Minutes of the Faculty
College of Arts and Science

December 10, 2013

Dean Carolyn Dever called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m. in Buttrick Hall 101. Approximately 100 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of November 19, 2013.

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

2. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of December 3, 2013.

There were no comments or questions.

3. Executive Motion Calendar.

A. From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP):
   I. Proposed study abroad program at Haifa, Israel.
   II. Proposed study abroad program at Tel Aviv, Israel.
   III. Proposed revision of the Italian Studies minor and deletion of Italian minor.
   IV. Proposed revision of the Corporate Strategy minor in Managerial Studies.
   V. Proposed deletion of the Leadership and Organization minor in Managerial Studies.

All five proposals were considered at once. The Haifa study abroad program would add substantially to Vanderbilt’s study abroad offerings: Haifa has a large population of Arab Israelis, a relatively large proportion of the student body at the University of Haifa is Arab, and the University of Haifa is committed to working toward mutual understanding and cooperation between the Jewish and Arab peoples. The Tel Aviv proposal would reestablish a study abroad program at Tel Aviv University that ended a decade ago because of security concerns. The revision of the Italian Studies minor would be more flexible for students and combines elements of the two current minors. Under the proposal students would be able to use courses taught in English toward the minor, which is consistent with policies and practices at other American universities. The proposed revision of the Corporate Strategy minor merely deletes one course from the list of approved elective courses for the minor. The Leadership and Organization minor is proposed to be deleted by the Managerial Studies program because staffing the required courses has been problematic and Peabody’s Human and Organizational Development department offers similar courses. This minor has also been undersubscribed by students. The faculty approved all five proposals.
B. From the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures (CASP): Proposed revision of the procedure to select the Founder’s Medalist. Professor Outlaw, Chair of Faculty Council, explained that the proposal would revise the selection procedure for the Founder’s Medal to permit August and December graduates, along with May graduates, to be considered for the Founder’s Medal and Banner Bearer honors. There were no comments or questions, and the faculty approved the revised procedure to select the Founder’s Medalist and Banner Bearer.

4. Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Mentoring Award in the College of Arts and Science.

Senior Associate Dean Vicki Greene presented the Outstanding Graduate Mentoring Award to Kelly Holley-Bockelmann, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy.

5. Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Science.

Dean Greene presented the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award to Andrew Tomarken, Associate Professor of Psychology.

6. Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards in the College of Arts and Science.

Dean Greene presented the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award to Rebecca Tuvel, of the Department of Philosophy, and the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award to Susanne McDowell, of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

7. Special announcement from Senior Associate Dean Karen Campbell.

Senior Associate Dean Karen Campbell presented a special award to Patricia Armstrong, who will be starting her new position as Dean of English, Humanities and Arts at Nashville State Community College (NSCC) in January, 2014. Dean Campbell stated that Ms. Armstrong has done an amazing job for the past four years transforming and improving pre-major academic advising in the College of Arts and Science as founding director of CASPAR (College of Arts and Science Pre-major Academic Advising Resources Center). Before becoming director of CASPAR, Ms. Armstrong was assistant director of the Center for Teaching. Dean Campbell thanked Ms. Armstrong for her leadership, for consistently striving for the well-being of Arts and Science and its students, and for the professional development of CASPAR advisers. NSCC will benefit from her energy and enthusiasm, Dean Campbell said.

8. Discussion of campus safety and security.

Confidential information was presented, after which a discussion took place about campus safety and security, and sexual assault in particular. Concerns raised by faculty
members during the discussion included the following: Alcohol and drugs are available on campus and contribute to a culture of violence among students and to the ‘hookup’ culture; violence against women on campus is directed against faculty and staff members in addition to students; a high number and rate of sexual assaults on campus go unreported; and the culture is lacking for reporting crimes on campus in general and for punishing those responsible for committing offenses. Faculty members and chaplains have a responsibility to aid sexual assault victims, to include sexual violence as a topic in the curriculum, and to become involved as mentors in student extracurricular activities. Yet, it is difficult to discuss sexual violence with students, to know how to mentor male students, and to address male violence. Racism and stereotyping are also problems, especially in the forms of viewing African Americans as less academically gifted and as more prone to inappropriate behavior. The university has a responsibility to counsel sexual assault victims. Finding ways to encourage grassroots and student efforts to prevent sexual violence is important.

