Interim Dean Carolyn Dever called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 55 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Health Plus presentation.

Marilyn Holmes, the Manager of Vanderbilt’s Health Plus, presented a brief overview of the Health Plus facilities and their Go for the Gold program. She explained that the Health Plus facilities occupy 21,000 square feet of space and are located on top of Kensington Garage, which is at the corner of 25th Avenue South and Kensington Avenue. The facilities are open from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The Go for the Gold incentives program is the only program of its kind in the United States, she continued, and this year it won the C. Everett Koop National Health Award from the Health Project at Stanford University. She encouraged faculty members to participate in the program, learn about their health status, and take action to improve their health. More than 15,000 Vanderbilt employees participated in the program last year, she said. Steps in the Go for the Gold program must be completed by November 30 if Vanderbilt employees wish to receive benefits in 2009. There are three steps or levels of achievement in the program, and employees receive monthly credit on their paychecks in accordance with the level they achieve: Bronze – $10, Silver – $15, and Gold – $20. The three steps can be completed online at and more information about the program is available from www.vanderbilt.edu/goforthegold. She emphasized that all of the personal information collected from employees for the program is kept strictly confidential.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of September 16, 2008.

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

3. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meetings of September 2 and October 7, 2008.

There were no comments or questions.

4. Executive Motion Calendar.

From the Committee on Graduate Education (CGE): Proposed Comparative Literature Ph.D. track in Spanish and Portuguese. There were no comments or questions, and the faculty approved the new Ph.D. track in Spanish and Portuguese.

5. State of the College.

Interim Dean Dever delivered the annual State of the College Address. A copy of her PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Minutes. Highlights of her Address are summarized below.
Interim Dean Dever emphasized that the state of the College of Arts and Science is especially strong and that Vanderbilt’s finances are solid, even with the current financial crisis. To be prudent, she urged faculty members to be careful and thoughtful when spending Vanderbilt money and, more than ever, to stay within budget.

**Undergraduate education.** The statistics for the Class of 2012 are impressive, Interim Dean Dever stated, and the trends are moving in the right direction. In comparison to last year the admittance rate declined this year (22.6% of those who applied were admitted, down from 28.5% for the Class of 2011), which she would like to drop further, and even though the yield of those admitted dropped to 32.7% (from 36.6% last year) this decrease, she explained, probably means that Vanderbilt is competing with the best schools in the country for the brightest students. She noted that the average SAT score of the Class of 2012 increased to 1411, from 1389 for the Class of 2011.

The Class of 2012 is the first group of students to reside in The Commons, and Interim Dean Dever stated that the implementation of college halls at Vanderbilt is proceeding splendidly. The Commons was featured in *Time* magazine last week, she continued, and this national recognition is something of which we can be proud.

Interim Dean Dever reported that investments in undergraduate students from Vanderbilt sources total $66.4 million this year (including $45.2 million in need-based grants, $16.7 million in scholarships, and $4.5 million in athletic scholarships).

**Graduate education.** Interim Dean Dever stated that the data regarding graduate education at Vanderbilt are good also. A&S programs conferred 77 Ph.D. degrees and 104 Master’s degrees in 2008, which is an increase from 2007. The number of graduate applications and of admittances have increased over 2006-07, and the graduate aid budget for 2007-08 was over $23 million. Assistant Dean Richard Pitt of the Graduate School has been developing ways to attract minority graduate students and has had great success, she remarked. Applications from African-American and Hispanic students have increased every year since 2003, from 90 applications from African-Americans in 2003 to 179 in 2008 and from 33 applications from Hispanic persons in 2003 to 119 in 2008. Vanderbilt is at the forefront of the country in this area, she stated. Enrollments in the MLAS program have also increased for comparable periods, from 90 in 2005 to 191 in 2008, thanks to the efforts of Associate Dean Martin Rapisarda and to the excellent teachers who offer courses in the program.

Among new developments in graduate education, Interim Dean Dever highlighted a graduate certificate program in African American and Diaspora Studies, an award from the Max Kade Foundation to fund a “super cohort” in the Department of German, and the implementation of Enhancing Graduate Education (EGE) grants. The latter include a popular grant- and fellowship-writing workshop for graduate students and a “Prof 101” workshop for graduate students who plan to apply for academic positions. Also, Vanderbilt has established the second Task Force on Graduate Education to review the development of graduate education at Vanderbilt over the past five years and to plan how to proceed.

**Faculty.** Interim Dean Dever stated that A&S has hired 25 new faculty members on average for the past five years, and 25 faculty searches are in progress this year. Last year A&S appointed
26 new faculty members, 13 of whom were women. Including last year’s 26 new appointments, the total number of tenured and tenure-track faculty members in A&S has increased to 368. A&S has a remarkable record of success with the promotion, tenure, and reappointment of faculty members, she continued. Over the past five years Vanderbilt’s Promotion and Tenure Review Committee (PTRC) and the Provost have approved 67 of the 69 cases brought forward by A&S. This record shows, she remarked, that A&S departments and programs have continued to recruit and mentor outstanding junior faculty members.

