

Winthrop University Graduate Faculty Assembly

October 5, 2012

(Immediately following Faculty Conference) Whitton Auditorium (Carroll Hall)

Minutes

I. Call to Order & Welcoming Remarks

Sue Lyman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. with a slide presentation of her journey to Chair of the Graduate Faculty Assembly. With a quorum, business was conducted. Ian Pearson serving as Secretary for Graduate Faculty Assembly. Malayka Klimchak serving as Parliamentarian.

III. Approval of minutes of Graduate Faculty Assembly from April 20, 2012.

The minutes were approved as distributed by motion, second, and unanimous voice vote.

IV. Report from Vice President of Academic Affairs, Debra Boyd

Vice President Boyd reported on the committee being established to consider graduate student assistance (stipends, scholarships and other potential resources) and ways we could and should and hope to provide support. The committee's charge is likely to begin next week. Jack DeRochi has been asked to chair the committee. All faculty are encouraged to submit ideas that would help with the committee's recommendation.

V. Graduate Council, Jennifer Jordan

Graduate Council reported the Department of English has dropped ENGL 630 – The New Grammar and added ENGL 530 – Grammar that will allow them to combine undergraduates and graduate students into one 500 level course. Due to low enrollments, ENGL 630 was offered sporadically.

Three faculty members were approved for Graduate Faculty status:

Laura Dougherty – Theatre and Dance

Lisa Harris – Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Studies

Harold J. Manasa – Accounting, Finance and Economics

Four graduate petitions were approved.

The MA in English proposed adding a program concentration in Rhetoric and Composition with the following justification:

More than 35% of all standalone MA programs in ENGL now offer students the opportunity to concentrate in Rhetoric and Composition in order to develop important professional skills and gain employment. The proposed concentration in the Thesis track continues the Department's emphasis on a broad range of knowledge while allowing candidates to develop the depth of experience in the writing fields that leads to successful employment in a wide range of fields. The Department has sufficient faculty with the expertise to offer this program and anticipates sufficient interest to sustain it.

The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VI. Dean's Report, Jack DeRochi

Dean DeRochi reported the Graduate School office has completed its assessment plan for 2012-13 and presented a mission statement for the office (not the school), including admissions and operations functions, marketing and recruitment in collaboration with graduate faculty, an advocacy role for graduate student support and opportunities, managing institutional policies and procedures and maintaining an accurate catalog.

Graduate faculty in each program are typically more aware of student admissions, including the number of applicants, number of degree/non-degree seeking students, number of full/part time students and credit hour production than undergraduate admissions. Dean DeRochi presented a macro look of the current overall enrollment numbers relative to this time last year (2011). With a snapshot total enrollment up, it was noted that the increase is largely reflected as an increase in non-degree seeking students.

A look back over the last six years shows total enrollment decreasing with an increase in degree-seeking students, a trend that's reversed slightly this year. Currently, new applications for admission are up for total enrollment, but are down for degree-seeking students. More focus on increasing degree-seeking students will be a goal and target and recruiting non-degree seeking students into degree-seeking programs, yet continue to offer professional development.

Open House was successful, overall, particularly with the high number of Winthrop students attending. Approximately 80 attendees.

Graduate School will be getting a "web reboot", including more images, particularly to increase the number of My Winthrop Experiences. A photographer will be available October 23rd to increase the number of images in our portfolio. Contact graduate director in your area to schedule pictures.

Travel support funded at \$10,000 (25 students at \$400 per meeting or performance). Application procedure online and streamlined.

Graduate Student social – October 24th.

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment – 3:00 p.m.