

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Monday, May 6, 2019
3:30 p.m.
McKenna Hall Auditorium
University of Notre Dame

Minutes

Members present: Scott Appleby, Brad Badertscher, Kasey Buckles, Tom Burish, Matthew Capdevielle, Laura Carlson, Patricia Champion, Patrick Flynn, Tom Fuja, Mary Galvin, Anne Garcia-Romero, Ben Heller, Michel Hockx, Hope Hollocher, Dan Johnson, Khachatur Manukyan, Jan Maxwell, Chris Maziar, Nancy Michael, Connie Mick, Sarah Mustillo, Nell Newton, Glen Niebur, Michael Pippenger, Hugh Page, Ram Ramanan, Maura Ryan, Mark Schurr, Elliott Visconsi, Sophie White

Members excused or absent: John Affleck-Graves, Ann Astell, Bob Bernhard, Caroline Cloonan, Martijn Cremers, Michael Desch, Malgorzata Dobrowolska-Furdyna, Luke Franz, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Eddie Griesedieck, Patrick Griffin, Michael Hildreth, Erin Hoffman Harding, Peter Holland, Fr. John Jenkins, CSC, Michael Lykoudis, Clive Neal, Richard Pierce, Bryan Ritchie, Tony Rosales, Carter Snead, Zachary Spitzer, Diane Parr Walker, Samir Younes

Observers present: Earl Carter, Sara Ermeti, Brian Flaherty, Jim Frabutt, Chuck Hurley, Matt Lahey, Mark Prokopius

1. **Opening Prayer:** Mark Schurr offered the opening prayer.
2. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2019:** A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by a voice vote.
3. **Informational Items:**
 - a. Minor changes to the *Academic Articles* were approved by the Executive Committee, and will go into effect on July 1, 2019. The proposed minor changes to the *Academic Articles* came from faculty who reviewed the released version. They identified areas where there were typos, inconsistencies, or necessary clarification.
 - b. Minor changes to the Graduate School's *Academic Code* were approved by the Executive Committee, and will go into effect for the 2019-2020 academic year. The primary change was the addition of a section for the DMA degree. This was at the request of the DMA program, with the primary driver being a shortened time to degree compared to the PhD. The proposed changes were approved by Advanced Studies.
4. **Discussion and approval of the proposed master's degree in civil and environmental engineering:**

Mark Schurr introduced the proposal on behalf of the Advanced Studies Committee. He then invited Professors Kyle Bibby and Johannes Westerink to present the proposal to the Academic Council.

Bibby shared that the field has moved to the point where a master's degree has become more common in industry, and is almost a required degree for many professionals. The proposed degree is a one-year, coursework based program. Regional programs have enrollment in the hundreds of students, so Notre Dame's offering would allow them to compete with peers, while still establishing a reasonable cohort size.

A question was raised regarding readiness for rapid expansion if demand is high. Bibby shared that the plan is to ramp to 40 students over the initial years. The program is structured with faculty and courses to accommodate that size.

Regarding the professional preparedness course, Bibby shared that such a course is not common at other universities. Most focus on technical courses only. Industry feedback showed that the professional readiness is a key area that is lacking in most master's graduates. The program will bring in outside guest lecturers to provide experiential knowledge in various subject areas.

A question was raised regarding the course load required to complete 30 credits in two semesters. Bibby shared that five courses in a semester is a high load. However, these students have no research or teaching obligations. Coursework is the only obligation these students have, and that load is achievable.

It was noted that Notre Dame tuition is higher than other programs. Bibby acknowledged that, and indicated that ascertaining the true cost at peer institutions is a challenge, but that the mid \$30k range is likely predominant. The program plans to offer tuition scholarships to bring tuition down to approximately \$35k per year. That level is expected to keep top Notre Dame students here, and attract other students to the program. Other professional master's programs at Notre Dame have shared that their experience is that prospective students recognize that there is a value to a ND degree, and that should not be undersold.

It was asked whether there could be a part-time option to allow working professionals to continue working. Bibby indicated that there is not a large number in that population in the local area. The approach was discussed, and may be a viable option in the future, but is not the approach that will be taken at this time.

A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the program. The program was approved via a unanimous voice vote.

- 5. Adjournment:** With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.