

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Monday, August 23, 2021, 3:30 p.m.
Stayer Center, University of Notre Dame

Minutes

Members present: Scott Appleby; Bob Bernhard; Seth Brown; Kasey Buckles; Laura Carlson; Patricia Clark; Marcus Cole; Jon Coleman; Therese Cory; Patricia Culligan; K. Matthew Dames; Tara Devaraj; La Donna Forsgren; Rick Garnett; Dan Groody, C.S.C.; Mike Hildreth; John Jenkins, C.S.C.; Lionel Jensen; Daniel Johnson; Chris Kolda; Cecilia Lucero; Bill Mattison; Chris Maziar; Paul McGinn; Margaret Meserve; Marie Lynn Miranda; Sarah Mustillo; Glen Niebur; Michael Niemier; Allan Njomo; Gerry Olinger, C.S.C.; Hugh Page; Michael Pippenger; Stefanos Polyzoides; Ram Ramanan; Bryan Ritchie; Maura Ryan; Matthew Sisk; Jason Springs; Thomas Stober; Joe Urbany; Elliott Visconsi; Molly Walsh; Richard Williams; Stephanie Wong; Samir Younes

Members excused or absent: Patricia Champion; Aedin Clements; Grace Clinton; Martijn Cremers; Shannon Cullinan; Jeremy Fein; Janeala Morsby; Sue Sheridan; Sierra Stinson

Observers and Guests present: Kevin Barry; Kelley Collins; Maureen Collins; Chuck Hurley; Brian Flaherty; Jim Frabutt; Jim Leady; Demetra Schoenig; Dane Sherman; Lance Thompson; Ryan Willerton

1. Opening Prayer

Joe Urbany offered a prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Welcome New Members

Fr. Jenkins welcomed new members to the Academic Council. He then recognized Mike Hildreth, who has served as Interim Dean of the College of Science since January 2021. The incoming Dean of the College, Santiago Schnell will join the Academic Council once his term begins on September 1. Fr. Jenkins announced that beginning with this meeting, Maura Ryan is the Associate Provost who will facilitate the work of the council. He thanked Laura Carlson for her leadership in that role and welcomed Maura to her new responsibilities.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2021

Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, which were circulated via email. A motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved on a unanimous voice vote.

4. 2020-21 Annual Committee Reports

Fr. Jenkins invited comments on the Annual Committee reports that were circulated in advance of the meeting. There being no comments, the reports were entered into the University's records.

5. Notice of Special Meeting, to be held in joint session with the University Committee on Research and Sponsored Programs, to be Scheduled in September

Fr. Jenkins advised the Council that Bob Bernhard, who has served with distinction as Vice President for Research since the fall of 2007, has decided to retire from that role at the end of his current term, in spring 2022. He explained that the Academic Council Executive Committee voted to hold a special joint meeting of the Academic Council and the University Committee on Research and Sponsored Programs in September in order to elect the search committee in accordance with the procedures laid out in the Academic Articles. Fr. Jenkins noted that more details about the meeting would be circulated in the coming weeks.

- 6. Student Government Resolution for a day-long observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Fr. Jenkins advised that in March, 2021, Undergraduate Student Government passed a Resolution Requesting a Full-Day Observance of MLK Day. In the subsequent months, Fr. Jenkins and Provost Miranda requested input from the Advanced Studies and Undergraduate Studies Committees. Those committees met in July and provided minutes, which were circulated to the full Council. A separate committee has been convened for broader discussions of the academic calendar, so the focus of the discussion at the Academic Council was on the student government resolution itself. Fr. Jenkins invited discussion.

Allan Njomo, undergraduate student body president, spoke, sharing with the Council the reasons the students had passed the resolution and the steps they had taken to bring the resolution to the Academic Council. Following Allan's remarks, there being no further comments, Fr. Jenkins invited a vote to approve making MLK Day a non-class day with opportunities for the campus community to facilitate dialogue and learning oriented toward making Notre Dame a more diverse and inclusive institution. A motion was made, seconded, and was passed on a unanimous voice vote. Fr. Jenkins commended Allan and his colleagues in Student Government for their work on the resolution.

- 7. Election of Executive Committee of Academic Council: All voting members (ex officio, elected or appointed) are eligible for election to the Executive Committee.**

Fr. Jenkins invited Maura Ryan, the Associate Provost responsible for Academic Council, to facilitate the election. Per the Academic Articles, the Executive Committee has two functions: it is charged with setting the Council's Agenda and it has the authority to make "minor" or "administrative" changes to the Academic Articles.

Maura Ryan described the process for the election, which was held using electronic ballots. The following members were elected to the Executive Committee: Laura Carlson; Chris Kolda; Allan Njomo; Hugh Page; and Molly Walsh.

Following the meeting, Fr. Jenkins appointed to the committee Therese Cory; Jeremy Fein; and Joe Urbany.

- 8. Adjournment** Following the election, Fr. Jenkins adjourned the meeting.