Dean Richard McCarty called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 50 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Support for Faculty International Collaboration.

Professor Joel Harrington, Assistant Provost for International Affairs, presented an update on funding and support services for international research collaboration (a copy of his PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Minutes). He stated that Vanderbilt has established three major goals to increase its international presence. First, Vanderbilt is striving to increase international research and teaching opportunities for faculty members in all disciplines. Second, Vanderbilt aims to improve its international reputation, and, third, Vanderbilt is enhancing international educational experiences for all of its students, including its study abroad programs. One way in which Vanderbilt is implementing its plan of achieving these three goals is to establish a university-level strategy and school-level strategies. A Vanderbilt school can identify and develop a relationship with a university outside of the United States that has benefits for faculty and students in that school. The College of Arts and Science, for example, could establish a unique relationship with an international university in order to develop specific research collaborations. The other Vanderbilt schools might be interested in making connections with other universities. VIO, the Vanderbilt International Office, can assist Vanderbilt and its schools develop such international relationships and collaborations by making policy suggestions, building contacts with other universities, and supplying templates for international research agreements. VIO provides the support structure for establishing and maintaining academic collaborations that Vanderbilt faculty and students develop with international universities.

Part of Vanderbilt's university-level strategy, Assistant Provost Harrington continued, is to establish core partnerships with specific international universities. These core partners are chosen based on their research prominence, academic depth, strategic location, and their potential for mutually beneficial, long-term, research collaborations with Vanderbilt faculty and programs. Such partnerships are not based on student exchange programs, he noted, because students generally have relatively short-term academic relationships with international universities. Vanderbilt has already established core partnerships with the University of Cape Town, University of Melbourne, Fudan University, and University of São Paulo. Four more core partnerships at most will be developed over the next two years, for Vanderbilt initially plans to keep their number small. The Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, in Santiago, might become Vanderbilt's next core partner. Partnerships with foreign universities can be developed incrementally, he explained. First, an individual faculty member or a department might establish research or pedagogical connections with faculty members or departments in a university outside of the United States. This collaboration can develop into an institutional relationship, then with government and corporate partners, and finally this relationship can become a long-term, large-scale research collaboration-acore partnership. Though Vanderbilt's international strategy stresses long-term, sustainable research collaboration with core partners, research and pedagogical collaborations with other international universities are also encouraged.
Another part of Vanderbilt's strategy, Assistant Provost Harrington stated, was to increase the number of international faculty and students, especially undergraduate students, at Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt has a relatively low percentage of international students in comparison with our peer institutions. Last year, two percent of Vanderbilt's undergraduate students were foreign citizens and that has increased to three percent this year. The goal is to increase this figure to eight percent by 2010 in order to further enhance and broaden Vanderbilt's student body.

As Assistant Provost Harrington further explained, the Vanderbilt International Office awards seed grants to help faculty, staff, and graduate or professional students start an international research partnership. There are two types of seed grants—exploratory and exchange grants. Exploratory grants provide up to $4000 for a ten-day or less visit to an international university in order to initiate an international research collaboration, while exchange grants provide up to $15,000 in matching funds for laying the foundation of international research collaborations through faculty, staff, and student visits to a university that shows promise for developing a collaborative relationship. VIO provides other services as well, he continued. It serves as a center of information regarding international academic issues and relationships, facilitates new research collaborations and exchanges with international academics and universities, develops new study abroad courses and programs, and hosts visiting scholars and delegations.

Professor Scott asked whether Vanderbilt is trying to make contacts with and recruit students from American Schools abroad. Yes, replied Assistant Provost Harrington, but by "international students" Vanderbilt means students with foreign citizenship. Professor McCarthy asked if he had the same opportunity for VIO funding as other faculty members if he were to pursue a collaborative relationship with a European university that is not a core partner with Vanderbilt. Yes, responded Assistant Provost Harrington, who added that the deadline for the next round of VIO grant applications is March 15. Dean McCarty complimented Assistant Provost Harrington on his work. Vanderbilt did not have an international strategy before he took his position as Assistant Provost for International Affairs, and he has done a terrific job.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of December 11, 2007.

