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2-6-2015

Board of Trustees Minutes February 6, 2015

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Meeting of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees

Members present: Kathy Bigham, Karl Folkens, Glenn McCall, Jane LaRoche, Susan Smith-Rex, Janet Smalley, Tim Hopkins, Don Long, Tim Sease, Randy Imler, Donna Glenn Holley, Scott Middleton, Ashlye Wilkerson (via teleconference), Scott Talley, Julie Fowler as substitute for Molly Spearman, Debra Boyd (ex officio).

Members absent: None

Representatives present: Ian Deas, Student Representative; John Bird, Faculty Representative

Representatives absent: None

Others present: Anna Douglas, The Herald; members of Winthrop faculty and staff

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 6, 2015 on the campus of Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Call to Order

Chair Bigham called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. She notified the Board of Ms. Molly Spearman, newly elected State Superintendent of Education's decision to remove Dr. Cindy Van Buren as the Superintendent's designee to the Board. Ms. Spearman has not yet named a replacement and has sent Dr. Julie Fowler as a substitute for today's meeting.

Executive Session

Karl Folkens moved with a second from Randy Imler that the Board meet in executive session for discussion related to proposed contractual arrangements with the presidential search consultant and the receipt of legal advice pertaining to former and current employees. The vote was unanimous. Kimberly Faust, Debra Boyd, John Bird, and Ian Deas were invited to remain for the executive session. Tim Sease moved the Board end executive session, Scott Talley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. No actions were taken in executive session.

Recess

Kathy Bigham recessed the Board at 12:05 with plans to resume at 1:00 p.m.

The Board resumed its meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Don Long moved to accept the minutes from the meeting of November 21, 2014. Glenn McCall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the minutes as submitted.

Report of the Executive Committee and Board Chair

Chair Kathy Bigham reported on the status of the search for the 11th president of Winthrop University. She then reviewed information that was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting including the plans for York County Day. York County Day is a program of the chambers of commerce of York County, including the York County Regional Chamber along with the Greater Clover, Greater York, and Lake Wylie Chambers. Scheduled for February 24, 2015, this event provides the York businesses an opportunity to meet face-to-face with legislators from across the State. Jeff Perez, Senior Counsel to the President for Public Affairs is this year's co-chair.

For the ninth year, Winthrop University has been recognized as an institution that values civic engagement with its recent naming to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll recognizes the nation's leading higher education institutions and their students, faculty and staff for a notable commitment to bettering their communities through service. The designation is one of the highest honors a college or university may receive for its dedication to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

A number of applications have been received and are currently being reviewed. The position has been redesigned to be the chief operating officer for the Winthrop Alumni Association and work closely with the executive board and the university's alumni, coordinating communications, affinity group activities, class reunions and annual events such as Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. The position will also have responsibility of the Annual Fund, a key revenue source for student scholarships, the alumni association, faculty awards and other university initiatives.

Three site visits for program accreditations have been completed in the fall semester with one planned for the spring. Site visits linked to program reviews have been completed for the B.A. in Psychology and the B.A. and B. S. in Mathematics. A site visit for the ACEJMC (Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications) review of the B. A. in Mass Communications and the B.S. in Integrated Marketing Communication was completed in the fall. The AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) site visit for the B.S. in Business Administration is planned for February 2015. Self-study preparations are underway for teacher certification/licensure programs in the College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Performing Arts.

Supporting materials from the Executive Committee meeting have been included in this meeting's supporting materials.

Report of the Committee on Academic Quality

Committee Chair Sue Smith-Rex spoke of the Committee's review of the changes to the General Education program. The General Education Task Force, chaired by Gloria Jones, defined General Education at Winthrop as building a broad knowledge base, developing critical thinking skills, fostering innovation, and preparing students to become responsible, informed, and effective citizens in a changing and complex world. The task force made two major recommendations for departments to examine their programs of study in relationship to general education, that majors and programs should follow the general education principles to make changes in requirements and that the number of hours in general education should be reduced. A task force to review the General Education Core will be appointed later this spring.

The Second Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning held on January 31 was a great success. Dr. Rex deferred the reporting of the conference to Dr. Bird as he plans to speak of it in his report to the Board.

Report of the Committee on Compensation

Committee Chair Janet Smalley presented for consideration by the Board, the operating guidelines for the Committee on Compensation. She reported the Executive Committee reviewed the guidelines at their January 9 meeting and made a change in item #4 regarding the ability of the Compensation Committee to recommend an increase in the president's supplemental salary provided by the Winthrop Foundation was discussed. The suggestion was made that the president's supplement should not be under the purview of the Compensation Committee nor should it be an independent discussion with the Foundation. Rather, it should be linked to the president's annual evaluation by the Executive Committee as stated in the Board's bylaws. The motion before the Board reflects that change. As no second was needed, Chair Bigham called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Smalley continued her report by updating the Board on the competitive compensation study. Upon receipt of the College and University Professional Association (CUPA) survey results, the compensation study committee will include these data in the study.

Report of the Committee on Enrollment and Retention

Committee Chair Karl Folkens shared the current enrollment data showing credit hour production to be up as compared to last year at this time. Freshman retention (fall to spring) is 93.5% for fall 2013 freshmen and 92.4% for fall 2014 freshmen. Fall 2015 freshman applications and acceptances are higher than the comparable period for the fall 2014 class.

