Minutes of the Faculty  
College of Arts & Science  
October 19, 2010

Dean Carolyn Dever called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 50 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of September 21, 2010.

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

2. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of October 5, 2010.

There were no comments or questions.

3. Second Notice of Referendum regarding the AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions.

Dean Dever stated that this is the second and final formal notice of the faculty referendum regarding the AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions. The AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions was approved by the A&S faculty as part of the AXLE curriculum, but it has never been implemented and its repeal was recommended by the AXLE Review Committee last year. The AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions is different from the Vanderbilt Visions program that is offered by The Commons. The referendum ballots, she continued, will be distributed by e-mail after this meeting. Further information about the AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions is available at the following website: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cas/facultycouncil/vvref](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cas/facultycouncil/vvref)

Professors Scott and Furbish commented that the AXLE version of Vanderbilt Visions had some great ideas and minds behind it.


Dean Dever delivered the annual State of the College Address. A copy of her visual presentation is attached to these Minutes. Highlights of her Address are summarized below.

Dean Dever explained that the State of the College Address is the result of the efforts of many persons in the Dean’s Office. She thanked those who helped produce this year’s Address.

**Undergraduate education.** The College of Arts and Science at Vanderbilt, Dean Dever stated, has undertaken a major effort to diversify our undergraduate student body. Of the 4275 undergraduate A&S students this year, 37% identified themselves as a member of
an ethnic minority group, 62% as white, and 2% declined to identify their ethnicity. Many undergraduates come from the South (43%), while the rest come from a broad range of American regions and from foreign countries. A&S received more than 16,400 applications for this year’s incoming class, which is a substantial jump from last year and almost double the number of applications in 2004. The average SAT score of the incoming class has increased four points from last year, which is significant considering that every point increase indicates remarkable progress. Many A&S undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid, of which $65 million this year consists of need-based grants. Vanderbilt contributed $91 million this year to all types of undergraduate student aid.

The AXLE curriculum was comprehensively reviewed last year by an A&S faculty committee, chaired by Professor Anna Roe, as mandated by the original faculty legislation. The Committee met with every A&S department and analyzed course data in order to determine whether AXLE was meeting its goals. It is meeting its goals, the faculty determined, and the Committee recommended three minor changes to make it even stronger.

CASPAR (College of Arts and Science Pre-major Academic Advising Resources Center) has increased its responsibilities this year by starting to advise sophomores who have not yet declared a major and by adding tutoring services. In order to handle these additional duties, the number of CASPAR advisers has risen, from 7 to 11, and the Center has added a second location. The Center has been very successful, Dean Dever stated, thanks to the leadership of Director Patricia Armstrong and Assistant Director Andrea Hearn.

A&S offers 48 undergraduate majors and 48 minors from 22 departments, 13 interdisciplinary programs, and 13 research centers. Economics is the most popular major, followed by Political Science; Medicine, Health, and Society; Psychology; and English.

The Vanderbilt Career Center serves an important function on campus. Staff members at the Center work with students to narrow their career interests into a specialized area or “cluster,” such as public policy, government, and law; art, media, and communication; and healthcare.

Vanderbilt offers 93 study abroad programs in 24 different countries, and several more are under consideration. Offerings have diversified to include programs in the Middle East, Asia, and the southern hemisphere. More than 600 Vanderbilt students studied abroad in 2009-10, of which 72% were A&S students. The Vanderbilt-in-France program is one of the more popular programs, and it recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Maymester courses offer students a taste of a study abroad experience, yet enable students to work in the summer.

Summer school enrollment has increased 9% from last year. Students who enroll in summer school courses often do so for intellectual development and to a lesser extent for
remedial work. Associate Dean Martin Rapisarda is much appreciated for his efforts in this area.

The Writing Studio has its main office in Alumni Hall and has a satellite office in The Commons Center. The Studio had 3100 appointments last year, most of which were made by A&S students, and helped students taking courses offered by 71 departments. It serves the entire Vanderbilt community, including graduate students and faculty members.

**Graduate education.** The most important goals for Vanderbilt graduate education, Dean Dever emphasized, are to recruit the best students and to develop strong graduate programs. A&S programs conferred 82 Ph.D. degrees and 150 Master’s degrees in 2009-2010. This year, A&S has 855 graduate students enrolled in 31 graduate programs. Financial aid to these students from Vanderbilt totals more than $33 million. Graduate applications increased again this year, by 24%, and applications from minority students have increased significantly as well (up 25% from African-American students and 62% from Hispanic students). Several graduate programs have received notable increases in applications, including the Creative Writing MFA program, Sociology, Chemistry, and French.

Two EGE (Enhancing Graduate Education) initiatives continue to be implemented this year, a grant-writing workshop for graduate students and a “Prof 101” workshop for graduate students who plan to apply for academic positions.

The number of National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate student fellows has increased dramatically over the past several years, from 3 in 2008-09 to 23 in 2010-11. There are numerous other awards for graduate students and graduate faculty, including dissertation-year awards, summer research awards, and teaching awards.

