

**WINTHROP UNIVERSITY**  
**ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES**  
January 13, 2006

Academic Council met on Friday, January 13, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in 308 Tillman Hall.

Members:

Frank Pullano, Chair	Mathematics
Pat Ballard	Library
John Bird	English
Siobhan Brownson	English
Shaun Cassidy	Art & Design
Clarence Coleman	Acct, Fin and Econ
Michael Cornick	Acct, Fin and Econ
Jennifer Disney	Political Science
Chad Dresbach	Art & Design
Rebecca Evers	Center for Pedagogy

Barbara Heinemann	Modern Languages
Tom Polaski *	Mathematics
David Pretty	History
Linda Schoonmaker	Health and PE
William Seyfried	Acct, Fin and Econ
Will Thacker	Computer Science
Bruce Thompson	Music
Willie Lyles, III	Student
Timothy Drueke	Records/Registration

\* Absent

Guests present: Debra Boyd, Bill Click, Beth Costner, Lynn Harand, Karen Jones, Brien Lewis, and Tom Moore.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Pullano.

**I. Minutes**

The minutes of the November 4, 2005 meeting were approved via email.

**II. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Pullano welcomed everyone back and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**III. Vice President of Academic Affairs' Remarks**

Vice President Moore echoed Chair Pullano's report.

**IV. Committee Reports**

**A. General Education**

Tom Polaski, General Education committee chair was not in attendance. Bill Seyfried was asked to report for the committee. The following items were approved by the committee and need Academic Council approval:

1. Removal of THRT110 from the Humanities and Arts requirement. The removal of the course in Humanities and Arts was approved without dissent.

2. Course numbering changes for World Civilization sequence: The History department has renumbered and resequenced the World Civilization courses (approved at the last Council meeting). The new numbers need approval to meet the Historical and Humanities and Arts requirements. The inclusion of these courses (HIST 111, 112, 113) was approved without dissent.

### ***B. Committee on Undergraduate Instruction***

Clarence Coleman, chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Instruction presented the following items for approval of the Council.

## **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

### **Department of Chemistry**

**Add** BS Chemistry Degree – Forensic Chemistry Program of Study (new program).

The addition of the new program of study was approved on a voice vote.

### **Environmental Sciences/Studies Program**

**Modify** BA Environmental Studies program to add BIOL 323, GEOL 201, GEOL 220, PHYS 105 and delete ENVS 495, ENVS 496, and ENVS 510 in the list of Science Electives; drop Course Electives (select two courses...) and add Social Sciences/Humanities elective (select five courses...) with list to include ANTH 540, ECON 343, ENVS 510, GEOG 305, HIST 530, PHIL 340, PLSC 325, PSYC 311, and SOCL 310; in general education requirements remove PHIL 340 from Humanities and Arts, ECON 343 and PLSC 325 from Social Science and HIST 530 from Historical Perspective (modify major).

**Modify** BS Environmental Sciences program to add BIOL 310, 323, CHEM 302/304, CHEM 315, GEOL 201, GEOL 220 and drop BIOL 403, CHEM 517, and ENVS 496, and also change requirement from two to three courses in the Science Electives for the major; drop Other Program Electives-Select 9 hours (at least two designators...) and add Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences electives-Select at least four courses with at least three designators... deleting SOCL 101 or 201, HIST 102 and adding GEOG 201, 305, and PSYC 311 to the Requirements in Major (modify major).

**Modify** Environmental Studies minor to add BIOL323, GEOG 305 and PSYC 311 (modify minor).

The modifications to the majors in Environmental Studies and Sciences as well as the minor in Environmental Studies were approved on a voice vote.

### **Department of Modern Languages**

**Modify** BA in Modern Languages - Spanish with and without certification to drop SPAN 401 (4) Survey of Hispanic Literature and add SPAN 401 (3) Survey of Spanish American Literature or SPAN 402 (3) Survey of Spanish Peninsular Literature to degree program (modify program).

The modification to the BA in Modern Languages with Concentration in Spanish and Certification in Spanish were approved by voice vote.

## **Department of Political Science**

**Modify** BA in Political Science to limit student to a total of nine credit hours in the Political Science major, taken from the following courses: PLSC 450H, 471, 472, 473, 498, 501, 502, and 503 combined (modify course).

**Modify** BA in Political Science with concentration in Public Policy and Public Administration to limit student to a total of nine credit hours in the Political Science major, taken from the following courses: PLSC 450H, 471, 472, 473, 498, 501, 502, and 503 combined (modify major).

**Modify** BA in Political Science with Secondary Education Certification to limit student to a total of nine credit hours in the Political Science major, taken from the following courses: PLSC 450H, 471, 472, 473, 498, 501, 502, and 503 combined (modify major).

