The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by the Chair, Professor Lucius Outlaw, Jr. Present at the meeting were Dean Carolyn Dever, Professors Laura Carpenter, Marshall Eakin, Jennifer Fay, Doug Hardin, Holly McCammon, Carmelo Rizzo, Ruth Rogaski, and Tony Stewart. Sending their regrets were Professors Akram Aldroubi, Katherine Crawford, and Kip Viscusi. 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 November 5, 2013.

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


Professor McCammon, a member of the subcommittee (along with Professors Rizzo and Stewart), explained that the three members of the subcommittee met with Dennis Saucerman, the Arts and Science business officer, who suggested many of the proposed changes to the policy based on the Federal tax code. The subcommittee then discussed his suggestions, accepted them, and presented the revised policy to Dean Dever for her review. Professor McCammon further explained that Mr. Saucerman, responding to a question from Dean Dever about the prohibition on using research funds for cell phones and their usage, stated that Federal grants cannot be used to pay for cell phones. Also, Professor Stewart added, this prohibition was part of the current policy, and the subcommittee decided to retain it. International calls made on cell phones for research purposes, on the other hand, would fall under the ‘other’ category, under which faculty members would require the approval of their department chair or program director for reimbursement. Many Council members expressed their appreciation of the clearly designed graphic included in the subcommittee’s report. Council then approved the revisions of the Research Fund Guidelines. Dean Dever thanked the members of the subcommittee for their work and stated that the policy document will be very helpful.

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

A. Proposed study abroad program at Haifa, Israel. Professor Outlaw explained that the University of Haifa study abroad program would add substantially to Vanderbilt’s study abroad offerings. It has a different focus from the current study abroad program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and from the proposed Tel Aviv University study abroad program. Haifa has a large population of Arab Israelis, a relatively large proportion of the student body at the University of Haifa is Arab, and the University of Haifa is committed to working toward mutual understanding and cooperation between the Jewish and Arab peoples. There were no other comments or questions, and Council approved the study abroad program at the University of Haifa.
B. **Proposed study abroad program at Tel Aviv, Israel.** Professor Outlaw explained that the proposal would reestablish a study abroad program at Tel Aviv University that ended a decade ago because of security concerns. There were no other comments or questions, and **Council approved the study abroad program at Tel Aviv University.**

C. **Proposed revision of the Italian Studies minor and deletion of the Italian minor.** Professor Outlaw explained that the proposal seeks to significantly revise the Italian Studies minor and to delete the Italian minor. Students under the proposal would be able to use courses taught in English toward the minor, which complies with policies and practices at other American universities. Unlike the current situation in which there are two distinct minors, students will be able to fulfill the proposed requirements for the Italian Studies minor, Professor Outlaw continued, given the number of faculty members in the program. Moreover, the proposal includes provisions for those students who have already declared the Italian minor. Responding to a question from Professor Eakin, Dean Campbell and Professor Fay explained that over the past five years more students have declared the Italian minor than the Italian Studies minor by a significant margin, and, consequently, the CEP asked the department why it is proposing to delete the more popular program. The department replied that the Italian Studies minor is more flexible for students and combines elements of the two current minors, and the CEP accepted this rationale. **Council then approved the revision of the Italian Studies minor and the deletion of the Italian minor.**

D. **Proposed revision of the Corporate Strategy minor in Managerial Studies.** Mr. Bremer explained that the proposal deletes one course from the list of approved elective courses for the minor. The proposal states that the program is able to offer on its own a significant number of elective courses from which students can satisfy the elective course requirement for the minor. **Council then approved the deletion of the one CMST course from the list of elective courses in the Corporate Strategy minor.**

E. **Proposed deletion of the Leadership and Organization minor in Managerial Studies.** Professor Outlaw explained that the Managerial Studies program has been unable to staff the courses required for the Leadership and Organization minor and that Peabody’s Human and Organizational Development department has offered them or similar courses instead. The Leadership and Organization minor has also been undersubscribed, Dean Campbell added. There were no other comments or questions, and **Council approved the deletion of the Leadership and Organization minor.**

