Minutes of the Arts and Science Faculty Council

April 30, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by the Chair, Professor Malcolm Getz. Present at the meeting were Dean Carolyn Dever, Professors Laura Carpenter, Beth Conklin, Jennifer Fay, Michael Hodges, Holly McCammon, Ifeoma Nwankwo, Vesna Pavlovic’, and Carmelo Rizzo. Sending their regrets were Professors Brooke Ackerly, Richard Haglund, and John Janusek. 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 April 2, 2013.

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

2. Update on revision of course description rules.

Mr. Bremer explained that he revised the original proposal from the Curriculum Committee in light of the discussion at the October Council meeting, as requested by Council, and in light of subsequent discussions at Council regarding prerequisite language in course descriptions. He described some of the changes in the document and stated that there are two unresolved matters. The first is prerequisite language in complex cases, such as Physics 228, which, at the April 2 meeting, Council members agreed was opaque in the original course description. Of the seven options developed by the Dean’s Office, Council members decided that the seventh option was the best, with the second “and” underlined. The other options—using concise language or parentheses, brackets, and braces—were either too cumbersome or obtuse. Council then approved a motion that complex prerequisite language in Arts and Science course descriptions shall use the format of option #7, which is that prerequisite courses in course descriptions shall be listed by subject area. For instance, the course description for Physics 228 would read:

**Physics 228. Foundations of Medical Imaging.** Physics and engineering of image formation for medical applications. Mathematical concepts of image formation and analysis. Techniques for recording images using ionizing radiation, including CT, ultrasound, magnetic resonance; and nuclear, including SPECT and PET. Methods of evaluating image quality. No credit for students who have earned credit for BME 258. Prerequisite: 113b, 116b, or 121b; and Mathematics: MATH 196; or one of (MATH 194, 204, 205b) and one of (MATH 198, 208).

The second unresolved matter was whether there should be a limit to the length of course titles. Mr. Bremer stated that, at present, 6 Arts and Science course titles are over 75 characters, 13 are over 70 characters, 30 are over 60 characters, and 94 are over 50 characters. After a brief discussion, it appeared to Council members that problems with course titles are more a matter of conciseness than length. Even the longest course title, for example, is reasonable. Council members then approved a motion that faculty members shall craft their course titles as concisely as possible.
Council members then approved the proposed changes to the Arts and Science course description rules, as revised in light of Council’s discussions, including the two changes noted above.

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

A. Proposed creation of an Art Honors program. Professor Getz explained that the proposal would create an Honors program for the Art major. In response to a question posed by Professor Haglund in an email message and presented by Professor Getz, Mr. Bremer stated that grade point average requirements for Honors programs vary from department to department, which Council in the past has deemed acceptable as long as the grade point average requirements meet or exceed the Arts and Science minimum, which is 3.0. Professor Pavlovic’, of the Art department, in response to a question from Professor McCammon, explained that Professor Mel Ziegler, Chair of the Art department, ascertained from the library that the proposed Art Honors program would not have a problematic impact on it. Faculty Council then approved the creation of the Art Honors program.

B. Proposed revision of the Art minor. Professor Pavlovic’, in response to a question posed by Professor Haglund in an email message and presented by Professor Getz, explained that faculty members in the Art department consider it more important for students who minor in Art to take courses in breadth rather than in depth, but should be required to study one area in depth. After completing the requirements for the minor, students, if so interested, could take more Art courses to study other areas in depth. Council then approved the revisions to the Art minor.

C. Proposed creation of a Brazilian Studies minor in the Latin American Studies program. Professor Getz explained that the proposal would create a new minor, Brazilian Studies, in the Latin American Studies program. Dean Dever requested that Latin American Studies update the list of participating faculty members in the minor. Other Council members noted the numerous mistakes in the Catalog copy. Council members also agreed that Portuguese 200 should not be listed in Area of Study I or else students would be able to double count it as both satisfaction of the language requirement and of Area of Study I. Council then approved the creation of a Brazilian Studies minor, contingent upon deleting Portuguese 200 from the list of courses in Area of Study I, correcting the mistakes in the Catalog copy, and updating the list of participating faculty members.

4. Business from the Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Graduate Education (CGE).

New and revised courses. Council approved the course changes and additions from the Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Graduate Education as corrected (the course descriptions will be attached to the Minutes of the May 2013 Arts and Science Faculty Meeting).