The modifications to the limits on independent study and internship courses applicable to the majors in Political Science were approved by voice vote.

**Modify** BA in Political Science to change the number of elective hours in the major from 15 to 15-21; change the total number of hours in the major from 30 to 30-36 credit hours; and change the general elective hours to 9-38 (modify major).

**Modify** BA in Political Science with concentration in Public Policy and Public Administration to change the number of elective hours in the major from 3 to 3-9; change the total number of hours in the major from 30 to 30-36 credit hours; change the general elective hours to 19-44 (modify major).

**Modify** BA in Political Science with Certification in Secondary Education to change the number of PLSC elective hours in the major from 15 to 15-21; change the total number of hours in the major from 60 to 60-66; and change the total credit hours for the degree from 124-133 to 124-139 (modify major).

The modifications to the overall number of Political Science courses applicable to the majors were approved by voice vote.

## **Department of Psychology**

**Modify** BA Psychology to accommodate the new course numbers and provide more flexibility in course choice for majors.

The modification to the BA in Psychology was approved by voice vote.

## **RILEY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

### **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Modify** BS Special Education (mild disability) renaming the concentration to Emotional/Learning Disabilities and to accommodate the new courses and requirements from the state of South Carolina.

**Modify** BA Special Education (severe disability) renaming the concentration to Mental/Severe Disabilities and to accommodate the new courses and requirements from the state of South Carolina.

The modifications to the Special Education programs were approved by voice vote.

## **Department of Physical Education**

**Modify** minor in coaching to accommodate changes made previously to the other majors in the department and current course offerings.

The modification to the minor in Coaching was approved by voice vote.

## **COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Department of Theatre & Dance**

**Modify** the BA in Theatre: Performance by adding a 0-credit practicum, THRA 180.

**Modify** the BA in Theatre: Design/Technical by adding a 0-credit practicum, THRA 180.

The modifications to the Theatre majors were approved by voice vote.

### **Department of Music**

**Modify** the minor in Music by adding MUST 307 as a requirement and dropping additional required courses above 299 from 6 to 3.

The modification to the minor in Music was approved by voice vote.

*The following items were approved by CUI; no Academic Council action was required.*

### **African American Studies Program**

**Change** AAMS 518 (3) Politics of the American South (cross-listed with PLSC 518) from prerequisite “PLSC 201 with a grade of C or better or permission of instructor” to PLSC 201 with a grade of C or better, or graduate status, or permission of instructor” (prerequisite change).

### **Department of Chemistry**

**Add** CHEM 310 (3) Essentials of Organic Chemistry (new course).

**Add** CHEM 311 (1) Essentials of Organic Chemistry Laboratory (new course).

**Add** CHEM 495 (0) Forensic Chemistry Seminar (new course).

**Add** CHEM 496 (0) Forensic Chemistry Seminar (new course).

**Add** CHEM 505 (3) Forensic Analytical Chemistry (new course).

**Add** CHEM 506 (1) Forensic Analytical Chemistry Lab (new course).

**Add** CHEM 528 (3) Advanced Topics in Biochemistry (new course).

**Add** CHEM 571 (3) Advanced Topics in Organic Chemistry (new course).

**Add** CHEM 575 (6) Forensic Chemistry Internship (new course).

**Change** CHEM 521 (3) Nutritional Biochemistry prerequisite from “CHEM 301, CHEM 303 with C or better” to “CHEM 301/303 or CHEM 310/311 with grade of C or better (prerequisite change).

### **Department of English**

**Change** ENGL 510 (3) Topics in Literature and Language (title change)

**Change** WRIT 465 (3) Preparation of Oral and Written Reports (prerequisite change)

### **Department of Modern Languages**

**Drop** MLAN 401 (4) Survey of Hispanic Languages (drop course due to course title change and course credit hour change).

**Add** SPAN 401 (3) Survey of Spanish American Literature (3) (title change and credit hour change).

**Add** SPAN 402 (3) Survey of Spanish Peninsular Literature (new course).

### **Department of Political Science**

**Drop** PLSC 220 (3) Introduction to Public Administration (course renumbering).

**Add** PLSC 323 (3) Public Administration (course renumbering and title change).

**Change** PLSC 311 (3) Constitutional Law: Federalism and Institutions from prerequisite “PLSC 201 or permission of instructor” to “PLSC 201 with a C or better or permission of instructor” (prerequisite change).

**Change** PLSC 312 (3) Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties from prerequisite “PLSC 201 or permission of instructor” to “PLSC 201 with a grade of C or better or permission of instructor” (prerequisite change).

