Dean Richard McCarty called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 55 faculty members were in attendance.

1. **Health Plus presentation.**

Kim Tromatore, a Health Educator at Health Plus, presented a brief overview of Health Plus and its *Go For the Gold* program. One of its major goals is to encourage faculty and staff to make healthful lifestyle choices. Health Plus has fitness facilities, offers services and classes, holds special health-related events, and provides personal and confidential health risk assessments. It is located in Memorial Gym and is open 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. To promote health at Vanderbilt, Health Plus has created the *Go for the Gold* incentives program. There are three levels of the program — Bronze, Silver, and Gold — and employees receive monthly credit on their paychecks in accord with the level they achieve: Bronze – $10, Silver – $15, and Gold – $20. To reach the Bronze level, employees must complete the health risk assessment form; for the Silver level they must additionally participate in at least five wellness activities (in areas of nutrition, exercise, stress management, weight, tobacco use, cholesterol, blood pressure, safety, and health care); the Gold level further requires the viewing of the 35-minute video, *Game Plan for Your Health*. All relevant information and materials are available online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/goforthegold](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/goforthegold), and it takes only about one hour to complete the forms and view the video. This year's deadline for enrolling in the program is November 30 (for salary benefits commencing in 2006).

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of September 20, 2005.**

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

3. **Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of September 6, 2005.**

Professor William Damon, Chair of the A&S Faculty Council, reminded faculty members that approving the minutes of Faculty Council meetings concomitantly approves any minor curricular changes passed by the Faculty Council. There were no comments or questions, and the minutes were approved.

4. **State of the College.**

Dean McCarty delivered the annual State of the College address. A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes. Highlights of his address include: Faculty promotion and recruitment, course evaluations, graduate education, undergraduate education, diversity, sources of revenue, campus construction, and the Capital Campaign.

**Faculty promotion and recruitment:** Dean McCarty proudly reported that the number of tenured and tenure-track faculty in the College of Arts and Science has reached an historic high of 351. On the matter of tenure and reappointment, 39 of 40 cases of promotion to Associate
Professor with tenure were successful in the last five years, as were 113 of 119 tenure-track reappointments. Dean McCarty opined that these high success ratios show that we have been hiring the right people and supporting them at decision time with strong, well-documented case files.

**Course Evaluations.** Dean McCarty announced that A&S is adopting an online course evaluation system. A&S has been testing a pilot version of this system for several years. The new system was examined closely by the Faculty Council last spring and judged successful.

**Graduate education:** The 2004-05 academic year was the first year of the Arts and Science Fellows program, which is a merit-based competition for dissertation-year support for graduate students in the humanities and qualitative social sciences. Brian McInness of the German Department and Kathleen Eamon of the Philosophy Department were the first two award recipients. Last year for the first time we received applications from students graduating from every top-25 American undergraduate school. The online graduate student application program (Excalibur) had some security problems last year; consequently, Vanderbilt’s Management Information Systems (MIS) was placed in charge of it this year.

**Undergraduate education:** Dean McCarty remarked that A&S had another great year for undergraduate admissions. The College of Arts and Science was close to the magic number of 10,000 applicants with 8796, close to the desired yield percentage of 40% (at 37%), and close to the preferred admittance rate of 25% (with 31%). The average SAT score of incoming first year students was 1373. A&S experienced a drastic drop in the number of international students, however, as did most of our peer institutions. All A&S first-year students are subject to the new AXLE curriculum, the introduction of which has proceeded smoothly. Two components of AXLE are being developed this year — the Vanderbilt Visions course and 200-level Writing and Oral Communications courses.

**Accreditation review:** Vanderbilt is being reviewed this year for re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This is a major project, spearheaded by Associate Provost Tim McNamara. Dean McCarty asked that everyone cooperate fully with the re-accreditation team, who will be requesting information about faculty and courses.

**Diversity:** Dean McCarty commended the Admissions Office and the academic departments for their ongoing efforts to increase diversity among our students and faculty. He noted that this year's freshman class is the best and most diverse in A&S history. Over the last ten years, Vanderbilt has doubled the number of African-Americans enrolled as first-year students, leading (most?) top-ranked schools in both percentage and numerical increases for this period. Among the faculty, Vanderbilt has increased the percentage of African-Americans from 2.2 % to 4.3%, which is the largest percentage gain of any highly ranked American school. Further, Vanderbilt has enrolled 22 new African-American and 10 new Hispanic graduate students in 2005, an increase of 6 and 8, respectively, from the previous year. A&S is targeting diversity issues with seed money from the Woodrow Wilson Responsive Ph.D. Program.

**Sources of revenue:** Dean McCarty emphasized that the vast majority of A&S funding comes from undergraduate tuition fees. These fees account for almost $120 million of our $180 million budget. Approximately half of all undergraduate students pay full tuition, and, unlike Contract and Grant revenues, tuition fees are fully discretionary. Our revenue from Sponsored Research
has increased from $32.7 million to $34.1 million in the past year, despite a decrease in Federal funding during this time.

**Campus construction:** The Buttrick Hall renovations and the new Studio Arts Center have been completed. The grand opening of the E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center is scheduled for November 2, and the grand re-opening of Buttrick Hall is scheduled for April 20, 2006.

**Shape the Future Campaign:** Dean McCarty announced that Jonathan Petty, previously of the University of Pennsylvania, is the new A&S Associate Dean for Development. Vanderbilt’s *Shape the Future* fundraising campaign is proceeding well, but A&S is somewhat behind schedule in its fundraising. The category of gifts for endowed chairs is a particular concern.

5. **Issues relating to the campus climate.**

Dean McCarty stated that the campus climate for students has been troubling this fall, with numerous cases of binge drinking (some resulting in emergency room visits), perhaps the greatest number of sexual assaults in Vanderbilt’s history, and even gunshot injuries. Dean McCarty asked faculty members to look for symptoms of abuse in students. He reported that he is a member of the Safety Task Force, a Vanderbilt body organized by the Chancellor to address these security and behavioral problems, but not yet to the point of making recommendations. Dean McCarty then opened the floor for discussion: Several faculty members expressed frustration that faculty are not involved in and have not been asked to be involved in this issue. It appeared to them that the lack of consultation is emblematic of a perceived increasing split between academic goals and the kinds of activities promoted by the Division of Student Life. Dean McCarty acknowledged that these points were well taken, and noted that the university is in a period of transition, with the implementation of the new residential hall system on the near horizon. Another faculty member wondered the extent to which outsiders were responsible for the problems. Dean McCarty replied that much of the petty crime is by outsiders, but the binge drinking and the sexual assaults are not. A faculty member then asked about Vanderbilt’s alcohol policy. Dean McCarty stated that Vanderbilt’s policy is similar to that at other schools: Official Vanderbilt student events and Greek parties have heavy security, and alcohol is not allowed. It appears that much of the drinking occurs in dormitory rooms, often by students who are "tanking up" before attending a social event. Such in-dorm drinking is also banned, but enforcement is a problem, since the responsible persons are often 20-year old fellow students, who may find themselves in difficult situations. Dean McCarty urged faculty members to think about these issues and talk with colleagues and students about ways to address the problems.

6. **Executive Motion Calendar.**

Professor Damon presented two items for action: (1) **Proposal to Revise the Option of Graduate Study in Environmental Science.** There were no questions or discussion, and the motion to approve this revision passed; and (2) **Faculty Senate Reapportionment Proposal.** There were no questions or discussion, and the motion to approve this proposal passed

7. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.
8. **Good of the College.**

No issues were raised.

9. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Tellinghuisen, Secretary of the Faculty