undergraduate Catalog states: *Not more than 36 semester hours in any one subject may be applied toward a Bachelor of Arts degree.* The proposed change would read:

*Not more than 36 semester hours in any one subject designator may be applied toward the major for a Bachelor of Arts degree. A student may elect to apply an additional 6 semester hours in the same subject designator toward general electives, general education distribution requirements, or a minor with the exception of the social sciences minor.*

Before conducting a vote, Dr. Pullano shared that Karen Jones had researched other comparable institutions to determine if they have such a rule. He also researched university archives to determine when this rule was first developed. Some discussion took place about whether individual departments could restrict the hours, and an amendment was made to include the phrase “unless limited by the major program” to allow for departments to have some control. After discussion, this amendment was approved. The amended proposal was then amended again to include the phrase “up to 6 additional hours.” The proposal with these two amendments was approved.

Dr. John Bird, Chair of Faculty Concerns, reported that the committee had discussed nine issues with the President in its March 29 meeting:

- *Faculty participation in controversial and partisan issues such as the recent evolution discussions:* The President stated that we should let administration know when we have concerns. Faculty can take sides in partisan issues, but we should not use school resources or lobby on school property.
- *Questions about the workplace violence policy and process:* The President stated that this policy was a state requirement and involves everyone; any faculty member who came under this policy would go through normal personnel procedures.
- *Smoke-Free campus proposal and policy:* The President stated there has been no decision yet, but the committee expressed concern that (as with the workplace violence policy) the proposal did not go through faculty governance. The President stated that it involved not just the faculty but the entire university community. The committee requested that communication take place with the faculty about future developments, and he expressed a willingness to do this.
- *Identification of administrative staff who have Faculty/Staff status:* A list from Human Resources was provided.
- *Concern about potential identity theft with the use of SSN numbers on university paperwork:* The President stated that this was being worked on, and it should be resolved in the next couple of months. Then, Tim Drueke announced that campus identification numbers had been mailed out this morning. Currently this campus id number will only be used for Wingspan, but it will be used in the future for university paperwork such as Travel Reimbursement forms.
- *Concern about the start of the spring semester:* The response was that no alternatives exist currently.
- *The management of the golf course:* The administration feels that the current monitors are satisfactory. A related question from that discussion dealt with the rumor of the imposition of fees for faculty for the new health center. The President stated that there will be additional costs, but there has not been any decision about these. There may be some fees, but, if there are fees, they will not be exorbitant.
- *Parking:* This concern does not really have any answers at this point.
- *An update on Faculty Salary raises and comparisons to other institutions:* The President noted the 4% increase, and Winthrop's relative position remains about the same when compared to other institutions with The Citadel as first, the College of Charleston second, and Winthrop third. These standings are affected by out-of-state students, and while we will not change admissions, we may try to increase out-of-state tuition students from the current 17% to a targeted 25%.

Dr. Bird concluded by thanking the members of the committee and acknowledging the incoming chair, Dr. Lou Pantuosco.

Dr. Alice Burmeister, Chair of the Task Force on Academic and Institutional Integrity, thanked individuals who attended the Academic Integrity panel and presentation, calling them a "wonderful first step" in "creating an exploratory dialogue." Currently, the Task Force is at a crossroads, and the committee would welcome comments about future

directions. She thanked Dr. DiGiorgio, Dr. Moore, Dean Lewis, Dr. Joe Prus, the committee members, and the faculty.

Dr. Smith reminded faculty that additional reports were attached from the other committees because all committees are required to report at least once to Faculty Conference during the academic year.

#### **VI. Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **VII. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **VIII. Announcements**

- Registrar Tim Druke reminded faculty that grades are due on Thursday at 9 am for graduating seniors, and Monday at noon for other students.
- Brien Lewis described the TRIO grant (a 4-year grant for \$800,000 awarded by the Department of Education) that focuses on providing academic support services to disabled, first generation, and low-income students. Dean Lewis noted the helpful work from Institutional Research, Admissions, Financial Aid, and Enrollment Management in providing data, and Cheryl Fortner-Wood in compiling this data. Winthrop's application received high marks for this competitive grant. Also, University College is hoping to use this as a springboard to another grant proposal, a Title 3 Proposal to provide support to students across-the-board. This grant would be for \$350,000 a year for four or five years. An important part of this grant application is widespread campus consultation, and future emails/forums will be held in the development of this proposal.
- Dr. Jim Johnston reminded faculty of the Faculty/Staff Campaign.
- Dr. Kathy Lyon announced the Honors Thesis Colloquium.
- Dr. John Bird announced that there would be a Graduate Faculty Assembly immediately following Faculty Conference today.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, the faculty thanked Dr. Smith for serving as Faculty Conference chair. She responded by noting what a tremendous learning experience it has been and that she has found the best part to be hearing about all of the faculty work.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Richardson  
Faculty Conference Secretary