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4-17-2015

## Board of Trustees Minutes April 17-18, 2015

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### Recommended Citation

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## Meeting of the Winthrop University Board of Trustees

**Members present:** 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, Scott Talley, Julie Fowler, and President Debra Boyd (ex officio).

**Members absent:** Kathy Bigham (April 17 only) and Scott Talley

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

**Representatives absent:** None

**Others present:** Andrew Keil, WRHI; Stephen Turner, Gary Williams, Lee Gardner, Matt Dosch, Harold “Skip” Tuttle, Clarence Coleman, Jeff Perez, Ellen Wilder-Byrd, Karen Jones

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, April 17, 2015 in Macfeat House on the campus of Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC.

### **Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

### **Call to Order**

In the absence of Chair Kathy Bigham, Vice Chair Karl Folkens called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Scott Middleton moved to accept the minutes from the meetings of February 6, 2015, February 23, 2015, February 26, 2015, March 2, 2015, March 8, 2015, March 10, 2015, March 13, 2015, and March 28, 2015. Don Long seconded the motion. The vote was

unanimous in favor of the minutes as submitted.

### **Report of the Executive Committee and Board Chair**

Mr. Folkens reported on the March 13, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board. He reminded the Trustees of the new date for the June Board meeting will be June 19 as opposed to June 26. He also confirmed May 19 to be the date by which the Nominating Committee of Janet Smalley (chair), Donna Glenn Holley, and Tim Sease would report their proposed slate of candidates for the offices of chair and vice chair. Elections for the chair and vice chair will be held at the June 19 meeting.

### **Report from the President**

President Debra Boyd briefed the Board on Winthrop Think College, a fully inclusive (non-residential) college experience for individuals with intellectual disabilities who are unable to participate in a traditional college degree program. For several years prior to 2013, South Carolina's College Transition Connection grant funds were used to support a dual enrollment program for 18-22 year olds with intellectual disabilities attending Rock Hill and Fort Mill Schools. Originally, the two school districts planned to cover the cost of attendance at the end of the grant period. Financial constraints are preventing the schools from funding the project. A fee-based program has been developed for implementation this past year. Currently 10 students are enrolled.

Schedules for the enrolled students are created using person-centered planning and consist of up to 12 credits per semester. The credits are a combination of traditional Winthrop courses and Winthrop Think College courses. Students will receive a certificate of completion when they earn at least 45 credits (12 regular Winthrop credits and up to 36 Winthrop Think College credits) and complete an employment portfolio.

The proposed fee for AY 2015-16 is \$15,000. The fee covers direct program costs and Winthrop student fees. These students are eligible to qualify for federal financial aid including Pell grants.

Due to time constraints, President Boyd requested the Specialist Degree in Education Leadership program proposal be tabled until the June 19 meeting of the Board.

### **Presentation from Knowledge Park Leadership Group**

Stephen Turner of Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation, Lee Gardner of Family Trust Federal Credit Union, Matt Dosch of Comporium, Skip Tuttle of Tuttle Property Management Company, and Gary Williams of Williams and Fudge presented an overview of the Knowledge Park development initiative.

The development of the Knowledge Park is led by the Knowledge Park Leadership Group. This is a collaboration of public and private leaders from education, business, and government who bring real estate, development, and business expertise to this

effort.

The area designated as Knowledge Park stretches from Comporium Communications' headquarters and the Old Town East development project along White Street to Winthrop University. Other key landmarks within the redevelopment area include The Cotton Factory, and the former Bleachery property.

The over-arching goal of Knowledge Park is to bring together and enrich the Rock Hill community with a new technology based jobs and dynamic urban lifestyle amenities. When fully developed it will connect Downtown Rock Hill and Winthrop University, positively impacting the local economy; increasing employment through the attraction and creation of businesses; fostering the development of additional amenities such as restaurants, meeting places, entertainment, and retail options that serve knowledge economy businesses and their employees as well as residential populations; increasing local revenue bases through new investment in buildings and equipment; and redeveloping vacant and obsolete real estate assets into productive, functional uses.

Opportunities for Winthrop University that have been discussed as part of Knowledge Park include a streetcar, active adult housing and a senior scholar institute, and alumni center, and adult education/continuing education center, student housing, a college town retail and entertainment district, an inn and conference center, a Greek housing village, studio/work/retail spaces for faculty in the visual and performing arts, and near-campus housing for faculty and staff.

As they stated, the business leaders who are driving the Knowledge Park initiative are committed to the successful realization of Knowledge Park as demonstrated by the investments they are making in the area. They believe the success of the Knowledge Park initiative can aid Winthrop while at the same time realizing its success is fundamentally linked to the active participation of Winthrop University.

The meeting was recessed at 4:45 p.m. for tour of Knowledge Park area.

Chair Kathy Bigham resumed the meeting on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 8:45 a.m. in the Evans Room of the DiGiorgio Campus Center.

Kimberly Faust, Secretary to the Board, led a presentation on options for digital delivery of Board meeting materials, the possible development of an online Board portal as a central access point of information of interest to the Board, and the plans for development of a Trustee policy manual.

### **Executive Session**

Tim Sease motioned with a second from Jane LaRoche to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing contractual and personnel discussions related to President-elect Dr. Dan Mahony. The motion passed unanimously. President Debra Boyd and Kimberly Faust were invited to remain for the Executive Session.

Don Long motioned with a second from Sue Rex to end executive session and return to public session. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objections, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kimberly Faust, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON JUNE 19, 2015