

MINUTES  
GRADUATE FACULTY ASSEMBLY  
February 21, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan. The minutes of the November 22, 2002 Graduate Faculty Assembly were approved as distributed.

Dr. Dimaculangan indicated that the Graduate Council's letter of concern regarding graduate student support at Winthrop would be the main topic of discussion at today's meeting. Dr. Dimaculangan thanked the Graduate Council, graduate directors of the different colleges, and all those contributing to the letter.

Dr. Melford Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs, indicated that a study is done about every three years to compare Winthrop's graduate assistance with other schools in the state. Dr. Wilson remarked that Dr. Rembert, Associate Vice president for Graduate Studies, was on a panel with representatives from other institutions and would be giving him a report in March regarding graduate assistantship compensation. Dr. Wilson made the point that Winthrop increases the money going to graduate students every year. Tuition waivers have ranged from \$30,000 to nearly \$100,000 depending on the year. However, Dr. Wilson stated that the dollar amount (scholarship money) had not increased in recent years. Dr. Wilson noted that all graduate assistantships are not alike and that there are different pay scales for different assistantships. He further noted that after receiving Dr. Rembert's report it may be necessary to do a secondary study to determine the kinds of graduate work being done at Winthrop and if compensation is sufficient for that work.

Dr. Dimaculangan followed up on Dr. Wilson's remarks, reiterating that Dr. Wilhelmenia Rembert was attending a meeting with representatives from other institutions and chairing a discussion, hoping to get ideas about how to put together a competitive package for graduate student support. Also, Dr. Dimaculangan indicated that he thought it was important to open up a discussion about why the graduate program is important to Winthrop.

Dr. Bill Rogers, Chair of Graduate Council, reported that all new curriculum proposals under consideration had been approved. There were no graduate faculty recommendations on their last agenda. Nine petitions were approved, some with stipulations. March 28, 2003, 2:00 pm is the next meeting date of the Graduate Council. The meeting will be held in room 206 of the Life Sciences Building. Dr. Rogers announced that a letter of concern, "A vision for graduate student support at Winthrop University," had been unanimously approved by the Council and that resulted in a motion by the Graduate Council asking the Graduate Faculty Assembly to endorse the letter and send it to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Melford Wilson and the Academic Leadership Council. The goal is to make improvements in graduate student support a priority. Dr. Dimaculangan asked if there was any discussion or comments concerning the letter. After much discussion and suggestions that the Graduate Faculty Assembly wait for Dr. Rembert's report, there was a motion to table. The motion was approved. Dr. Rogers stated that the Graduate Council would try to get together with Dr. Rembert and have something for the next Graduate Faculty Assembly, March 21, 2003.

There was no old or new business.

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlton Bessinger, Secretary