

# Report of the Faculty Conference Chair

Submitted by Adam Glover

Date: 22 November 2024

## I. Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met on Winthrop's campus on October 23-24. The following items are of particular note:

1. President Serna reported on the implementation of 12 initiatives for Phase 1 of the Strategic Plan (more details [here](#)).
2. The Board approved a resolution authorizing the administration to acquire the Courtyard residence hall from the Winthrop University Real Estate Foundation.
3. The Board approved a request by the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) to return the organization's structure to a Student Government Association (SGA) which had been in place before 2002.
4. The Board also approved the following items:
  - a. Up to \$3.85 million of additional operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year.
  - b. New or updated course fees for 12 courses in the spring 2025 semester.
  - c. The results of the 2024 audit by its independent auditor.
  - d. A resolution honoring Robby Sisco '80 of Florence, South Carolina, for his six years of meritorious service to the board as the Congressional District 7 representative

## II. Faculty Liaison Report

In my capacity as Faculty Liaison, I delivered an oral report to the Board of Trustees. The report included information regarding the following items:

1. **The Faculty Committee on University Priorities**, under the leadership of Eric Birgbauer (BIOL), continues to do excellent work. We meet regularly as a committee, and periodically with the president and provost, to report faculty concerns and strategize about strategic initiatives.
2. I updated the Board on faculty participation in the recently concluded search for a new **Chief Financial Officer**.
3. I also reported my involvement in the newly formed **University Budget Committee**, an advisory and recommending body to the President on matters pertaining to the institutional operating budget. I was invited to serve on the committee by then-interim CFO Kevin Butler. I emphasized that serving on the budget committee has

given me the opportunity to take a somewhat broad view of university finances and to think about budgetary challenges and opportunities from a wider, institutional perspective.

4. I updated the Board on Winthrop's planned review of the **General Education Program**. The review process will begin in earnest in Spring 2025, and Sebastian will provide a fuller update later in this meeting.

### III. **Passing of Dr. Melford Wilson (1939-2024)**

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent passing of Dr. Melford Wilson. Dr. Wilson served at Winthrop for more than 50 years and left a lasting legacy. In addition to founding the Department of Political Science as distinct from the Department of History, Dr. Wilson also the Model United Nations program, directed the International Center, and served as Vice President for Academic Affairs. His legacy lives on through the students who carry the name of his two endowed scholarships at Winthrop: The Melford A. Wilson, Jr. International Endowment for Study Abroad (1259) and The Melford Wilson Endowed International Relations Fund for Model UN (1833).