

GRADUATE FACULTY ASSEMBLY

August 17, 2001

Frances May Barnes Recital Hall

Dr. Jo Koster (English), Chair, called the meeting to order. The first order of business was approval of minutes from the April 13, 2001, Graduate Faculty Assembly meeting. Two corrections were noted: the capitalization of 'Parliamentarian' in item III and an inaccurate URL for Graduate Faculty Assembly Minutes. The correct URL is www.winthrop.edu/acad_aff/Minutes/minutes.html. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Dr. Koster welcomed Graduate Faculty members back and introduced the appointed officers for 2001-2002: Dr. Peter Judge, Religion, Parliamentarian, and Dr. Dave Pretty, History, Secretary. Dr. Koster requested that Chairs and senior faculty review the members of their departments and forward to their Deans the names of any faculty members who are eligible for membership in Graduate Faculty Assembly but who have not yet been nominated. Names of all known current members of the Graduate Faculty can be located on the Graduate Studies web page. Requirements for membership include the terminal degree in the faculty member's discipline, two years of college teaching and/or research, and a faculty position at Winthrop. Dr. Koster also reminded the faculty that this is a catalog year with a number of curricular changes anticipated, and encouraged faculty and departments to forward curricular matters in good time so that they can be approved by the appropriate bodies in time to meet the April catalog deadline.

Dr. Melford Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, welcomed Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert, Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, back from her assignment with the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Schools. He stated that this was the first year in history where no new faculty positions were authorized for Winthrop. We will ask again in September for positions to be authorized in September 2002, but have no guarantee of the results. Winthrop will have to look at all programs but especially graduate programs to determine whether or not we are making best use of all of our positions to fulfill the needs of our students, especially in light of the current political situation in Columbia. The positions we asked for last year were directly related in some cases to graduate programs; we didn't get them. Since our graduate education not only benefits our students but the state of South Carolina, we will need also to think of new ways to advertise what we do in graduate education and how this benefits the state.

Dr. Koster also welcomed Dr. Rembert back. Dr. Rembert stated that she will be splitting her position, spending half her time supervising the Graduate Studies Office, New Start, and Winthrop's Access & Equity efforts associated with CHE, and the other half working with Dr. Elspeth Brown, a colleague from USC-Columbia, to oversee the start of the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Professional Development program. Dr. Rembert is excited about this new partnership and hopes that it will not only improve pre-school education and teacher education at both institutions, but by the

end of its three-year grant, have positioned Winthrop as a site for outstanding research into early childhood learning in the state. She stated that small grants will be available from the program and encouraged the graduate faculty to apply for them.

Dr. Bill Rogers, Biology, Chair of Graduate Council, reported that over the summer Graduate Council had acted on 31 petitions. 23 were approved, 4 were denied, and 4 were either withdrawn or returned for more information. He reported that Graduate Council will continue its work to review and revise the guidelines for preparation of Master's theses, and encouraged faculty who had concerns, suggestions, and revisions to forward those to him or to Sharon Johnson in the Graduate Office. He also asked that faculty interested in having students submit theses in forms other than the traditional bound paper copies forward those suggestions so that Graduate Council can discuss them. He reported that seven faculty nomination forms had been sent forward to Graduate Council; chairs wishing to nominate more faculty should use the new forms, which are available on the Web. This year's members of Graduate Council are Heakyung Lee (A&S), Steve Frankforter (COB), Gloria Kelley (Library), Kathy Kinsey (VPA), and Johnny Sanders and Peggy Whiting, (COE). The next meeting of Graduate Council is September 14, 2 pm, in 306 Tillman. All meeting dates, times and locations are listed on the Academic Affairs web page (URL listed above).

There being no old business, new business, or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Smith
Acting Secretary