Minutes of the Faculty  
College of Arts & Science  

December 8, 2009

Dean Carolyn Dever called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 60 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Overview of Plans for Central Library.

Dean Dever introduced Connie Vinita Dowell, Dean of Libraries, to the faculty. She stated that Dean Dowell has had extensive experience working in university libraries, most recently as the dean of the library and information access at San Diego State University. During her three-decade long career, Connie Dowell has won several awards from the American Library Association and an award for promoting salaries and status for library workers. Moreover, Dean Dowell has significant ties to the Nashville area; she earned her master’s degree in library science from Peabody College and her bachelor’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

Dean Dowell stated that she has a special love for Vanderbilt, because Vanderbilt sparked her library career by awarding her a fellowship to work on her master’s degree in library science. While a graduate student, she worked at the reference desk in Central Library and then worked in the Science and Engineering Library.

Dean Dowell explained that she is using the results of last spring’s online library survey of Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students to prioritize and plan changes to the library system. The response rate to the survey was terrific, she said, especially from faculty members, who often contributed significant comments. The survey revealed that faculty members would prefer more resources, better facilities, and new services and that undergraduate students would strongly prefer better facilities, especially more study space. Based on these results, she continued, the first phase of planned changes to Central Library will include the creation of study space on the eighth floor, the creation of a combination community space/study space and a small café on the fourth floor, and the renovation of the fourth-floor lobby in order to consolidate the various desks and to create some social space. These renovations to Central Library require that some magazines, journals, and microforms be placed into storage, but they will still be easily accessible upon request. Among the items to be stored include journals that have been little used and journals that have been duplicated online. Feedback on these planned renovations and to other changes to Central Library would be very much appreciated, Dean Dowell emphasized. She stated that she plans to organize some faculty discussion sessions and open forums next semester, in which she urged faculty members to participate.
In response to questions from faculty members, Dean Dowell provided more details about the planned renovations to Central Library. Students do not have quality study spaces in the library, and, consequently, the library is planning to convert some of the least-used spaces into study spaces. Multi-use space is more flexible and better than single-use space, so some of the converted study spaces will serve multiple purposes. To create the study space on the eighth floor, many of the carrels will be removed and some staff will be relocated, but the art books will remain on the eighth floor, although some bound journals and microforms will be placed in storage. On the fourth floor, the large room that is being used as a cataloging room will be the new community space/study space. This room will be used to host speakers and authors. The fourth-floor lobby will be reconfigured to create a small café, a small open space for people to meet and socialize, and a consolidated desk for library services. Moreover, the Payne Reading Room on the sixth floor will return to being a reading room, instead of a microform storage area.

As far as the digitization of library resources is concerned, Dean Dowell stated that the library will focus on what is needed the most. The situation is different for books than it is for journals. Most books are still published in print form, yet the book world is in flux and will need to be monitored carefully. Google’s project to digitize millions of books might have a significant impact. Many journals, on the other hand, are online, and the library is trying to save money by avoiding duplicate copies of the same journal. To do this, the library is in the process of reviewing all journal titles and is putting barcodes on the bound copies. The process of journal selection is difficult, partly because journals are often sold to libraries in packages now, so libraries cannot buy them à la carte, which means that libraries cannot always purchase only the journals that are in greatest demand. It is also hard to predict what journals faculty members and graduate students are going to need in the future.

The faculty thanked Dean Dowell for her presentation and for answering questions.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of October 20, 2009.

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


Professor Gregg Horowitz, Chair of Faculty Council, noted that, at the November meeting, Council formalized and expanded the criteria by which faculty members may opt out of being nominated for positions on the Faculty Council, Graduate Faculty Council, and Faculty Senate. Faculty members who have recently served on one or more of these bodies and who do not wish to be re-elected may opt out of being nominated. The revised opt-out message will be distributed to faculty members in January 2010. There were no other comments or questions about the two Council meetings.
4. **Executive Motion Calendar.**

From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP) and the Study Abroad Committee: **Proposed student exchange program with Utrecht University.** There were no comments or questions, and the **faculty approved the student exchange program with Utrecht University.**

5. **Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.**

Associate Dean Russell McIntire presented the 2009 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Science to Jonathan Lamb, Professor of English.

6. **Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Mentoring Award.**

The 2009 Outstanding Graduate Mentoring Award in the College of Arts and Science was presented to Professor Todd Graham, from the Department of Biological Sciences, and to Professor Charles Lukehart, from the Department of Chemistry.

7. **Presentation of the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards.**

The 2009 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award in the College of Arts and Science was presented, in absentia, to Sarah Childress, from the Department of English, and to Kenneth Faber, from the Department of Philosophy.

8. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised

9. **Good of the College.**

Dean Dever announced that two town hall meetings have been scheduled to discuss the Graduate Education Task Force Report. The first one is scheduled for Monday, December 14, at noon, in 204 Mayborn Hall, and the second one is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, at 4:10 p.m., in 103 Wilson Hall. Both of these meetings are open to all faculty members.

10. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn H. Anderson,
Secretary of the Faculty