Dean Richard McCarty called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of December 5, 2006.

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

2. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of February 6, 2007.

There were no comments or questions.

3. Approval of the Candidates for Degrees at the end of the fall semester, December 19, 2006.

Associate Dean Fräncille 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 (a list of degree candidates is attached to these Minutes). Her motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Memorial Resolution for George J. Graham, Jr., Professor of Political Science.

W. James Booth, Professor of Political Science, presented a Memorial Resolution honoring George J. Graham, Jr., Professor of Political Science. The faculty paid their respects and signified their assent to the resolution by standing for a moment of silence. Dean McCarty noted that one dissertation-year fellowship awarded to graduate students by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities has been renamed in honor of Professor Graham. The Memorial Resolution is appended to these minutes.

5. Update on the SACS review process.

Associate Dean McIntire explained that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reviews Vanderbilt every ten years for reaccreditation. Vanderbilt sent its report to SACS last fall, and we received initial feedback from the SACS staff in December. They stated that Vanderbilt is compliant in most areas, but their review team asked for more information in other areas, especially the assessment of student learning. In response, Vanderbilt has been developing learning assessment plans for every academic major and academic support unit (such as the library, Writing Studio, etc.). In January the Provost’s Office asked the departments for help in completing such plans. Dean McIntire acknowledged the hard work and cooperation from everyone on this project. Since submitting these learning assessment plans to SACS in February, Vanderbilt has received requests from them for more detailed rubrics and standards. Departments that have already specified their standards should be fine, Dean McIntire stated, but other departments, which will be contacted by the Provost’s Office, should provide their standards as soon as possible, in order for the final report to be completed before the SACS review team visits campus in late March. Dean McIntire indicated, in response to questions from Professors Tomarken and McCarthy, that the rubrics and standards should consist of the scales or
dimensions of the methods for assessing student learning. The precise nature of the standards is not critical to SACS; what is crucial is our willingness to assess student learning. Help developing these assessment procedures is available from Patricia Armstrong, of the Center for Teaching.

Professor Marcus asked whether A&S would be willing to purchase computer software that would enable departments to assess student progress through online portfolios. Dean McCarty replied that A&S could pay for some of the modifications to the Peabody College program so that it could be applied to A&S departments and programs.

Dean McCarty thanked Dean McIntire for his work on the SACS reaccreditation review. He stated that the assessment portion of this project will make Vanderbilt a better school, for it will disclose how well our major programs are performing. The wise use of Federal monies is one of Vanderbilt’s responsibilities to the broader public.

6. **Announcement regarding the publication of the Schedule of Courses.**

Dean McCarty announced that the Schedule of Courses might not be published in printed form next academic year. The printed version is out of date by the time it is published and consumes a large amount of paper. The Schedule of Courses has been available online for several years and has been accessed by students over 2.2 million times. Publication in printed form is still under consideration; it will require sufficient turnaround time for departments and programs to review the draft copies. If the Schedule of Courses is not published in printed form, Dean McCarty stated, photocopies would be made available for faculty advisers.

7. **Executive Motion Calendar.**

From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP):

(A) **Revision of the Communication of Science and Technology (CST) major.** There were no comments or questions, and the Faculty approved the revisions to the CST major.

(B) **Proposed policy regarding second majors outside of A&S.** Professor Sloop, Chair of Faculty Council, stated that Council approved the proposed policy on two grounds, that it is supportive of the concept of ‘one university’ espoused by the Chancellor, and that the other Vanderbilt undergraduate colleges do not review the major programs of the College of Arts and Science. Such a policy would foster good will between the Vanderbilt colleges. Professor Kovalcheck asked whether the 90-credit rule would continue to be in effect, that is, would A&S students still have to earn at least 90 credits from A&S courses in order to graduate. Some major programs of other Vanderbilt colleges, he explained, require 40 credits of courses, and, if the 90-credit rule were still in effect that would imply that students would have to earn at least 130 credits to graduate with a 40 credit second major. Dean McCarty responded that the 90-credit rule would remain in effect. There were no other questions or discussion, and the Faculty approved the proposed policy allowing A&S students to pursue a second major in any approved major program of the other Vanderbilt undergraduate colleges.

From the Committee on Graduate Education (CGE):

(C) **Proposed graduate program in Medicine, Health, and Society (MHS).** Professor Tuchman, the Director of the Medicine, Health, and Society Program, explained that MHS is
proposing to offer an M.A. degree program and a graduate certificate program. The proposal was revised in consultation with the Committee on Graduate Education, and she greatly appreciated the Committee members’ suggestions and expertise. The proposed program, Professor Tuchman continued, is one of the first trans-institutional graduate programs of its kind in the country—faculty members from the College of Arts and Science, Peabody College of Education, Blair School of Music, the School of Nursing, and the Divinity School would be involved. She stated that the proposed program would be attractive to pre-med students and Ph.D. students in health-related fields; the former would be especially interested in the 4+1 program. The MHS graduate program, Dean McCarty added, could also serve as a gateway to a Ph.D. program. Professor Ackerly asked whether a student who has earned a B.A. degree from another institution could apply to the MHS graduate program. Professor Tuchman replied that such individuals could apply to the MHS master’s program, but, as Professor Marcus noted, not to the MHS 4+1 graduate program. There were no other questions or discussion, and the Faculty approved the proposed MHS graduate program.

8. Original Motion Calendar.

No issues were raised.

9. Good of the College.

Dean McCarty was happy to say that he had recently experienced a great presentation about the Vanderbilt Commons by Dean of Commons Frank Wcislo. Heads of Houses for the Commons are currently being selected by a Vanderbilt committee. Several A&S faculty members are strong candidates for these positions, whose appointments should be announced shortly. Other faculty members are urged by Dean McCarty to support the Heads of Houses by becoming faculty associates of the Houses.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Tellinghuisen, Secretary of the Faculty