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Faculty Conference Election Results in John Bird's Re-election

Winthrop University

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Faculty Conference Election Results in John Bird's Re-election

Quick Facts

- The English professor recently was re-elected by faculty members to head up the faculty leadership.
- Bird served as co-chair of a Board of Trustees search committee that resulted in the March hiring of Dan Mahony as the 11th president of Winthrop.



John Bird

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – **Professor John Bird** will remain on the **Winthrop University Board of Trustees** as chair of the Faculty Conference.

The **English professor** recently was re-elected by faculty members to head up the faculty leadership. According to the faculty manual, the chair must be a full-time tenured faculty member.

Bird served as co-chair of a Board of Trustees search committee that resulted in the March hiring of Dan Mahony as the 11th president of Winthrop. He said he looks forward to welcoming the new president and moving into a new chapter for the university.

Known for his colorful teaching tips as the director of **Winthrop's Teaching and Learning Center**, Bird came to Winthrop as an associate professor of English in 1993 and was promoted to professor in 2005. He teaches courses in composition, critical thinking, criticism, theory, and American literature and culture, especially 19th-century American literature. He also has taught topics of special interest such as environmental literature and his primary research topic, Mark Twain.

Bird is the founding editor for "**Mark Twain Annual**," and president of the **Mark Twain Circle of America**. He is author of "**Mark Twain and Metaphor**" (University of Missouri Press, 2007), as well as articles on Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau and American humor.

In addition to serving as a member on the Academic Council and chairing the Graduate Faculty Assembly, Bird is past president of the American Humor Studies Association. In 2005, he was selected as the recipient of **Winthrop's James Pinckney Kinard and Lee Wicker Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching**.

Prior to coming to Winthrop, Bird taught English for several years at **Converse College** where he earned the Kathryne Amelia Brown Teaching Award in 1992. He also was a visiting assistant professor or graduate assistant at the Eastman School of Music, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Rochester and Appalachian State University.

Bird earned his B.S. and M.A. from Appalachian State. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Rochester.

Other faculty elections conducted in March resulted in the following appointments:

Academic Council: Chad Dresbach, design

Academic Conduct: Laura Ullrich, business

DiGiorgio Student Union Advisory Board: Kristen Wonderlich, music

Faculty Personnel: Gale Teaster, library, and Charles Alvis, accounting
Judicial Council: Lorrie Crochet, music
Rules: Dustin Hoffman, English, and Andrew Besmer, computer science
Faculty Representative to Council of Student Leaders: Edward Lee, history

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