Dean Richard McCarty called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 65 faculty members were in attendance.

1. **Health Plus presentation.**

Marilyn Holmes presented a brief overview of Health Plus and its *Go For the Gold* program. The big news at Health Plus is its move to impressive new facilities at the top of Kensington Garage. In addition to providing fitness equipment and various services and classes, Health Plus sponsors special health-related events and provides personal and confidential health risk assessments. The center is open 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The *Go for the Gold* incentives program, now in its fourth year, is the only program of its kind in the United States. There are three levels of achievement, and employees receive monthly credit on their paychecks in accord with the level they achieve: Bronze – $10, Silver – $15, and Gold – $20. Beginning this year, an additional $5 monthly wellness credit can be earned when spouses who are covered under the Vanderbilt health care plan also complete the Health Risk Assessment. Full information is available online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/goforthegold](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/goforthegold), and it takes only about one hour to complete the forms. The deadline for completing the program is November 30 (for salary benefits commencing in 2007). Ms. Holmes noted that since the inception of *Go for the Gold*, there has been a significant increase in physical activity by Vanderbilt faculty and staff. She further noted that the Health Plus facilities are accessible to spouses and children over 18 years old who are covered under the employees’ health insurance, for a small monthly fee of $35, which is deducted from the employee’s paycheck. Children under 18 years cannot use Health Plus facilities.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of September 19, 2006.**

There were no comments or questions, and the minutes were approved.

3. **Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of October 3, 2006.**

There were no comments or questions.

4. **Memorial Resolution for Lloyd Stow, Professor of Classics Emeritus.**

Robert Drews, Professor of Classics Emeritus, presented a Memorial Resolution honoring H. Lloyd Stow, Professor of Classics Emeritus. The faculty paid their respects and signified their assent to the resolution by standing for a moment of silence. The Memorial Resolution is appended to these minutes.

5. **Executive Motion Calendar: Revised A&S Rules and Procedures.**

Professor John Sloop, Chair of the A & S Faculty Council, introduced the proposed revisions to the A&S Rules and Procedures recently approved by the Council. He explained that the
revisions were developed by an ad hoc faculty committee in response to the increasing prominence of Programs in A&S, and evolving changes in appointment and promotion practices. The proposed Rules and Procedures, Dean McCarty added, would be discussed today and at the November Faculty meeting, and, if approved at the November meeting, would then be sent to the faculty for ratification by electronic ballot. Dean McCarty also remarked that one of the major changes in the last several years has been the placement of primary appointments in Programs for tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Professor Eakin asked about the phrase in section II. D. 4, in which the proposed Rules and Procedures state “the voting faculty [for primary appointments in a Program] will consist of all faculty members having primary appointments in that program.” In a Program like Latin American Studies, he explained, there is currently only one faculty member with a primary appointment in the Program. Dean McCarty responded that this issue will be clarified prior to the next Faculty meeting.

Professor Eakin also asked about section II. D. 8, which states that “policies on voting, quorum, and absentee voting shall be adopted by vote of tenured and tenure-track members of the department.” He asked whether faculty members who are not present for a vote on a candidate would still count as a negative vote against a candidate. Dean McCarty replied that a faculty member who is absent from a committee or department vote on a candidate would not count as a negative vote against that candidate. Professor Kovalcheck, the A&S Parliamentarian, confirmed this interpretation.

Professor Kreyling asked about the inclusion of the Dean, the Executive Dean, and the Associate Dean for Graduate Education in II.C.11. Dean McCarty explained that when he arrived at Vanderbilt, departmental tenure decisions went directly to the Dean, and there was no consultation between the Dean’s Office and faculty advisory committees. He has established a consultation process whereby two ad hoc faculty review committees provide advice and counsel. Included in the consultation process and the review committees are the Executive Dean and the Associate Dean for Graduate Education, who work with the Dean on the promotion and renewal files.

Several faculty members asked about the voting members of an ad hoc review committee. The problematic language, occurring in several clauses, states “these committee members will take part in the . . . process as though they were full voting members” (II.D.2, II.D.3, and II.D.5). It is not clear whether faculty members can vote in one and only one Department or Program or whether they can vote in more than one. Dean McCarty answered that he would clarify these sections of the Rules and Procedures before the next Faculty meeting.

Professor Patte asked whether a negative vote by an ad hoc review committee would be the final decision for a candidate. Dean McCarty replied that it would not. The Dean’s Office reviews all negative votes for the renewal or promotion of a candidate.


