

Staff Conference Minutes
Tuesday, April 18, 2017
Dina's Place
DiGiorgio Campus Center

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Grant Scurry.

President Dan Mahony joined staff conference for his question-and-answer session. One question asked how people could find out about the strategic plan and any updates for it. He said they keep track of initiatives to present to the board and refer to a faculty/staff/student committee for feedback. In his upcoming state of the university address in September, they will share more widely updates from the first year.

Another question asked how the upcoming August eclipse would affect Convocation and asked if any events were planned around it. He said they had moved Convocation back an hour and could look into purchasing specialty classes for viewing the solar eclipse.

The final question asked if there were any talks to lessen the strain of faculty/staff parking, particularly when lots are taken offline for events. President Mahony said there was no easy solution, and that building a parking garage would elevate the parking fee, which no one wants.

On the next item, President Mahony offered a budget update. Winthrop had \$155 million in revenue with total expenses of \$153 million. Winthrop hasn't added a lot of costs since 2009, and Mahony emphasized he would argue with the state that Winthrop has not been frivolous with costs. Another thing about which Winthrop can be proud: the trend in higher education is now using more part-time faculty, but Winthrop does not do that. Winthrop is in a much more financially stable position. Despite reports, Winthrop is not the most expensive school in the state. However, Mahony said it's difficult to know where we are. There's talk of a \$10 million bond from the House level, but he is not optimistic about it; and while the Senate would offer about \$330,000 in recurring money, Winthrop could lose some lottery money. There is also talk of pension increases.

Vice Provost Meg Webber shared the Global Learning Initiative impact report via video. In summary, Winthrop more than met and exceeded the six GLI goals. A full report is available online.

New staff were introduced: Jessica Miller; Caroline LeBoeuf; Abigail Hardin; Johnny Vaughan; Chandler Brotak; Sherika Montgomery; Ashley Lloyd, Anna Bowman; Glen Evans; Richard Henderson; Austin Smith; Mark Bates; Brandeis Green; Heather Savikas; and Jared Wolfe.

Elections & Nominations- Becky Best said nominations were open April 19-25.

Media & Communications- The May 1 edition of Staff Stuff will be the last for the summer.

Professional Development- Goldie Gildehaus shared info about the summer professional development conference., set for June 13.

Campus & Community Involvement-Pam Varraso mentioned the Come See Me picnic, set for April 29 at 3 p.m. for the cook-out. The second food drive will be April 17-May 12.

Recognition-Nominations are/were due at the end of April.

Staff member of the month: Patricia Boler

Grant Scurry told everyone about the April 20 *We Are Winthrop* event, which invites faculty/staff/students for a get-together at the front of campus.

In other business:

Lori Tuttle talked about the faculty/staff giving campaign and encouraged everyone to make a gift.

Katie Price mentioned the April 21 Winthrop Night at the Charlotte Knight game.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.