Related to the two preceding items of business (D and E), Professor Eakin asked about the Managerial Studies program, which, he said, appears to be getting larger and larger every year, yet offers only academic minors. Deans Dever and Campbell replied that there are multiple issues involved: A review of peer institutions several years ago, by a task force convened by Chancellor Zeppos when he was Provost, concluded that there was no clear pattern of offering a business major at the undergraduate level; there were many different routes to a business-oriented undergraduate program. A new committee, led by Associate Provost Cynthia Cyrus, is reexamining the issue for accreditation reasons. The accrediting body for business schools, the Association to Advance
Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), argues that it has authority to accredit programs in which a quarter of a student’s credit hours can be earned in traditional business subjects. If this interpretation holds, it would probably mean that Managerial Studies and Peabody’s Human and Organizational Development department are subject to its accreditation. It would also mean that if either of these two programs were to fail their AACSB accreditation, then Vanderbilt as a whole would fail its AACSB accreditation, including the Owen Graduate School of Management. Provost Cyrus’ committee, therefore, is envisioning what a business education at the undergraduate level might look like at Vanderbilt. Another issue, Dean Campbell continued, is the increasing number of students exercising the INOT option, which is an individually designed interdisciplinary major, to create a kind of business major in Arts and Science. Working on this latter issue is the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures (CASP). The accreditation question, Dean Dever added, has prompted Vanderbilt to review how an undergraduate business program fits into the curriculum and into the faculty governance system.

4. Business from the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures (CASP).

**Proposed revision of the procedure to select the Founder’s Medalist.** Dean Campbell explained that an excellent student who is planning to graduate in December requested that he be considered for the Founder’s Medal. Yet the current policy and practice of the College of Arts and Science excludes students who graduate in August and in December from being eligible for the Founder’s Medal and Banner Bearer; only May graduates are considered. The Blair School of Music does not allow students to graduate early, so this is not an issue for them, but Peabody College and the School of Engineering allow students who graduate early to be nominated for their Founder’s Medal awards. Dean Campbell further explained that she asked the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures to review the Arts and Science selection procedure policy in this respect. CASP did so and propose revisions to the selection procedure for the Founder’s Medal to permit August and December graduates, along with May graduates, to be considered for the Founder’s Medal and Banner Bearer honors. Council members agreed with the proposed revision and **approved CASP’s proposal whereby August and December graduates are eligible to be considered for the Arts and Science Founder’s Medal and Banner Bearer awards.**

5. Business from the Curriculum Committee.

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


Dean Dever stated that she wrote an email message to department chairs and program directors after the disappointing turnout at the November Arts and Science Faculty Meeting. She acknowledged that people are busy, yet it is difficult to engage faculty
members in governance discussions when few attend meetings. One department, she noted, even scheduled a departmental meeting at the same time as the Faculty Meeting. To help facilitate faculty discussions, Arts and Science is required to have monthly Faculty Meetings during the academic year. Dean Dever encouraged Council members to attend all Faculty Meetings and to ask their colleagues to attend as well. The December Faculty Meeting is especially important, she said, for, at that meeting, Provost McCarty plans to lead a discussion on campus safety and security.

Dean Campbell stated that the course renumbering project is progressing, and the difficult work needed to complete it will be worthwhile.

Prompted by a query from Professor Eakin about the announcement that Provost Richard McCarty plans to step down as Provost next summer, Dean Dever responded that she is happy for him but sad for the Vanderbilt community.

7. **Good of the Council.**

Professor Fay suggested that it would encourage more faculty participation in governance issues and increase attendance at faculty meetings if there were more advanced notice of the topics in the annual State of the College Address and an earlier invitation to Council for additional topics to be included in the Address. Departments and programs would have more opportunity to discuss and bring forward issues. Dean Dever agreed; she stated that this topic should be placed on the agenda of the first Council meeting of the academic year.

8. **Adjournment.**

Council voted to adjourn at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Fay
Secretary of the Faculty Council