Dean McCarty delivered the annual State of the College address. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes. Highlights of his address are summarized below.
Faculty. The number of tenured and tenure-track faculty in the College of Arts and Science has reached 361. On average, 26 new faculty members have been hired annually for the last five years. These are mostly a balance of junior and senior faculty, with several named chairs included among the latter. During this same period, 52 of 53 promotion cases supported by the Dean’s Office have been successful. This high success ratio shows that A&S departments and the Dean’s Office have been producing strong, well-documented case files that meet the standards demanded by the University’s PTRC Committee in confirming promotions. The College has also established several new faculty development initiatives: Susan Kuyper has been hired as Grants Resource Officer for the Humanities and Social Science divisions; Dean Ed Saff and Associate Provost Tim McNamara have created workshops for informing tenure-track faculty about the promotion and tenure process; and Professor Dana Nelson has been developing a new faculty mentoring program, the Program in Career Development (PCD).

Graduate education. The online graduate student application program (Excalibur) has been operating more smoothly since Vanderbilt’s Management Information Systems (MIS) took charge of it last year. Vanderbilt experienced a 4% increase in graduate applications this year, and the quality of applicants has been increasing steadily. The relatively new Summer Research Awards (25 awards of $4000 annually) are intended to reduce the amount of time needed to complete the Ph.D. The Arts and Science Fellows Program is in its third year; it is a merit-based competition for dissertation-year support in the Humanities and qualitative Social Sciences. The current recipients are Lisa Battaglia of Religious Studies and Tim Boyd of History.

Undergraduate education. The number of applicants was up 5% this year over last, but the SAT scores of these applicants decreased slightly. A similar decline has been reported by many of our peer institutions. Over the longer period of several years, there has been a strong increase in the quality of our applicants; however, the quality is still not as high as we project for the future. Vanderbilt is not attracting many international students, and most who do come here enroll in the School of Engineering.

Vanderbilt Visions is the extended first-year student orientation program developed by the Orientation to Vanderbilt Norms and Values Committee, which was one of the four Campus Culture Committees established by the Chancellor in response to the recommendations of the Safety Task Force. The small-group sessions of Vanderbilt Visions are co-facilitated by VUceptors and Vanderbilt faculty members in a new kind of partnership for learning. Vanderbilt Visions will pave the way for programs to be created for and by the College Halls and Commons system, which is scheduled to begin in fall 2008. Professor Frank Wcislo (History) was appointed last July as the Dean of Commons. Vanderbilt Visions will also be the focus of Vanderbilt’s Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for the SACS reaccreditation process in 2007.

Diversity. Of the 23 new faculty members for 2006-2007, ten are women, eight are ethnic minorities, and five are foreign nationals. Of the women, two were appointed to endowed chairs and two as full professors. In the A&S student body, the number of first-year African-Americans dropped slightly this year, but is still near its historic high, while the number of new African-American graduate students increased slightly. Vanderbilt is using funding from the Woodrow Wilson Responsive Ph.D. Program to create programs that should attract more minority graduate students.
**Sponsored research.** At nearly $39.5 million, sponsored research funding is at an all-time high, exceeding last year's figure by more than $5 million.

**Shape the Future Campaign.** The A&S Development Office has added two new staff positions, which are paid out of the Development and Alumni Relations budget, not out of the A&S budget. These people will help A&S reach the fundraising goal of $125 million, of which $94 million has been raised thus far. A&S did not meet its goal in the last fundraising campaign.

**Special Recognition.** Several faculty were recognized for recent accomplishments: Professor Sandra Rosenthal, who is developing a nanoparticle light bulb, was recognized by *Popular Mechanics*; alumnus Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and Assistant Provost Harrington, who helped Vanderbilt raise its ranking from 114 to 53 in the *Times of London* world university rankings. The Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (CLAIS) has been designated as a Title VI Center by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Looking Ahead.** Important projects under consideration include the construction of a new Humanities building, the renovation of the Physics building, addressing the needs of the Central Library, and making the Vanderbilt campus more environmentally sustainable.

Professor Pantelides asked whether there are any plans to appoint a recruiting officer for graduate students. Dean McCarty responded that some efforts are already being made in this regard. He explained that Assistant Professor Richard Pitt (Sociology) has been appointed as Assistant Dean of the Graduate School with the charge of expanding the pool of qualified ethnic minorities for all of Vanderbilt’s graduate programs. His initial three-year appointment is being funded by an EGE (Enhancing Graduate Education) grant, provided by the Provost. Funding for this position might continue, the Provost has suggested, if the efforts at recruiting more ethnic graduate students are successful.

7. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.

8. **Good of the College.**

Dean McCarty welcomed Professor Maité Monchal to Nashville and commended her for her excellent job as the Director of the Vanderbilt-in-France Program for the past three years.

9. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Tellinghuisen, Secretary of the Faculty