As Mr. Folkens reported, the committee was given a list of activities the Admissions team has planned for the spring. Activities include Admitted Student Receptions in Rock Hill and five additional cities in South Carolina; Preview Day on February 28; Saturday Visit on March 7; Transfer Tuesday (March 10 and April 14); and Worldwide Winthrop Day on April 18. Mr. Folkens invited all the Trustees to participate in the events as their schedules permit.

Report of the Committee on Finance

Committee Chair Glenn confirmed the Committee reviewed the University budget to date. Due to a period of cold weather, the utility costs are expected to be up by \$65,000 over last year's totals. Additionally, there are increased vacancy savings on the FY2015 Year-to-Date Vacancy Management Budget to Actual as of December 31, 2014. One reason for the increased amount is Debra Boyd was willing to undertake the position of Acting President while keeping her position of Provost. Her willingness to do so is saving the University a great deal of funds.

While summer school revenue remains unknown until later in the summer, we are optimistic that there will be an increase in credit hour production as a result of the increase in marketing of summer school.

Report of the Committee on Institutional Advancement and Development

Committee Chair Tim Hopkins reported on the Distinction Campaign's current total of \$50,911,369 and the committee discussion on plans to complete the campaign.

Mr. Hopkins also reported on the divisional assessment by Mr. Charles Witzleben, a consultant with over 40 years of experience in the field of advancement. An immediate result of his review has been the creation of Advancement Services to be headed by Mr. Ryan Sheehan.

Finally, Mr. Hopkins reported on the status of the candidates for the position of Executive Director of Alumni Relations, a position made available by the resignation of Dr. Debbie Garrick. Interviews of the finalists are scheduled in the next few weeks with a decision to be made by the end of February.

Report of the Committee on Student Life and Athletics

Committee Chair Scott Talley stated Athletic Director Tom Hickman began his report with the usual update of student athlete grade point averages and team success rates. Notable mentions were made including golfer Zach Seabolt's national ranking as #8 collegiate player; Krystyna Freda reaching the level of all-time leading goal scorer in Big South women's soccer history during; women's basketball, women's tennis and men's tennis each winning Big South Conference Championships in 2014 and advancing to their NCAA tournaments; Dequesha McClanahan became the all-time leading scorer and assist leader in Big South women's basketball history in 2014 and was named Player-of-the-Year.

Mr. Talley then summarized the report of Dr. Frank Ardaiolo including an update on the status of the Director of the Center for Career and Civic Engagement. Upon the resignation of the Director, Ms. Ellin McDonough, the Program Director for Service Learning, has assumed responsibilities on an interim basis. Housing occupancy is currently at 89% rate with 300 students. This year's Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service included 225 students from Winthrop, Clinton College, and York Tech, contributing a total 458 hours of service with our area's nonprofit agencies.

Report of the Chair of Faculty Conference and Faculty Representative to the Board

In his report to the Board, Dr. John Bird stated the main focus of the changes to the General Education program continues to be expanding flexibility of the program and enabling students to complete the program more efficiently and effectively. Every department has had to make changes to their curriculum due to changes in the General Education Program.

Dr. Bird concurred with Dr. Rex's earlier statement that the Second Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning was successful. Dr. Tom Moore, Chancellor of University of South Carolina Upstate was the keynote speaker. Papers were presented by faculty from Winthrop, Clemson, Presbyterian, Tri-County Tech, and University of North Carolina at Charlotte to an audience of 120. It was an energizing day and a most cost-effective way to foster professional development for faculty.

Dr. Bird concluded his report by confirming the faculty continue to be interested and supportive of the search for the 11th president and the competitive compensation study and look forward to the successful conclusion of each.

Report from the President of the Council of Student Leaders (CSL) and Student Representative to the Board

President Ian Deas reported on the various activities of the Council of Student Leaders. The "Justice or Lack Thereof" program was well attended. The event focused on providing important information to students and featured guest panelists Representative Tommy Pope, Public Defender Harry Dest, Chester County Sheriff Alex Underwood.

The second annual LIFT (Leadership Institute for First Timers) is being developed and is aimed at getting freshmen involved in leadership roles on campus. The Garnet and Gold gala is planned for February 28. The Student Allocations committee has disbursed \$21,176 to various student groups to support on-campus programming. Finally, the Council has approved charters for nine new student organizations.

Report from the President

President Boyd thanked the Board for their support of our students, faculty, and staff during this busy time at Winthrop.

Most recently, staff have been working on the report for the Higher Education Sub-Committee of the South Carolina Senate. The sub-committee was interested in getting additional information including information about our financial literacy program. Developed by Dr. Cara Peters and Dean Jack DeRochi, the program is funded by a \$40,000 grant for Enhancing Student Financial Education and is co-sponsored by TIAA-CREF. Winthrop was one of only 15 institutions awarded the grant through a competitive proposal process involving an independent selection committee of experts in higher education reforms and financial education.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Tim Hopkins moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Donna Glenn Holley. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kimberly Faust, Secretary to the Board.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON APRIL 17, 2015.