Dean Richard McCarty called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 45 faculty members were in attendance.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of December 6, 2005.**

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

2. **Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of November 29, 2005.**

   There were no comments or questions.

3. **Approval of the Candidates for Degrees at the end of the fall semester, December 17, 2005.**

   Associate Dean Frâncille Bergquist stated that one student should be added to the list of December candidates—Randal Kent Minas, from Crown Point, Indiana, will receive a B.S. degree with a Psychology major. She then 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 (an amended list of degree candidates is attached to these Minutes). Her motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. **Executive Motion Calendar.**

   Professor Damon, Chair of the A&S Faculty Council, presented one item for action: **Proposed Ph.D. program in Chemical and Physical Biology.** There were no questions or discussion, and the motion to approve this new program passed.

5. **Introduction to Post-Baccalaureate Programs: The 4 + 1 BA/MA degree.**

   Associate Dean Martin Rapisarda presented information about the new integrated BA/MA or “4 + 1” degree programs (see attached handout). As the handout indicates, many of our peer institutions have established integrated degree programs, and there are also several integrated degree programs already at Vanderbilt. Peabody College, for example, has a very successful 4 + 1 program, and the joint JD/MBA degree program is popular as well. A&S Departments and Programs would create their own 4 + 1 integrated degree program, including the application and degree requirements, subject to faculty approval. These A&S programs would enable exceptional students to pursue both an undergraduate and a graduate degree at the same time. The undergraduate and graduate degrees might not necessarily be from the same department or program. A
student, for instance, might earn a bachelor’s degree from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and earn a master’s degree from Latin American Studies. Interested students would apply to the Graduate School in their junior year for acceptance into one of the 4 + 1 programs. If accepted by the department or program, students could take graduate courses in the second semester of their senior year. Thus, from the student’s standpoint, a major benefit of these integrated BA/MA programs would be increased options and opportunities.

Dean Rapisarda, continuing his presentation, stated that 12 A&S Departments and Programs have expressed an interest in creating a 4 + 1 program. Most students enrolled in these degree programs would be self-funded, although Provost Zeppos has committed some Venture grant funding to aid students. A portion of the actual tuition fees received by each BA/MA integrated degree program would be reinvested back into that graduate program. The next steps to implement these programs include establishing entrance requirements and student acceptance criteria, providing information to faculty advisors, and promoting the programs. A major goal is to attract 40 students to the programs at steady state.

Professor Gould asked when these programs would be ready to accept students. Dean Rapisarda replied that some programs could be in place by the next academic year. The cross-counting of courses still needs to be resolved with the Graduate School (for a 4 + 1 program to work, some courses would have to count simultaneously toward a BA and an MA degree). Professor Stubbs asked for clarification about the goal of 40 students enrolled in the programs. Dean Rapisarda explained that the goal is to have a total of 40 students enrolled by the fifth year of admitting students to the integrated 4 + 1 degree programs. Professor Gay asked about the applicability and availability of scholarships for students in the fifth year. Dean Rapisarda responded that, except for the Venture funding mentioned above and for varsity athletic scholarships (as noted by Dean McIntire), Vanderbilt scholarships are provided only for four years of undergraduate education. Dean McCarty added that he is willing to work with students on the level of tuition fees. Professor Tellinghuisen inquired whether students with strong AP backgrounds could earn a Master’s degree in four years with a scholarship. Dean Rapisarda stated that that option would be problematic with the proposed BA/MA model. Professor Maneschi asked who would establish the requirements for the integrated degrees. Dean Rapisarda explained that the Graduate School sets the minimum requirements for graduate degrees, and the individual department or program could tailor the degree requirements, by requiring, for example, a comprehensive exam or a thesis.

6. Original Motion Calendar.

No issues were raised.

7. Good of the College.

Dean Carolyn Dever informed the faculty about the winners of the first Enhancing Graduate Education (EGE) awards. Of the 29 pre-proposals received, 15 were invited to submit formal proposals, and 6 were approved. The accepted proposals were: Professor
Cook and the Engineering Graduate Committee for a graduate recruitment coordinator for the School of Engineering; Professor Miller and the faculties of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the School of Engineering for the Trans-disciplinary Initiative on Environmental Systems (TIES); Professors Scherrer, Greene, and Knop for the Vanderbilt Prize for Undergraduate Research in Physics and Astronomy; Professors Smith and Dever and Executive Director Frederick for Robert Penn Warren Fellowships; Professors Tate and Heatherington for Training Institute Fellowships in the Social Sciences; and Professors Dever, Tucker, Stassun, and Bell for a recruitment coordinator for underrepresented U.S. graduate students. Dean Dever stated that two more years of EGE funding will be available, and she urged faculty members to apply for the next round of awards.

Dean McCarty announced that the proposed A&S course evaluation web site, originally scheduled for the agenda of this meeting, will be discussed at the next A&S Faculty meeting provided that the web site proposal is approved by the A&S Faculty Council at its early February meeting. A password-protected course evaluation web site is a logical extension of the online course evaluation system that was implemented last semester. The online course evaluation system worked very smoothly, thanks to the hard work of Ted Payne of the A&S Microcomputer Labs.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Tellinghuisen, Secretary of the Faculty