

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2006**

Members Present: Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Thomas G. Burish, Dennis Jacobs, Jean Ann Linney, Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., Don Pope-Davis, Panos Antsaklis, Charles Barber, Steven Buechler, Brian Claassen, Austin Collins, James Collins, Tom Cosimano, Kenneth DeBoer, Neil Delaney, Umesh Garg, Nicole Garnett, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Chris Harris, Michael Jenuwine, Colin Jessop, Tara Johnson, Tom Lamontagne, Michael Lykoudis, Joseph Marino, James McAdams, Jim Merz, Stephen Molvarec, Hugh Page, Ram Ramanan, Maura Ryan, Valerie Sayers, Richard Taylor, Scott Van Jacob, Jennifer Warlick, Bill Westfall, Carolyn Woo, Jennifer Younger

Members Absent: Patrick Murren

Members Excused: John Affleck-Graves, Seth Brown, Mary Rose D'Angelo, Stephen Fallon, Graham Hammill, Kelly Jordan, Christine Maziar, Robert Nelson, Patricia O'Hara, Mark Roche, Susan Guise Sheridan

Observers Present: Kevin Barry, Mary Hendriksen, Capt. Mike Neller, Harold Pace, Don Wycliff

Observers Absent:

Observers Excused: Brandon Roach, Dan Saracino

Guests: Fr. Ron Nuzzi, Rev. Ronald Nuzzi, Director, Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Leadership Program; Joyce Johnstone, Ryan Director of ACE Educational Outreach

The Reverend John Jenkins, CSC opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Prof. Linney offered a prayer.

1. Minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2006: The minutes from the meeting of September 28, 2006, were approved without change.

2. Changes to the *Academic Articles* regarding terms limits for the chair of the Faculty Board on Athletics and membership on the University Council for Academic Technologies: The Faculty Board on Athletics (FBA) reviews policies, procedures, and practices that affect the educational experience of student-athletes and advises the President of its findings and deliberations. Currently, the *Academic Articles* provide that the chair of the FBA can serve one three-year term, with renewal possible for only one additional three-year term. Article IV, Sec. 3(k).

In reviewing this provision last year, FBA members proposed to change the term limit imposed on the chair. [See *Notre Dame Report*, vol. 35, no. 7, p. 242 (FBA meeting of October 5, 2005) and vol. 35, no. 9, p. 285 (FBA meeting of Nov. 8, 2005).] Members pointed out that in addition to serving as chair of the faculty board, the chair functions as the University's faculty athletics representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). That position involves attendance at several national meetings and eligibility for service on NCAA committees.

In practice, FBA members said, the six-year term limit impedes the chair's ability to have a strong influence within the organizations at which he or she represents Notre Dame. There is a steep learning curve upon joining these organizations, and it takes some amount of time to cultivate contacts within them. Because the chair is unlikely to advance to leadership positions until very late in the six-year tenure, he or she is unlikely to be able to advance to top leadership positions at all. Thus, Prof. Tex Dutile, chair of the FBA from 2000-2006, was forced to decline opportunities for leadership positions because he was nearing completion of his six years of service. In addition, members noted, the Faculty Athletics Representative Association has a formal policy against term limits for its members.

For these reasons, FBA members proposed to abolish the *Articles'* current term limit and replace it with: "The President appoints the chair to a three-year term and may after consultation with the board renew the chair for additional terms of up to three years each."

At today's meeting, Prof. Garg pointed out that the document setting forth the rationale for the change was composed in the fall of 2005; thus, its last sentence, "[A]ny changes to the term of the chair would apply prospectively and would not affect the current chair," is most likely misleading to Council members reading it today. The minutes of the FBA meeting of November 8, 2005, make clear that the proposed change *is* to apply to Prof. Dutile's successor. [Prof. Don Pope-Davis was appointed chair of the FBA by President Jenkins in the spring of 2006.] Thus, he proposed to strike the final sentence of the "Rationale for Revision."

Fr. Jenkins concurred.

[No member discussed the proposed modification to Article IV, Sec. 3(g) dealing with membership on the University Council for Academic Technologies (UCAT). In documentation distributed to members in advance of the meeting, it was explained that the proposed change was made necessary by a recent reorganization of the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Rather than providing that UCAT include as *ex officio* members "the director and associate director of educational technologies and services"—positions that no longer exist—it is proposed that the relevant section of the *Academic Articles* provide: "The chair of the committee will appoint up to two representatives of the OIT to serve as *ex officio* members."]

Fr. Jenkins then called for a vote on the proposal to abolish the *Academic Article's* current two-term limit [Article IV, Sec. 3(k)] for the chair of the Faculty Board on Athletics and to amend the language defining the membership of the University Council for Academic Technologies [Article IV, Sec 3(g)]. Members gave their unanimous approval to both amendments.

3. Process for decennial review of the *Academic Articles*: Without discussion, members approved a process for decennial review of the *Academic Articles*. The purpose of the review is to identify inconsistent language and inaccuracies in the *Articles* and then, working with the University community, propose changes to the *Articles* to bring them in line with current policy and practice.

A document provided to members in advance of the meeting contained a schedule for revisions—beginning with a call for revisions from relevant constituencies in October 2006, the scheduling of working group meetings from November to February of 2007, the presentation of proposed changes to the Academic Council and approval by the President in March and April of 2007, and approval by the Board of Trustees at its Spring 2007 meeting. Working group members were identified as: Jean Ann Linney, vice president and associate provost (chair); Carol Kaesebier, vice president and general counsel; Charles Barber (Art, Art History and Design), chair of the Faculty Senate's administrative affairs committee, and Maura Ryan (Theology), chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee of the Academic Council.