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


There were no comments or questions.


Associate Dean Fréncille Bergquist moved that the Faculty of the College of Arts and Science recommend to the Board of Trust that it confer upon these candidates their degrees (a list of degree candidates is attached to these Minutes). Her motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

5. Executive Motion Calendar.

(A) From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP): Endorsement in principle of the Commons Seminars. Professor Frank Wcislo, Dean of The Commons, explained that he is
proposing to establish Commons Seminars, which would be one-credit academic seminars, with fifteen contact hours, and which would be hosted and approved by one of the four Vanderbilt undergraduate colleges. The Seminars would take place at The Commons, and The Commons would advertise them. First-year students from any one of the four colleges could enroll in any of the seminars, and enrollment in any seminar would be limited to twenty students. A maximum of twelve seminars would be offered in the fall semester, the topics of which would be developed by faculty members. A maximum of twenty would be offered in the spring, the topics of which would be suggested by students through Commons programming events in the previous fall. Themes of next fall’s seminars would be energy, environment, and sustainability, politics 2008, and music. The Seminars would complement the four-school classroom of Vanderbilt Visions, Dean Wcislo continued, and would encourage curricular innovation. These seminars would give faculty members an opportunity to test or practice creative and experimental pedagogical techniques on a small scale or to teach interesting and provocative topics that might be more suitable on a smaller scale than in regular three- or four-credit courses. Associate Dean John Sloop further explained that individual Commons seminars could be approved through a 099 course rubric in the same way as Special Topics courses are approved through the 294 course rubric. The motion under consideration, he continued, requests that the faculty endorse the Commons Seminars in principle, not the implementation of them.

Professor Gaca asked whether teaching a Commons seminar would count toward a faculty member's normal teaching load. Dean Sloop responded that it would not; teaching a Commons seminar is voluntary and would be in addition to normal teaching duties. Professor McCarthy asked whether an academic center could host a Commons seminar. Dean Sloop replied that any academic center that offers academic credit would be able to host a Commons seminar. Faculty then approved the motion to endorse the Commons Seminars in principle.

(B) From the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures (CASP): Proposed revision of the procedure to select the Founder’s Medalist. Professor Bess, as Chair of Faculty Council, explained that the major change of the proposed revision from current practice is that the process of selecting the Founder's Medalist would begin at the end of the fall semester instead of at the end of the spring semester, shortly before Commencement. Starting the selection process earlier would enable the members of CASP to rank order the candidates in a calmer, more deliberative way. Dean Bergquist added that, by her understanding, CASP does not select the Founder's Medalist, the Dean of the College of Arts and Science makes that decision. CASP evaluates the candidates for the Founder's Medal, based on the students' dossiers, and presents a rank order list of the candidates to the Dean. The Dean, when selecting the Founder's Medalist, she continued, need not follow the advice of CASP. Dean McCarty concurred with her interpretation. Professor Weintraub asserted that the proposed revision is very good. As a former member of the committee that helped select the Founder's Medalist, more time to carefully consider the candidates would be valuable. Professor Franck asked whether a student would move up in the rank order if he or she made tremendous achievements in his or her last semester. Dean McCarty replied that this would rarely happen, because the impact of one excellent semester at the end of a student's academic program would not increase his or her GPA enough to boost him or her into the group of students with the five highest GPAs. Faculty approved the proposed revision of the procedure to select the Founder’s Medalist.
6. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.

7. **Good of the College.**

Associate Dean Holly McCammon reported that she had heard recently from Professor Dennis Hall, Associate Provost for Research and Graduate Education, that three of the Enhancing Graduate Education (EGE) awards have been determined for the next academic year. One of the awards is for organizing grant-writing workshops for graduate students; another is for organizing a workshop for advanced graduate students on how faculty members balance teaching and research; and a third is for funding two additional, service-free, dissertation-year fellowships in the social sciences.

8. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall C. Eakin,
Secretary of the Faculty