Valuable faculty development programs continued last year, Interim Dean Dever stated, including the Program for Career Development (PCD), directed last year by Professor Dana Nelson and this year by Professor Vanessa Beasley, and workshops for tenure-track faculty hosted by the PCD and the A&S Dean’s Office. Two issues of continuing concern with respect to faculty development, she noted, include the mentoring of tenured faculty members and support for the spouses of faculty members.

Interim Dean Dever recognized several faculty members for their recent accomplishments, including Professors Michael Bess and James Bloom for being awarded American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowships; Professors Michael Bess and Barbara Hahn for being awarded Guggenheim Fellowships; Professor Julia Velkovska for being awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowship; and Professor Isabel Gauthier for being awarded the 2008 Troland Research Award from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

**Finances.** A&S is primarily a tuition-driven institution, explained Interim Dean Dever. Tuition and fees comprise most (82% in fiscal year 2008) of our operating funds, while financial aid to students and salaries and benefits are our two largest operating expenses (35% and 31% respectively in fiscal year 2008). Sponsored research funding from external sources increased 4.8% in A&S this fiscal year, to $41.8 million, which is remarkable, she continued, given the budgetary constraints in sponsored research funding and our progress in this area (sponsored research funding totaled less than $20 million in A&S for fiscal year 2000).

**Shape the Future Campaign.** Interim Dean Dever reported that Vanderbilt’s *Shape the Future* fundraising campaign has been extended to the end of 2010, and the total fundraising goal has increased to $1.75 billion. A&S met its original goal of $125 million last spring, she continued, thanks to the work of Associate Dean Jonathan Petty and his staff, and aspires to meet the new goal of $160 million by the end of June 2011. Unrestricted donations to A&S increased again last year, from $2.77 million to $2.8 million.

**Looking Ahead.** Interim Dean Dever stated that the College of Arts and Science faces several important concerns this year, including the search for a new dean, space for faculty offices and laboratories, and strategic planning for growth in selected academic areas (applied behavioral sciences, energy and the environment, Asian studies, and Islamic studies).

Professor Weiler asked what is meant by the “applied behavioral sciences.” Interim Dean Dever responded that the term refers to the study of applied public policy and education policy. As she stated, this discipline could be formally established at Vanderbilt as a department, program, or center.
Professor Sevin asked about the value of Vanderbilt’s endowment. Interim Dean Dever replied that Vanderbilt’s endowment is valued at $3.9 billion, of which portions are dedicated to A&S, but it is difficult, she said, to estimate the dollar value of the endowment for A&S on its own. She also explained that using the interest earned on the endowment is a stable budgetary funding mechanism. Vanderbilt uses a three year rolling average to calculate the interest earned on the endowment that can be used for the fiscal year budget.

Professor Eakin asked whether Vanderbilt’s dependence on tuition fees and the implementation of the new financial aid policy will constrain us in the future. Interim Dean Dever explained that the new financial aid policy technically will not affect the amount of tuition fees that Vanderbilt receives and hence will not limit our progress. With the new aid policy, Vanderbilt’s financial books will still report that we have received tuition fees from every student, even though many students will pay less out of pocket for tuition. Therefore, Vanderbilt will still earn approximately the same amount of tuition fees as it does now, from which our operating expenses will be distributed, although our financial aid expenses will increase.

Professor McCarthy asked how the financial situation has affected enrollments in study abroad programs. Interim Dean Dever and Associate Dean Rapisarda explained that two Vanderbilt initiatives should encourage students to enroll in study abroad programs by reducing or eliminating the financial costs to students of such programs. First, Provost McCarty has provided $250,000 to establish the Global Summer Fellows Program. The Program will provide scholarships to about 25 to 30 students at levels up to $8,500 for up to eight weeks of Maymester or summer study abroad. Applications are available on the Vanderbilt GEO website. Second, the new Vanderbilt financial aid policy will reduce individual student debt by replacing need-based student loans with grants and scholarships.

Professor Geer asked Interim Dean Dever to estimate the number of students who will not be able to return in the spring semester due to the financial crisis. Interim Dean Dever replied that A&S will make sure that financial matters will not be a reason for students not to return for the spring semester. Some financial aid packages might have to be adjusted, she said, and Vanderbilt’s new financial aid policy, which will take effect in January, will also help.

Professor Sevin asked whether the lower yield of admitted students this year means that A&S matriculated fewer students. Interim Dean Dever stated that the lower yield did not significantly lower the number of incoming first-year students. Vanderbilt expected the yield to be somewhat lower this year given the high qualifications of the applicant pool. On the other hand, she continued, the maximum number of first-year students is limited by the number of beds in The Commons. Associate Dean Bergquist added that even though the number of first-year A&S students decreased slightly this year, the number of transfer students increased.

6. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.

7. **Good of the College.**

Professor McCarthy called on the faculty to congratulate Associate Deans Fräncliffe Bergquist and Russell McIntire. They were presented with Distinguished Faculty Awards at the October
25 Vanderbilt Homecoming football game by the Vanderbilt Athletics Department for their work with student athletes.

Interim Dean Dever announced that the Memorial Service for Professor Pierre Colas and his sister, Marie Colas, will be held in Benton Chapel on Wednesday, October 29, at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall C. Eakin,
Secretary of the Faculty