In response to these concerns, Provost Richard McCarty stated that reliable data about sexual assaults are impossible to obtain. Sexual assaults are underreported on campus and in society at large. Many victims are reluctant to report the crimes and/or prefer to stay out of the system. Further, most perpetrators do not admit or confess to sexual crimes. Providing information about or discussing misconduct by individual students is prohibited by FERPA regulations, although it might be possible for Vanderbilt to provide aggregate data. To gain more information and understanding, Vanderbilt is considering hiring a vendor to conduct a campus climate survey. A culture of reporting crimes and sexual assaults needs to be established on campus, or at least victims should be able to talk to a professional counselor confidentially. Victims too often suffer in silence. One of the most complex issues, he continued, is alcohol consumption by students on campus. Alcohol plays an important role in sexual assaults on campus, and Vanderbilt has made serious efforts to combat binge drinking. Many students, especially in The Ingram Commons, drink before going to parties on Greek row, because they know that once there they will not be able to obtain alcohol. Party organizers and patrols carefully check identifications and do not allow those under 21 years of age to drink alcohol. Also, the Vanderbilt police department acts as aggressively as it can against illegal alcohol consumption and drug dealing. The Faculty Senate has produced a very good report on student alcohol and prescription drug use, and Vanderbilt is considering ways to implement the report’s recommendations.

Provost McCarty emphasized that sexual assault and violence is not just a women’s issue and that the Psychological and Counseling Center (PCC) is key to moving forward. Vanderbilt has invested a significant amount of money in the Center and has developed a strong professional staff there, including two outstanding lawyers, to support students. Its director, Catherine Fuchs, volunteered for this position. All resident advisers know about the Center, it is part of their orientation, and many Vanderbilt groups visit it. Vanderbilt has also established the Provost’s Committee on Sexual Assault and the First Responders Work Group so that various university entities communicate more effectively with each other and work on developing ways to prevent and respond to sexual violence.
Provost McCarty also explained that Vanderbilt is very active in and a strong advocate of the Green Dot program, which aims to reduce violence through peer and social influence. The program addresses violence by raising awareness among community members about abusive and violent behavior, by training community members to attain skills needed to more effectively implement its anti-violence strategy, and by direct intervention if necessary. Many members of Vanderbilt’s fraternities and sororities and many Vanderbilt student athletes have had Green Dot training, and the Greek leadership on campus is very involved in this issue in similar ways. A training session for Green Dot trainers is scheduled for May 19-22, during which Vanderbilt hopes to train 60 people. Vanderbilt is encouraging other schools in the Southeastern Conference to participate in the Green Dot program.

Provost McCarty urged faculty members to get involved in student extracurricular life. The faculty has abandoned its role of student life beyond the classroom and has left it to the professionals in the Dean of Students Office, who do a fantastic job. If a student is in the emergency room at the hospital, for example, there is always a person from the Dean of Students Office there. Faculty members should invite themselves to events and to go into the residential colleges. Dean Weislo, Dean of The Ingram Commons, welcomes faculty members at his table. Discussions about sexual matters with and among students would become more meaningful if faculty members played a more active role; staff members cannot do it all by themselves. Faculty members should also ask students in their classes whether they feel safe on campus and whether they have accurate information about available resources. Faculty members can make a difference!

9. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.

10. **Good of the College.**

Dean Dever reported that offices in three academic buildings—Buttrick, Calhoun, and Garland halls—were burgled over the past weekend. Academic materials appear to be safe, the thieves were mainly interested in electronic equipment. The Vanderbilt University police (VUPD) are making progress on the case, she said, and they are doing a good job. Dean Dever urged everyone to call the police if anything unusual is spotted; it is better to be safe than sorry.

11. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Gill,
Secretary of the Faculty