

**Winthrop University—Academic Council Minutes**  
**Friday, November 13, 2020, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

Kelly	Costner	COE
Kristen	Abernathy	CAS
Kori	Bloomquist*	CAS
DeAnn	Brame	Library
Alice	Burmeister	CVPA
Marguerite	Doman	COB
Erin	Hamel	COE
Jessie	Hamm	CAS
Matthew	Hayes	CAS
Dustin	Hoffman	CAS
Stacy	Martin	COE
Alice	McLaine	COE
Wendy	Sellers	CAS
Danko	Tarabar	CBA
Jason	Tselentis	CVPA
Jesse	Weser	CVPA
Michael	Whitney	CBA
Gina	Jones	Rec and Reg
Brandon	Jackson	Student

\*absent

Guests: Tim Drueke, Jamie Cooper, Adrienne McCormick, PN Saksena, Jeff Bellantoni, Sara English, Kyle Sweeney, Melissa Reeves, Takita Sumter, Adolphus Belk

- I. **Minutes** from the Friday, September 25, 2020—*approved by email*
- II. **Remarks from the Chair** (Kelly Costner)  
 Dr. Costner thanked everyone for their time especially with the additional meetings.
- III. **Remarks from the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs** (Adrienne McCormick)  
 See Appendix A for Power Point slides.  
 Regarding the Program health metrics, Dr. McCormick assured folks that this was not a process for eliminating programs this year.  
 She reminded everyone that Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> begins remote instruction for the rest of the semester.  
 Dr. Kelly Costner asked about “redundancy” in relation to program elimination. Dr.

McCormick talked about the BS in ATRN and MS ATRN taking over and also referred the upcoming Bachelor of Design making the BFA redundant. However, these are programs which are taking over from the other.

**IV. Remarks from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) (Brandon Jackson)**

Mr. Jackson indicated that students are unclear on the grading policy for the fall. He also said that students are burned out due to lack of breaks. Dr. Costner noted this was reflective of what faculty were seeing.

**V. Reports from Standing Committees**

**A. Committee on University Curriculum (Alice McLaine)**

Dr. McLaine noted that all curriculum actions considered on Friday November 6, 2020, required no further action beyond CUC, but discussion and further consideration are possible at the request of any AC member. There was no discussion.

**B. General Education Curriculum Committee (DeAnn Brame) Report from meeting on October 30, 2020**

Dr. Brame introduced two new certifications: PLSC 508, National Security Policy (GLOB) and NUTR 222, Intro to Nutrition Lab (NATS).

*Both were approved.*

**VI. Old/Ongoing Business**

**A. COVID-19 Grading System Research (requested by Faculty Conference on Friday, August 21, 2020)**

**1. Consider and list relevant data reviewed to date (See Appendix B)**

Dr. Abernathy compiled the data.

Dr. Costner suggested that the first question is, "Do we want to include a recommendation in this report?"

Dr. Wendy Sellers said the recommendation might provide a framework for Faculty Conference discussion.

Dr. Abernathy stated that if this is representative of all AC members, then we should put it forward.

Dr. Costner asked if there were any comments on the wording. There were none. He said that we actually have to do nothing as we are merely recommending going back to normal grading. He emphasized strong messaging to students, including noting in course syllabi.

Dr. Abernathy said this was especially important for first-semester freshmen as this [altered grading] was normal for them.

Dr. Costner talked about the impact. Mr. Drueke said we had no information from other

institutions [in-state, peer institutions] who have changed their grading system this semester.

## **2. Survey of faculty (on difficulties with the system) results (if available)**

Dr. Costner addressed the faculty difficulties with modified grading. He noted the survey just closed yesterday and there was no extensive analysis yet.

Dr. Sellers asked if we should share the raw data with all faculty. Dr. Costner said, "Yes, that is included in the appendix."

Dr. Sellers noted an even split between faculty who had challenges and those that didn't. Comments about communication were consistent.

Dr. Hayes is concerned that data may be premature as some professors were allowing students until the end of the term to submit all assignments.

Mr. Tselentis stated that we need to have confidence that our students will do what they need to do but does share Dr. Hayes' concern.

Dr. Sellers noted confusion over S/U in general. She asked if there was time to do more training. The comments [from the survey] went beyond the modified grading.

Dr. Costner spoke to the two emails he received about the modified grading.

Dr. Belk expects great discussion about the two motions and asked what the Council is prepared to do if these motions fail. He's concerned about quorum at the special called meeting of Faculty Conference this afternoon.

Dr. Sellers spoke to the S/U and the loophole. She said that if it doesn't pass, it doesn't pass. We have limited time. Regarding the advising, she understands there is a push by University College to get students registered.

Mr. Tselentis said that we put in the effort, and if doesn't pass, so be it.

Dr. Costner noted these were only for this semester.

Dr. McCormick said in her Provost's group in October, none of the other institutions had extended their pass/fail options at the time (Coastal, College of Charleston, Lander, USC Aiken, Clemson, SC State, and the Citadel.)

Dr. Costner questioned if other institutions had revised their stand.

Dr. Sellers said that there were many schools across the country who had extended their modified grading, including UNC-Chapel Hill, and she felt that sometimes SC schools were behind.

Dr. McCormick mentioned UNC's handling of the pandemic at the beginning of the semester.

**B. Proposal for Recommendation on Grading System for Spring 2021**

Dr. Abernathy said she would feel comfortable with sharing the data as a preliminary analysis until we see end of term grades.

Dr. Costner said we might be safest if we add the word "currently" to the recommendation.

Dr. McCormick said we need to be able to respond with the best information. Especially with first year students, we need assessment. She also mentioned that College of Charleston did not change their grading policy for fall.

Dr. McCormick said the request from Faculty Conference was to study the issue, and that Academic Council had done that.

Dr. Costner asked for a motion.

Dr. Hayes motioned to add "currently" to the recommendation and.... Dr. Martin seconded.  
*The motion passed.*

Dr. Costner said he and Dr. Abernathy would work on this and have it available Monday afternoon, getting it out to faculty on Tuesday.

**VII. New Business --none**

**VIII. Announcements and Adjournment**

No announcement.

Dr. Costner adjourned the meeting at 3:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gina Jones, Secretary