**Change** PLSC 518 (3) Politics of the American South (cross-listed with AAMS 518) from prerequisite “PLSC 201 with a grade of c or better or permission of instructor” to PSLC 201 with a grade of C or better or graduate status or permission of instructor” (prerequisite change).

**Change** PLSC 524H Health, Media and Public Policy (3) from prerequisite “3.00 minimum GPA” to “undergraduate GPA of 3.3 or graduate status” (prerequisite change). (This will not apply to MCOM 495H cross-listed with PLSC 524H).

### **Department of Psychology**

**Add** PSYC 411 (3) Advanced Child Development

**Change** PSYC 503 (3) course number to PSYC 313

**Change** PSYC 504 (3) course number to PSYC 308

**Change** PSYC 505 (3) course number to PSYC 335

**Change** PSYC 507 (3) course number to PSYC 305

**Change** PSYC 509 (3) course number to PSYC 409

**Change** PSYC 514 (3) course number to PSYC 314

**Change** PSYC 516 (3) course number to PSYC 316

### **Department of Sociology**

**Change** SOCL 505 (3) course number to PSYC 305

**Change** SOCL 516 (4) prerequisite

## **RILEY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

### **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Change** EDCI 305 (3) Introduction to the Middle School to not allow elective S/U and require C or better

**Change** EDCI 315 (3) Developmental Aspects of Middle Level Learner to not allow elective S/U and require C or better

**Change** EDCI 325 (3) Content Literacy for Middle Level Learners to not allow elective S/U and require C or better

**Add** SPED 293 (3) Laboratory Experiences with Learners with Autism  
**Change** SPED 391 (3) Assessment  
**Change** SPED 561 (3) Characteristics of Children with Learning Disabilities  
**Change** SPED 575 (3) Educational Procedures for Students with Mental  
**Change** SPED 582 (3) Mental Retardation  
**Change** SPED 583 (3) Children with Behavioral and Emotional Problems  
**Change** SPED 585 (3) Introductory Academic and Behavioral Methods  
**Change** SPED 586 (3) Advanced Academic and Behavioral Methods in S

## **COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Department of Theatre & Dance**

**Add** THRA 180 (0) Technical Theatre Practicum: Running Crew  
**Add** THRA 470 (3) Advanced Practicum  
**Add** THRT 471 (1), 472 (2) and 473 (3) Independent Studies  
**Add** THRT490 (1-3) Special Topics in Theatre  
**Drop** THRT 512 (3) Dramaturgy

### **Department of Music**

**Change** MUSA 158 title of course

### ***C. Grading Issues Committee***

Dave Pretty, Chair of the Committee on Grading Issues presented the next set of proposals from the Committee. Dr. Pretty presented a little history of the process the committee used to review the possibility of changing the grading system. He then presented the proposal to change the grading system from letter-only to include plus/minus grades. The report from the committee contained five separate proposals changing various parts of the undergraduate catalog to accommodate the change.

Discussion commenced on the first proposal, the change to a plus and minus grading system. Willie Lyles, Student representative on the committee presented the students' concern that the change would negatively affect their grade point averages and cause problems with students' ability to retain the LIFE scholarship. Faculty members of the Council discussed the desire to more accurately reflect student performance in the class, the increased fairness of differentiating between those students at the high end of the grade band and the lower end of the band, and it can encourage students to work harder in class to raise from the one grade to another. Members of the Council who had previously used the plus/minus grading system discussed their experience with the system. Support services, such as the Math and Writing labs, and the new TRIO program were mentioned as services students could use if they are in academic trouble. After considerable discussion, the motion to change the following section in the Undergraduate Catalog passed on a voice vote:

**To substitute the material in the present catalog on pages 30–31 with the following:**

#### **Evaluation and Grading**

It is the responsibility of all faculty members at Winthrop to assign to all of their students fair grades based on evaluation relevant to the content and purposes of the course of study and, reasonably early in the

semester, to inform students of the evaluation placed upon their work. It is recommended that students be made aware of the evaluation of the work that accounts for at least 20 percent of their grade by the withdrawal deadline for the course. Testing procedures are generally guided by the following principles: a number of evaluations of students' achievements should be made throughout any given semester; the instructor in each class is encouraged to base students' final grades on at least four major evaluations; the instructor may require a combination of one-hour tests, written reports, oral reports, or appropriate performances on projects, in addition to the final examination. Tests should be returned to students within a reasonable time. Students have a right to examine their own tests regularly in order to understand which items were answered incorrectly or inadequately.

