

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL MINUTES
 August 24, 2012

Academic Council met on Friday, August 24, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Owens 201.

Members:

David Beatty*	Visual & Performing Arts
John Bird, Chair	Arts and Sciences
Tomoko Deguchi	Visual & Performing Arts
Kambrell Garvin*	CSL Student Representative
Laura Glasscock	Arts and Sciences
Lisa Harris*	Education
Jennifer Jordan	Education
Jo Koster	Arts and Sciences
Trent Kull	Arts and Sciences
Willis Lewis	Business Administration
Marge Moody	Visual & Performing Arts
Ron Parks	Visual & Performing Arts
Darren Ritzer	Arts and Sciences
Marilyn Smith*	Business Administration
Spiro Shetuni	Dacus Library
Will Thacker	Business Administration
Brad Tripp*	Arts and Sciences
Ginger Williams	Arts and Sciences
Gina Jones, Secretary	Registrar

*absent

Guests present: Debra Boyd, Cliff Calloway, Tim Drueke, Peter Judge, Stephanie Milling, and David Wohl.

Chair, Dr. John Bird, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Dr. Bird welcomed everyone and asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

Dr. Bird asked the committee to brainstorm ideas for possible issues it may need to address. Ideas generated include:

1. What is the relationship between Academic Council and the search for “number 10?”
2. General Education (Gen Ed) “creep”
3. Results from the survey last year (regarding areas of concern)
4. Academic Integrity—what is the faculty’s role and defining what it is.
5. Overview of the Academic Council for those new to the committee

6. Review of faculty for Tenure and Promotion—“standardization” (This was determined not to be in the purview of AC.)

7. Cultural Events—how some things get event credit was questionable.

Dr. Bird went over AC responsibilities: curriculum, graduation requirements, general education, and undergraduate policies.

Dr. Boyd read from the Faculty Governance Manual, Article IX:

“The Academic Council shall be responsible to the Faculty Conference for appropriate reports and recommendations concerning general education requirements, academic programs, policies, and regulations exclusive of those peculiar to the graduate program. The Academic Council shall have authority to act on behalf of the Faculty Conference on the following types of recommendations from a college: adding a minor, dropping a minor, and changing graduation requirements in a major with no change in the overall number of semester hours required by the program. This authority shall not be construed to limit the right of the faculty to review and act on academic policies at any time.”

Dr. Thacker stated that Academic Council could make recommendations outside of its regular duties.

Dr. Bird relayed notes he had from a previous meeting on General Education. There was a need to examine the Gen Ed program, maybe pare down categories. There also seemed to be a problem with overprescribing Gen Ed.

Dr. Boyd indicated that there has been a concern with Gen Ed; we haven't really looked at Gen Ed since the new Gen Ed began. We did adopt University Level Competencies and we have not looked at them in relation to Gen Ed. Accreditations require us to have certain things. She pointed out one issue and that was that it is easier for a transfer student to come to Winthrop than a Winthrop student to change majors.

Dr. Bird's recommendation to Dr. Boyd was to form a joint committee to look at Gen Ed.

Dr. Boyd announced that Academic Affairs had begun an investigation over the summer regarding this issue and this information will be shared. It is a complex issue with a need to look at a variety of perspectives.

Dr. Moody asked if we were looking at a reworking of Gen Ed.

Dr. Boyd responded no, that some of it works quite well. However, it is confusing. We need to decide what works and what doesn't work.

Dr. Bird stated that academic responsibility was another area of discussion. The Faculty Manual needs updating. There is a list of items we approved but there is a sense that we are not living up to those responsibilities. Academic Council does not enforce, but it can encourage.

Dr. Boyd said that we seem to be drifting away from some things. Use of the exam period is one of those. There are faculty who are not giving exams. She asked if Winthrop was providing sufficient support to help faculty meet responsibilities. Regarding the Faculty Manual, the standards have not all been updated. She would like to ask that Academic Affairs take on the task of textual analysis,

examining the Faculty Manual and bringing it to Academic Council. She would like an outside source to analyze—a fresh pair of eyes.

Dr. Williams expressed dismay at poor attendance at faculty meetings. In the College of Arts and Sciences, they have added to their bylaws that faculty attendance is required. There has been a problem meeting quorum. She also shared that Winthrop has not done a good job with non-monetary rewards. We often talk more about “Roles” than “Rewards”.

Dr. Boyd indicated that the Roles and Rewards task force is meeting to take up this issue. At Faculty Conference, she encouraged people to read the Chronicle of Higher Ed. Other schools have suffered deep cuts. We still have programs and research stipends. We have limited resources but we will do the best we can to provide support.

Dr. Bird said there was no action the Council needed to take today. The plan is how best to tackle those items we need to. He will put a call out to anyone who wants to tackle a particular area. Please let him know if you are interested. He hopes to have feedback by the next meeting which is on Friday, September 28 in MacFeat.

Dr. Koster announced that CUC is sponsoring a workshop on the Curriculum Action System (CAS).

Ms. Jones indicated that everyone on the Council was set up in the CAS and that they would receive emails directed to the CUI Chair. This is view-only access except for Dr. Bird, so don't be concerned.

Dr. Boyd asked that everyone please look very carefully at the curriculum that is submitted. If you are changing something in your own curriculum that affects another program, contact that department for consultation.

Dr. Calloway reminded the council of the new undergraduate GPA requirement [2.0 now required of everyone, not just juniors and seniors].

Dr. Parks asked if it was possible to have the Curriculum Action System (CAS) flag courses that affect other programs.

Mr. Drueke answered that no, the only thing connecting the CAS with Banner and DegreeWorks is Jackie Brockington, Gina Jones and Maria Linn.

After no further business, Chair Bird adjourned the meeting at 2:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Jones, Registrar