Minutes of the Arts and Science Faculty Council

March 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by the Chair, Professor Malcolm Getz. Present at the meeting were Dean Carolyn Dever, Professors Brooke Ackerly, Laura Carpenter, Jennifer Fay, Michael Hodges, John Janusek, Holly McCammon, Vesna Pavlovic’, and Carmelo Rizzo. Sending their regrets were Professors Beth Conklin, Richard Haglund, and Ifeoma Nwankwo. Senior Associate Dean Karen Campbell attended as a guest of Faculty Council, and Jonathan Bremer, from the Arts and Science Dean’s Office staff, attended as the Executive Secretary of the Faculty.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of February 5, 2013.

There were no comments or questions, and Council approved the Minutes.

2. Business from the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP).

   A. **Proposed elimination of the Senior Scholar Program.** There were no comments or questions, and Council approved the elimination of the Senior Scholar Program.

   B. **Proposed revision of the Anthropology major.** Professor Getz explained that the proposal reduces the number of introductory survey courses required for the major from four to three. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the revision of the Anthropology major.

   C. **Proposed creation of an Anthropology minor.** Professor Janusek, a faculty member of the Anthropology department, explained that the department had not developed a minor previously because faculty members were concerned that a minor might reduce the number of students who decide to major in Anthropology. After conducting some research of other programs, he continued, the existence of a minor does not appear to affect the number of students who choose to major in a field. Professor Hodges added that this is true for Philosophy as well. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the creation of the Anthropology minor.

   D. **Proposed revision of the Art major.** Professor Pavlovic’, a faculty member of the Art department, explained that this proposal corrects a typographical error in the Catalog. She stated that the faculty members of the department do not think that Art majors need to take two 200-level studio courses; one is sufficient. In addition to the requirement that Art majors must complete one 200-level studio course, Art majors must complete ARTS 290 and 291, the directed study requirement, which prepares students for their senior show. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the revision of the Art major.

   E. **Proposed revision of the Economics and History major and Honors program.** Professor Getz explained that the proposed changes bring the requirements and wording
of the Economics and History major and Honors program into alignment with recent changes to the History major. Professor McCammon expressed concern that the proposal does not include a vote count for the revisions by the faculty members of the program. Professor Getz explained to Council that both departments had voted favorably for the change. [A vote count was included in the material provided to the CEP, but this documentation was not forwarded to Faculty Council: the faculty of the Economics department voted 21-0 in favor of the proposed revisions and the faculty of the History department voted 24-0-0 in favor. This documentation will be reinstated.] There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the revisions of the Economics and History major and Honors program.

F. Proposed revision of the Jewish Studies minor. Professor Getz explained that the proposed changes eliminate the language requirement for the minor. Several Council members expressed concern about the significant number of faculty members in the program who abstained from voting on these proposed changes (the vote count was 9-1-5). Dean Campbell also expressed concern about the typographical and other errors in the proposed revision of the Catalog copy. Council approved a motion to request an explanation from the Jewish Studies program for the large number of abstentions and for a corrected version of the Catalog copy.

G. Proposed student exchange agreement with Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Brazil). Mr. Bremer explained that this proposed agreement would in actual practice replace the existing student exchange agreement between Vanderbilt and the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of Bahia. The terms of the two agreements are nearly identical; one exception is the maximum number of semester-long and year-long places available at each institution. He stated that Professor Landers, who proposed the two student exchange programs, wrote to him that there will be no further exchanges under the existing agreement. In response to a question, Mr. Bremer said that Professor Landers provided a list of students who have participated in the FIPSE/CAPES student exchanges. The list shows that 33 Brazilian students have studied at Vanderbilt and 24 Vanderbilt students have studied in Brazil since 2003. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the student exchange agreement.

H. Proposed partnership with the Washington Internship Institute (WII). Professor Getz explained that Arts and Science has an existing agreement with The Washington Center (TWC) to facilitate student internships in Washington, D.C. This proposal to partner with the Washington Internship Institute (WII) would provide students with another means of obtaining an academic internship in Washington, D.C. Dean Campbell noted that Dean Jones examined the agreement with The Washington Center to ensure that it does not preclude Arts and Science from affiliating with another internship organization. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the partnership with the Washington Internship Institute.
3. **Business from the Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Graduate Education (CGE).**

**New and revised courses.** Council approved the course changes and additions from the Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Graduate Education as corrected (the course descriptions will be attached to the Minutes of the March 2013 Arts and Science Faculty Meeting).

4. **New Business and Concerns.**

No issues were raised.

5. **Good of the Council.**

Professor Hodges expressed concern about the amount of time that Council members spend reviewing course descriptions. Dean Campbell responded that, in light of similar comments in the past, Council has tried to find the most efficient way to review the courses. Further, there are more course descriptions to review this year, Mr. Bremer added, because of the recent 100-word limit on First-Year Writing Seminar descriptions and the recent enforcement of prerequisites, both of which entail extensive revision of existing course descriptions. Professor Hodges volunteered to investigate ways in which the process could be streamlined.

6. **Adjournment.**

Council voted to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly J. McCammon  
Secretary of the Faculty Council