Minutes of the Arts and Science Faculty Council

January 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m. by the Chair, Professor Lucius Outlaw, Jr. Present at the meeting were Senior Associate Dean John Sloop, Professors Laura Carpenter, Katherine Crawford, Marshall Eakin, Jennifer Fay, Doug Hardin, Michael Hodges, Carmelo Rizzo, Ruth Rogaski, Tony Stewart, Carol Swain, and Kip Viscusi. 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 December 3, 2013.

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

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

**Proposed name change of the Film Studies program.** Professor Fay, Director of the Film Studies program, explained that the present name of the program does not effectively communicate to current and prospective students and to faculty members that the program offers courses in film and digital production as well as film studies traditionally understood. The proposed name change to Cinema and Media Arts better reflects what the program offers and will allow the program to grow. Both “cinema” and “media,” she continued, are not medium specific and have significant academic and cultural connotations. Moreover, “film studies” seems old fashioned, she said. Professor Crawford added that when she reviewed student work produced in the program’s courses for assessment purposes last year, she noticed that the works fit under a much bigger umbrella than she had originally thought. Consequently, the name change is appropriate.

In response to questions from Council members, Professor Fay stated that the program would like to expand into other areas related to the discipline, and the name change would allow the program to do so, but there are not enough faculty members in or affiliated with the program at present to develop these courses. Students, for example, are interested in video gaming and glitch culture, and she has considered working with Watkins College of Art, Design and Film to offer television production courses. Mr. Bremer noted that the proposal includes a title change of Film Studies 288b that has not been received or considered by the Curriculum Committee. Professor Fay agreed to delete the course title change from the proposal. **Council then approved the name change of the Film Studies program to Cinema and Media Arts, with the one correction noted above.**

3. Update on course renumbering.

Dean Campbell stated that the final report of the Course Renumbering Task Force has been issued. She explained that Vanderbilt is moving to a four-digit course numbering system, but will also use two letters, “L” for laboratory courses and “W” for writing-
intensive courses. All other courses and sequences of courses will be represented in the four-digit numbers. She said that a template for translating course numbers will be produced shortly by the University Registrar’s Office. As soon as she receives the template, she will distribute it, along with a list of active courses, to departments and programs and ask them to match old course numbers with new course numbers. Dean Campbell will also ask some departments and programs to be especially careful to denote sequences or combinations of courses in the new course numbering system, such as foreign language and mathematics course sequences and natural science lecture/laboratory course combinations. Only courses offered in the past five years will be renumbered, which total 2300 courses in Arts and Science. Departments and programs should complete this task by April 1, 2014. The new course numbering system is planned to go into effect in spring 2015 for fall 2015 course registration.

In response to questions from Council members, Dean Campbell stated that in most cases translating courses into the new numbering scheme will involve more than adding a zero or an additional number to the current course numbers. In addition to the careful selection of course sequences noted above, consistency across departments and programs and coherence within a discipline will be important. Departments and programs should also reserve room in their course numbering schemes for new courses and extensions of course sequences. The content and level and type of instruction of each course, not the current course number, should be the guiding criteria for renumbering. The new four-digit number of a course will not include a reference to the academic discipline offering the course; the current system of alphabetical abbreviations for major codes will be retained. In the course renumbering process, departments and programs will most likely not have to delete any courses, but will have to update their websites, internal information, and Catalog sections.

4. Follow-up discussion regarding campus safety and security.

[Discussion was off the record.]

5. New Business and Concerns.

No issues were raised.


No issues were raised.

7. Adjournment.

Council voted to adjourn at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Fay
Secretary of the Faculty Council