Fr. Jenkins called for a vote on the process for decennial review of the *Academic Articles*. Members were unanimously in favor of the proposed procedure.

4. Proposal to close the M.A. program in German Languages and Literatures: The College of Arts and Letters, the Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures, and the Graduate School had discussions during academic year 2005-2006 and collectively agreed to close the M.A. Program in German Language and Literature. Several factors pertaining to the quality and nature of the program, as well as its prospects for distinction, were influential in the discussions. A more complete record of reasons for closure can be found in Attachment A (sent to members in advance of today's meeting) and in the proceedings of the meeting of the Graduate Council of September 20, 2006 [See *Notre Dame Report*, vol. 36, no. 5]. The Graduate Council and the Executive Council of the Academic Council both endorsed closure. There was no discussion of this item, and members voted unanimously to approve it.

5. Proposal for a Master of Arts in Educational Administration: Also at the Graduate Council meeting of September 20, 2006, members approved a proposal of the Institute for Educational Initiatives [specifically, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE)] to begin a master of arts in educational administration that will prepare candidates for roles as leaders of Catholic schools [See *Notre Dame Report*, vol. 36 no. 5]. The Executive Committee of the Academic Council approved the proposal as well.

At today's meeting, Fr. Ron Nuzzi, the director of the ACE Leadership Program, spoke briefly about the impending leadership crisis in Catholic education and the growing need for qualified leaders. He explained that ACE's current program is merely a licensure program that culminates in receipt of the state credential to be a principal. Approval of today's proposal, which specifies various curriculum enhancements to the current licensure program, will allow ACE to offer a program that terminates in a graduate degree.

Prof. Linney asked whether the program will require accreditation.

Fr. Nuzzi answered that that program is already accredited.

Dr. Joyce Johnstone, the Ryan Director of Educational Outreach for ACE, elaborated that ACE's current educational leadership licensure program is fully accredited by the State of Indiana, thus allowing participants to receive a teaching license both in Indiana and in any other state they choose. The program has had participants from 32 states; all of them have received licenses through reciprocity arrangements. She added that there is a growing debate within the educational community over standards used for accrediting schools, colleges, and departments of education. If given a choice over what standards to use, ACE will determine which standards best suit its needs and is the most rigorous. Of course, if not given a choice, the program will continue to use the standards required by the State of Indiana.

Seeing no further questions by members, Fr. Jenkins asked for a vote on ACE's proposal to initiate a master's in educational administration at Notre Dame. The vote was unanimously in favor.

6. Annual Report (2005-2006) of the University Committee on Libraries: Fr. Jenkins explained that the report was presented as an information item only; no vote is necessary.

Mr. Molvarec noted the text of the report concerning a revised recall policy (pp. 8-9), which is intended to reduce the delay between a patron recalling a book and actually having access to it, as well as to impose sanctions that are likely to be effective in retrieving material from patrons who choose not to respond to library requests to return materials needed by others. He said that, two years ago, a certain doctoral candidate checked out nearly 2,000 books and then refused to honor the recall policy then in place. A petition was taken up by other graduate students; yet the Library appeared reluctant to enforce the policy then in place. He asked if there were statistics available regarding enforcement of the old policy and questioned whether the new policy will actually have "teeth."

Dr. Younger replied that the revision was precipitated by failures in actually getting materials back from users when requested. She said that there was enforcement data used in the revision process and expects that, in the future, there will be better enforcement of the policy. She added that a new piece of the policy relates to requests to *faculty* to return materials.

7. Committee reports

(a) Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Sayers reported that, this year, committee members have decided to take up topics in four broad areas:

(1) Admissions: Members voted to continue the discussion on how to provide more faculty feedback to admissions, which will involve meetings with Mr. Saracino, assistant provost for enrollment, and well as representatives of individual colleges. The committee will work as well with Institutional Research to undertake a number of studies. Also related to admissions, members will discuss the intellectual life and academic performance of undergraduates; examine the impact of the University's new Advanced Placement policy on undergraduates; and examine the progress of honors program recruiting.

(2) Grade Validity: Members will undertake a study of grade validity—by examining what pressures the faculty experience when assigning grades and exploring what steps can be taken to curb grade inflation;

(3) Deadline for Drops and Adds: Committee members will also study whether the deadlines for drops and adds should be moved up in the semester;

(4) Student-Faculty Relations: Working with student government, committee members will explore how to enhance student/faculty relations at Notre Dame.

(b) Faculty Affairs Committee: Prof. Ryan reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee has identified three broad priorities for the year:

(1) mentoring and review of faculty, with the idea that it is important to have some more formal procedures in place, particularly for newer faculty, including special professional faculty;

(2) participation in the discussion of procedures for increasing Catholic faculty representation at the University;

(3) developing a process for faculty involvement in reallocation of resources likely to be precipitated by the forthcoming efforts to raise the standing of the university among research universities.

(c) Graduate Council: Prof. Garg said that committee members participated in the September Graduate Council meeting and are awaiting that council's November meeting to see what might require their attention.

8. Election of the search committee for the University's new vice president for research: Prof. Linney explained the procedure for electing the search committee for the University's new vice president of research. Eligible voters are members of the Academic Council and of the Committee on Research and Sponsored Programs, whose

members were invited to the latter part of today's meeting. After several rounds of voting, the members of both committees elected: Profs. Steve Batill (Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering), Neil Delaney (Philosophy), Margaret Dobrowolska-Furdyna (Physics), Maureen Hallinan (Sociology); Rich Taylor (Chemistry and Biochemistry). [Graduate Student Union President Michael Lundin (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering) is also a member of the committee.]

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ann Linney
Vice President and Associate Provost