

Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly

August 16, 2013

Plowden Auditorium – Withers Hall

Minutes

- I. Call to order – 3:28pm Sue Lyman
- II. Welcoming Remarks Sue Lyman
Thanked Malayka Klimchak for agreeing to be Parliamentarian
Thanked Brad Witzel for agreeing to be Secretary
- III. Approval of minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from April 19, 2013
Approved
- IV. Report from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Debra Boyd
Provost Boyd welcomed the assembly to the new academic year and encouraged everyone to participate in discussions about enhancing graduate education at Winthrop. She referred the group to her announcements in the general Faculty Assembly and thanked everyone for their dedication to and good work with our graduate students.
- V. Report from Graduate Council Jennifer Jordan
 - a. Ten petitions over the summer
 - b. Continued the discussion of the four issues to be reviewed (*Include these items on the minutes*)
 - i. Extension to the 6-year rule to be approved at the college level
 - ii. Extensions would be for a full academic year
 - iii. Reduce the number of repeat petitions at the discretion at the college level
 - iv. Petitions requesting extensions that exceed a three-year period, why a course would be legitimate after 3 years
- VI. Dean's Report Jack DeRochi
 - a. Introduced people in the Graduate School Office
 - i. Natalie Jeter is the Admissions Coordinator, handing student applications and all appropriate documentation related to admissions.
 - ii. April Lovegrove is the Assistant to the Dean and will take care of student services, travel support, and other office operations.
 - iii. Katie Dykhuis is the Director of Recruitment and Student Engagement. Katie works with prospective students and individual graduate programs for recruitment.
 - iv. Two graduate students work in the office greeting prospective students and other visitors.

- b. Welcome Reception and Campus Tour was held on August 15th with the program coordinators, which helped introduce new students to Winthrop. Over 100 students attended. Mark Herring took them on a tour of the Dacus Library.
- c. Cara Peters and Jack DeRochi wrote a best-practices grant on Enhancing Student Financial Education, which will initiate us to capture pre and post data to learn best practices for helping increase students' financial literacy. A community partner has already expressed interest in supporting Winthrop on this project after the grant period. This information will help inform us and our growth. To help the project, encourage students to participate in the survey in order to gather initial data. As the grant builds, professional seminars will start in the College of Business Administration on financial impact. Encourage student participation.
- d. Graduate School Advisory Board was formed and will begin September 5, 2013. The board will represent all dimensions of the Graduate School, and members will be introduced to us soon.
- e. Fall Enrollment is about the same as it was last year. We have about 20 more degree seeking students than last year, but the final enrollment data will be delivered at the next meeting on Oct 4, 2013. Some programs have already been innovative, and some are proposing innovations. The demographics of the students who are coming to graduate school have changed. What are we doing to serve this population? Programs are encouraged to think about ways to deliver programs and how to help deliver skill sets that our potential candidates need.
 - i. There was a question on tuition waivers to work study and graduate assistants. Dean DeRochi answered that there is a committee, charged by Vice President Boyd, to work on this: Jack DeRochi, Lisa Cowart, Judy Basehore, Michele Hare, Tom Hickman, Laura Johnson, and Amanda Maghsoud. This committee will be working to create a model that is stable and will provide a more comprehensive and systematic way to help graduate students and the university. The work of the committee will be shared with multiple groups of faculty and departments, including Graduate Council and Graduate Faculty Assembly.
 - ii. Provost and Vice President Debra Boyd spoke to the "crisis" of loss of graduate assistants. We were told we needed to cut \$200,000 from graduate tuition waivers two years ago; and with the help of programs, we did so. As we begin to consider new ways to support our graduate students, we are examining other institutions. Some places have the same option for all graduate assistants. Others have a multi-tiered system. This committee has reviewed the research and trends on this issue and will share their thoughts with faculty and program coordinators. While we cannot compete with institutions that have large endowments, we need to develop a system that will help us recruit the best graduate students for our programs. In terms of graduate education, we know that we have work to do; but we already have some funds and processes in place to help us operate. Our total package will help us recruit and have a plan to work with community partners to support our students in terms of working

relationships and scholarships. We are moving forward and opportunities to comment will be presented. Because we are competing with institutions that differentiate funding options based on choice of majors, we will need to consider if we want to guarantee that our students get a minimum amount of assistance or something tied specifically to certain programs. We also want to be sure that any plans that are presented comply with federal and state standards. There will be many opportunities for broad input on the ideas developed by the working group.

- iii. Beth Costner stated that it would be nice for President Comstock to be present when the graduate faculty assembly discusses the ideas. Both Provost Boyd and Dean DeRochi agreed with that suggestion.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Announcements

Sue Lyman said that we have an opportunity to make this a more active body. President Comstock wants things to be data-driven. This will allow us to have a more proactive voice.

X. Adjournment moved and approved at 4:02pm