5. Annual reports from Arts and Science committees.

Annual reports from the Administrative Committee, the Admissions Committee, the AXLE Implementation Committee, and the Committee on Individual Programs, all of which do not regularly report to Council, were distributed to Council members in advance of the meeting.
Dean Dever, in response to a question about the Admissions Committee report posed by Professor Haglund in an email message and presented by Professor Getz, explained that Vanderbilt has emphasized its need-blind admissions policy and its no-loan student financial aid policy in preference to its merit scholarship programs, because of the extraordinary quality of the incoming undergraduate students. Consequently, Vanderbilt has not created additional merit-based scholarships. If an admitted student has demonstrated financial need, then Vanderbilt will supply him or her with financial aid. Such financial support is needed by a relatively large percentage of undergraduate students. To attract the very best students, Vanderbilt still has its merit-based scholarships, she continued, and competes against many excellent schools for these students. Professor Carpenter, a member of the Admissions Committee, attested to the amazing quality of the undergraduate student applicants. Professor Hodges remarked on the important and welcome growing diversity of the undergraduate student body. Dean Campbell reported that 24 students have accepted Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship offers as of this meeting, up from 20 as of the writing of the report (April 25). There were no other comments or questions about the annual reports.

6. **New Business and Concerns.**

No issues were raised.

7. **Good of the Council.**

Dean Dever stated that she participated in a strategic planning meeting with Chancellor Zeppos this afternoon. It will be an interesting process over the next 12 months, she said, and it has been very encouraging and positive thus far. Faculty members should anticipate receiving more information about the process, and she urged everyone to think of ways to become involved.

Dean Dever also reminded Council members that the May Arts and Science Faculty Meeting, scheduled for next Tuesday, May 7, will begin at 3:10 p.m., not the usual 4:10 p.m.

Professor Getz thanked Council members for their service. Council members then thanked Professor Getz for serving as Chair this academic year.

8. **Adjournment.**

Council voted to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly J. McCammon
Secretary of the Faculty Council
Proposed options for prerequisite statement for PHYS 228 and as template for future proposals.

Current description:

Physics 228. Foundations of Medical Imaging. Physics and engineering of image formation for medical applications. Mathematical concepts of image formation and analysis. Techniques for recording images using ionizing radiation (including CT), ultrasound, magnetic resonance, and nuclear (including SPECT and PET). Methods of evaluating image quality. Prerequisite: one year of calculus-based physics and either MATH 196 or both linear algebra and ordinary differential equations. Credit not given for both 228 and BME 258.

Change to:

Physics 228. Foundations of Medical Imaging. Physics and engineering of image formation for medical applications. Mathematical concepts of image formation and analysis. Techniques for recording images using ionizing radiation, including CT, ultrasound, magnetic resonance; and nuclear, including SPECT and PET. Methods of evaluating image quality. No credit for students who have earned credit for BME 258. Prerequisite: ?

Prerequisite options:

1. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: either 113b, 116b, or 121b; and either MATH 196 or both of either MATH 194, 204, or 205b, and either MATH 198 or 208. (originally proposed language)

2. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: 113b, 116b, or 121b; and MATH 196 or both MATH 194, 204, or 205b, and MATH 198 or 208. (concise linguistic version)

3. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: (either 113b, 116b, or 121b) and either \{MATH 196 or \[both of either (MATH 194, 204, or 205b) and either (MATH 198 or 208)\]\}. (add braces, brackets, and parentheses)

4. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: (113b, 116b, or 121b) and \{MATH 196 or both (MATH 194, 204, or 205b) and (MATH 198 or 208)\}. (delete “eithers;” add braces, brackets, and parentheses)

5. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: either 113b, 116b, or 121b; and \{(either MATH 196 or [(either MATH 194, 204, or 205b) and (MATH 198 or 208)]\)}. (delete “boths;” add braces, brackets, and parentheses)

6. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: (113b, 116b, or 121b); and \{(MATH 196 or [(MATH 194, 204, or 205b) and (MATH 198 or 208)]\)}. (delete “boths” and “eithers;” add braces, brackets, and parentheses)

7. PHYS 228. Prerequisite: Physics: 113b, 116b, or 121b; and Mathematics: MATH 196; or one of (MATH 194, 204, 205b) and one of (MATH 198, 208). (by subject)