

## Academic Council, University of Notre Dame

December 8, 2021, 3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Stayer Center – 123 Commons

**Voting Members Present:** Appleby, Scott; Brown, Seth; Carlson, Laura; Champion, Patricia; Clark, Patricia; Clements, Aedin; Cole, Marcus; Coleman, Jon; Cremers, Martijn; Culligan, Patricia; Cullinan, Shannon; Dames, K. Matthew; Devaraj, Tara; Dowd, Robert, C.S.C.; Garnett, Rick; Groody, Daniel, C.S.C.; Jenkins, John, C.S.C.; Jensen, Lionel; Johnson, Daniel; Kolda, Christopher; Liberatore, John; Maziar, Christine; McGinn, Paul; Meserve, Margaret; Miranda, Marie Lynn; Mustillo, Sarah; Niebur, Glen; Page, Hugh; Pippenger, Michael; Ramanan, Ramachandran; Ryan, Maura; Schnell, Santiago; Sims, Eric; Sisk, Matthew; Stober, Thomas; Visconsi, Elliott; Walsh, Molly; Williams, Richard; Wong, Stephanie

**Observers and Staff Present:** Flaherty, Brian; Frabutt, Jim; Hurley, Chuck; Lahey, Matt; Leady, Jim; Rudenga, Kristin; Schneider, Beth; Schoenig, Demetra; Thompson, Lance; Willerton, Ryan

**Voting Members Excused or Absent:** Bernhard, Bob; Cory, Therese; Lucero, Cecilia; Mattison, Bill; Morsby, Janeala; Niemier, Michael; Njomo, Allan; Polyzoides, Stefanos; Ritchie, Bryan; Springs, Jason; Stinson, Sierra; Urbany, Joe; Younes, Samir

### Minutes

Fr. Jenkins called the Academic Council meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and invited Fr. Dan Groody to open the meeting with a prayer. He then invited a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. There being no discussion or corrections, the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins then invited Marie Lynn Miranda, Provost, to provide informational updates. Dr. Miranda shared two items. First, she expressed her gratitude to the many faculty members who had participated over the past year in various phases of the *Moment to See, Courage to Act (MSCA)* initiative. She described the steps that have been taken by the deans, associate provosts, and others in the weeks since the MSCA symposium in November, including designating next steps for each proposal. Information would be posted on the Provost's Office website on December 10, 2021.

Second, she thanked the Notre Dame undergraduate student government for the work they had done in the prior academic year to propose that Notre Dame take Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an annual day of collective reflection on the urgent and necessary pursuit of racial justice, with no classes scheduled on this day beginning January 17, 2022. She also thanked the Academic Council for their approval of the Student Government proposal. Moreover, she noted that this requires the University to achieve a balanced spring semester schedule in light of this new day without classes. Dr. Miranda advised that she had asked Elliott Visconsi and Chuck Hurley to explore possibilities to solve the spring semester 2022 challenge, and they had recommended that the simplest and least confusing approach is to treat the last day of classes, Tuesday, April 26, as if it were a Monday – e.g. Monday classes will meet both Monday, April 25 and Tuesday, April 26 this spring. She noted that this is not perfect as it compresses the distance between Monday class meetings, but it leads to a balanced schedule. Following discussion with the Deans and Fr. Jenkins, she had determined this is an acceptable short term solution. She concluded by noting that Elliot Visconsi will continue to lead a broader discussion regarding the overall structure of the academic year for future academic calendars.

Fr. Jenkins thanked Dr. Miranda for sharing the information and then invited Prof. Tom Stober, in his role as chair of the Faculty Senate, to introduce the next item on the agenda. Prof. Stober noted that the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate had held several meetings earlier in the semester to discuss the agenda item and were now bringing to the Academic Council a proposal that the Council

interpret a "suspension" of a degree program to be a "major modification" in the University's *Academic Articles*; Article V, Section 3/Subsection(a). Following questions and requests for clarification from several Council members, Fr. Jenkins invited a motion that the matter be referred to the relevant Academic Council committee, the Faculty Affairs committee, for further discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and the motion was approved on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins invited Dr. Miranda to introduce the next items on the agenda, a proposal to amend the title of the head of the Hesburgh Libraries to "Dean, Hesburgh Libraries & University Press" in all relevant sections of the *Academic Articles*. Dr. Miranda provided the rationale for the recommendation and noted the specific sections of the *Articles* that would be amended if the changes were approved. A discussion followed. Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion to approve the proposed changes to the *Academic Articles*. A motion was made, duly seconded, and the changes were approved unanimously on a voice vote. Before becoming final, the proposed changes will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Fr. Jenkins noted that he had an additional item on which he wished to consult the Council: the question of extending the University's existing vaccine policy to require a COVID-19 booster. No questions or objections were voiced, and Fr. Jenkins thanked the Council for their time. He adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. and committees met subsequently.