Minutes of the Faculty
College of Arts & Science
March 19, 2013

Dean Carolyn Dever called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Sending their regrets were Professors Hodges and Wasserstein.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of December 4, 2012.

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

2. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meetings of February 5 and March 12, 2013.

There were no comments or questions.

3. Approval of the Candidates for Degrees at the end of the fall semester, December 15, 2012.

Associate Dean Frâncille 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. Her motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Executive Motion Calendar.

From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP):

A. Proposed creation of Latino and Latina Studies major and minor. Professor Getz, Chair of Faculty Council, explained that the proposal would establish a new major and minor in Latino and Latina Studies. The proponents of the proposal worked hard to develop the project. There were no other comments or questions, and the faculty approved the creation of the Latino and Latina Studies major and minor. Faculty members congratulated Professors Luis and Lopez for their accomplishment.

B. Proposed elimination of the Senior Scholar Program. Professor Getz explained that students have not entered or completed the Senior Scholar Program in many years. The last student to do so, Dean Bergquist added, was in 1989. There were no other comments or questions, and the faculty approved the elimination of the Senior Scholar Program.

C. Proposed revision of the Anthropology major. Professor Getz explained that the proposal would reduce the number of introductory survey courses required for the major. There were no other comments or questions, and the proposal was approved.

D. Proposed creation of an Anthropology minor. Professor Getz explained that the proposal would establish a minor in Anthropology; one of the few majors in Arts and Science that does not have a corresponding minor. There were no other comments or questions, and the faculty approved the Anthropology minor.
E. Proposed revision of the Art major. There were no comments or questions, and the revision was approved.

F. Proposed revision of the Economics and History major and Honors program. Professor Getz explained that the proposed changes would align the requirements and wording of the Economics and History major and Honors program with recent changes to the History major and Honors program. There were no other comments or questions, and the revisions were approved.

G. Proposed student exchange agreement with Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (Brazil). Professor Getz explained that the proposed student exchange agreement with UFRGS and UFPE would in effect replace the existing student exchange agreement between Vanderbilt and the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of Bahia. The exchange is funded partly by FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education). There were no other comments or questions, and the faculty approved the student exchange agreement with UFRGS and UFPE.

H. Proposed partnership with the Washington Internship Institute. Professor Getz explained that the proposal to partner with the Washington Internship Institute (WII) would not replace Vanderbilt’s existing agreement with The Washington Center (TWC). The new agreement would provide students another means of obtaining an academic internship in Washington, D.C. Moreover, the existing agreement with TWC does not preclude Vanderbilt from partnering with another internship organization in Washington, D.C. There were no other comments or questions, and the proposal to partner with the Washington Internship Institute was approved.

5. Announcements from Senior Associate Dean Karen Campbell.

Dean Campbell presented several announcements: 1. She reported that the United States Supreme Court ruled today that it is not an infringement of U.S. copyright law to resell textbooks in the United States that were originally purchased abroad; 2. Dean Campbell distributed flyers from the Psychological and Counseling Center (PCC), part of the Office of the Dean of Students, that publicizes their support groups. The four support groups—academic skills, stress and relationships, graduation stress, and coping skills—meet weekly and are free and confidential. If faculty members encounter students in their classes or in advising sessions who might benefit from one of these support groups, Dean Campbell urged faculty members to inform them about these support groups; 3. Dean Campbell thanked faculty members for offering 47 First-Year Writing Seminars next fall and for reducing the number of Monday-Wednesday classes; and 4. She reported that, for security reasons, the Vanderbilt Registrar’s Office has removed information regarding the room locations of classes from publicly accessible Vanderbilt websites.

6. Original Motion Calendar.

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

Dean Dever presented several announcements: The Dean’s Office has submitted the Arts and Science budget for next year, with $6 million cut from it. Cutting the budget was difficult, and she thanked those who helped work on it. Arts and Science is managing the budget carefully, especially given the new constraints imposed by the sequestration of the Federal budget, some of the ramifications of which are slowly becoming understood. Congress is considering, for example, an amendment that would eliminate National Science Foundation (NSF) funding for political science. [Congress approved the amendment on March 21.] Research funding for the social sciences in general might be in danger as well. Those in the natural sciences are perhaps hearing information from the Federal research agencies about the effects of sequestration on their budgets. She said that universities are having to play defense in the face of these budget cuts and lack of information. More solid information and guidance might be available in a few weeks after the Federal budget has been approved. Dean Dever stated that many faculty members are lobbying Congress on behalf of the Federal research funding agencies.

On a brighter note, Dean Dever stated that Arts and Science is having a great year in other respects. Departments have recruited some terrific faculty members, and Arts and Science will celebrate the retirement of 14 faculty members at the end of the academic year. The incoming class of first-year students for next year is better than ever in terms of test scores, diversity, and nationality. Moreover, the number of applications crossed the 31,000 threshold. It was a humbling and very interesting experience, she continued, to observe the admissions professionals at work selecting the students who will be admitted—they argue a student in, they do not argue a student out. Honors candidates will be visiting classes in the next few weeks, Associate Dean McIntire added, and he urged faculty members to welcome them. In light of the dramatic changes in the student body over the past decade, Dean Dever advised faculty members to rethink their courses, if they have not already done so. Course evaluations have revealed that students are still satisfied with their instructors (Q4 on the course evaluation form) but are becoming less satisfied with their courses (Q9 on the course evaluation form).

8. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Written by
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Reviewed by
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