### **Grading System**

Grades for courses taken for undergraduate credit are recorded as follows:

- A** Excellent, achievement of distinction.
- B** Good, achievement above that required for graduation.
- C** Fair, minimum achievement required for graduation.
- D** Poor, achievement at a level below that required for graduation; must be balanced by good or excellent work in other courses.
- F** Failure, unsatisfactory achievement.
- S** Satisfactory achievement (C- level or above) on a course taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
- U** Unsatisfactory achievement (Honors courses, C+ level or below; all others, D+ level or below) on a course taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.
- N** No Grade, indicating the course carried no credit, or was withdrawn under the circumstances described in "Withdrawal From Courses" above.
- I** Incomplete, used only as a prefix to a letter grade. Assigning an incomplete grade indicates that, for a valid reason, the course has not been completed and that the instructor reserves the right to raise the grade if the incomplete work is completed within one year, or by an earlier date specified by the instructor. The grade to which I is prefixed is not used in computing the student's GPA until the I prefix is removed and indicates the grade earned if no further work is performed. It is the grade in the course unless and until changed by the instructor.

Achievement that approaches but does not quite reach the measure indicated by A, B, C, or D may be distinguished by the addition of a minus to the letter grade. Achievement that only somewhat exceeds the measure indicated by B, C, or D may be distinguished by the addition of a plus to the letter grade.

### **Quality Points and Grade Point Average**

[no change in the first five paragraphs]

**Cumulative Hours Earned:** All hours of credit completed at Winthrop University with grades between (and including) D- and A, as well as S; all accepted transferred credits and all credits by examination. All courses are counted in the semester summary of the semester in which they are taken and in the cumulative summary.

**Quality Points:** Semester Hours Earned times the value of the Grade: A=4, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1, D-=0.67, F=0. All courses are counted in the semester summary of the semester in which they have been taken and in the cumulative summary.

The second proposal was then presented, to change the lowest non-repeatable grade from B to B-. After brief discussion regarding the need for those with GPA's below 3.0 to raise their grade for LIFE scholarship purposes, the proposal was defeated.

The third proposal to change the minimum grades for courses in the Writing requirement (WRIT101, GNED102 and CRTW201) from a C to C- was presented. After brief discussion, where John Bird related the English department had no objection to the change, the proposal was passed on a voice vote, without dissent. The new section will read:

### **Writing Composition Requirement**

Beginning students should enroll in WRIT 101 during their first semester at Winthrop University and should complete WRIT 101, GNED 102, and CRTW 201 early in their academic careers. Students who do not pass these courses with grades of C- or better by the time they have completed 75 earned hours will be limited to a maximum course load of 12 hours per semester and will not be permitted to enroll in courses above 299 until they have satisfied the writing requirement.

The fourth proposal to change the minimum transferable grade on Extension and Correspondence courses was presented. During discussion, the relevance of this section was questioned as very few institutions actually offer this type of credit. Most offer internet based courses that are transferred as regular courses. The motion to change the required grade was defeated.

The fifth proposal was presented to change all currently listed course prerequisites from C to C- unless the department specifically requests otherwise. During discussion several possible changes to the proposal were considered. It was moved and seconded to amend the proposal to change “specific course prerequisites and requirements” to “specific course prerequisites, course requirements, and program requirements”. The amendment passed. The proposal (as amended) was approved. The approved proposal reads:

In all places in the present catalog where specific course prerequisites, course requirements, and program requirements mention a letter grade, those grades shall be modified by the addition of a minus unless the affected programs communicate otherwise to the Office of Records and Registration by the deadline for inclusion of new material in the next catalog.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

Karen Jones asked if the Grading Issues Committee was going to discuss the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade. Chair Pullano asked the committee to continue to meet and discuss the S/U grade and policy.

## **VI. New Business**

Dr. Jennifer Disney asked about the A+ grade as it was not included in the proposal from the Grading Issues Subcommittee. Chair Pullano asked the committee to include consideration of the A+ grade as it continues to meet.

Based on the discussion held earlier in the meeting on the section in the Undergraduate Catalog regarding Extension and Correspondence credit, it was moved and seconded to remove the section completely from the Undergraduate Catalog. The motion to delete this section from the present catalog on page 40 passed:

### **Extension and Correspondence Credit**

A maximum of 30 semester hours in correspondence courses may be accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for baccalaureate degrees, not more than 12 semester hours of which may be in any one subject. The institution and the courses taken must be satisfactory to the dean of the student’s college. The student must have a grade of C or above



on correspondence credit accepted. Grades on correspondence courses are not used in computing the student's grade-point average.

## **VII. Announcements**

Chair Pullano reminded the Council that the next meeting will be February 17, 2006 at 2:00 pm in Tillman 308.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy A. Drueke  
Secretary