The MLAS (Master of Liberal Arts and Science) program enables Vanderbilt to reach out to the community and gives faculty members an opportunity to teach interested adult learners. Over seventy MLAS students are registered in the fall and spring semesters and fifty in the summer. Six or seven MLAS courses are offered each semester and three in the summer.

**Faculty.** Dean Dever reported that thirteen new A&S tenured and tenure-track faculty members have begun their appointments this fall, of which three are named chairs and full professors, three are associate professors, and seven are assistant professors. Moreover, of the thirteen, four are women and seven are members of underrepresented groups. A&S is striving to improve the gender diversity and ethnic and racial diversity of the faculty. Women constitute approximately 18% of full professors, 41% of associate professors, and 40% of assistant professors. Ethnic minorities constitute approximately 12% of full professors, 20% of associate professors, and 20% of assistant professors. Last year, seven A&S faculty members were promoted to full professor, six were promoted to associate professor with tenure, and twenty-eight faculty members were
reappointed. Including the new faculty members, the total number of tenured and tenure-track faculty members in the College of Arts and Science is 386.

Professor Vanessa Beasley continues to ably direct the Program for Career Development (PCD). The PCD is a professional development program as well as a mentoring program. Opportunities and events organized by the PCD include information sessions, visiting speakers, cohort meetings, and social events.

External funding for faculty research projects increased $5 million this year to $45 million.

Dean Dever recognized several faculty members for their recent accomplishments, including Professor William Caferro for receiving a Guggenheim Award; Professor Robert Campany for receiving an American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in Religion: Historical Studies; and Professor Ellen Fanning for receiving an American Academy of Microbiology Fellowship.

**Finance and Administration.** Dean Dever reported that A&S has 396 total staff members, of which 202 are supported by restricted funds such as grants, contracts, or faculty members’ research funds.

A&S maintains over one million square feet of facilities in twenty-one buildings. Several renovation projects were completed last year, including the renovation of the Sociology administrative area, the Garland bathrooms, and four areas in the Stevenson Center. Of all A&S facilities, Dean Dever stated, Stevenson Center Building Six has the most pressing need for renovation.

Dean Dever explained that A&S’ two largest operating expenses are salaries and benefits and financial aid to students (38% and 18% respectively in fiscal year 2010).

**Fundraising.** Dean Dever reported that A&S has raised $154 million toward its portion of Vanderbilt’s Shape the Future Campaign and hopes to reach $160 million by June 30, 2011, when the Campaign ends. Vanderbilt as a whole has raised $1,750 million, which is close to the final goal of $1,800 million.

Opportunity Vanderbilt, the fundraising campaign to raise money for student financial aid, has been successful as well. A&S has raised $24 million toward its $30 million goal, while Vanderbilt as a whole has raised $84 million toward the final goal of $100 million. The goals of Opportunity Vanderbilt are to replace all need-based undergraduate student loans with scholarship and grant assistance and to strengthen Vanderbilt’s endowment.

Dean Dever stated that A&S met or exceeded every fundraising goal last year. A&S raised $2.5 million in unrestricted funds and $10.6 million in outright gifts and new pledges.
**Goals.** At the undergraduate education level, Dean Dever stated that she will strive to level the playing field for students from all socio-economic backgrounds by replacing student loans with grants and scholarships, and she will promote the significance and versatility of a liberal arts education. At the graduate education level, Dean Dever hopes to ensure access and opportunity for a diverse range of students and will evaluate our existing programs to identify areas of growth and collaboration. At the faculty level, Dean Dever aims to ensure equal opportunity for faculty members from all backgrounds and to ensure the transparency and fairness of faculty reviews. At the finance and administration level, Dean Dever pledged to take stock of our achievements, steward our resources wisely, and plan for the future accordingly.

Dean Dever stated that A&S needs to continue to work on three issues: diversity across the board—the undergraduate and graduate student bodies and the faculty; facility space, especially in Calhoun, Benson, and the sixth floor of the Stevenson Center, and finances. Regarding the latter, she praised department chairs and program directors for staying within budget last year.

Professor Bess asked whether the substantial increase in undergraduate student applications over the past several years can be linked causally to The Commons. The Commons, Dean Dever replied, has received very good press, but it is one of several factors that helped to attract students to Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt is one of the few universities that is ranked both in the top-20 of American universities in external research funding and in the top-20 in the quality of undergraduate education. Professor Girgus asked whether Dean Dever had a sense of how the statistics have changed over the past ten years regarding where undergraduate students come from; he was surprised that so many Vanderbilt undergraduate students are still from the Southeast. The Admissions Office, Dean Dever responded, has been strongly pursuing students from the Washington, D.C. – Boston corridor, as well as from the West Coast. For the first time, added Senior Associate Dean Sloop, New York state supplanted Texas as the state from which the second highest number of undergraduate students come.

Professor Marcus commented that Vanderbilt University should be proud to be ranked 51st in the world. Yes, we should all be proud, Dean Dever agreed.

Dean Dever invited faculty members to ask additional questions about the Address in person or by e-mail, and the Address will be posted as part of the Minutes for this meeting.

5. **Original Motion Calendar.**

No issues were raised.

6. **Good of the College.**

No issues were raised.
7. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn H. Anderson,
Secretary of the Faculty