

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING of January 21, 2015
McKenna Auditorium
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Members present: Panos Antsaklis, Katie Jo Baumgardner, Christine Becker, Bob Bernhard, Sunny Boyd, Thomas Burish, Peter Burns, Laura Carlson, JoAnn DellaNeve, Michael Desch, Meredith Doellman, Dennis Doordan, Kevin Dreyer, Nick Entrikin, Michael Ferdig, John Gaski, W. Matthew Leevy, Shuyang Li, Marya Lieberman, Jose Limon, Louis MacKenzie, Chris Maziar, Paul McDowell, Paul McGinn, John McGreevy, James McKenna, Dan Myers, Nell Newton, Hugh Page, Cathy Pieronek, Ramachandran Ramanan, Laura Sill, Alain Toumayan, Diane Parr Walker, Katie Wood

Members excused: John Affleck-Graves, Scott Appleby, Cindy Bergeman, Greg Crawford, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Matthew Greene, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Roger Huang, Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., Peter Kilpatrick, Michelle Lacouture, Michael Lykoudis, Maria McKenna, Elizabeth Moore, Robert Norton, Maria Rosa Olivera-Williams, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Carter Snead

Observers present: Kevin Barry, Mary Hendriksen, Earl Carter, Chuck Hurley, Dale Nees, Frank Rossi, Michael Ryan

1. Welcome and opening prayer

Dr. Burish opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and invited Prof. Ramachandran Ramanan to offer the opening prayer.

2. Approval of the minutes of November 10, 2014

The minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Acceptance of two annual reports (2013-2014) of University committees that report to the Academic Council

The *Academic Articles* require that 12 University and Academic Council committees submit annual reports to the Academic Council. Nine of those committees submitted their 2013-2014 reports for the meeting of November 10, 2014; two more submitted reports for today's meeting.

Initiated by a question from Prof. McGreevy, there was a brief discussion of the purpose of the annual reports and whether, in their current format, they fulfilled the intended purpose.

Prof. Carlson provided some context to this question. Reports previously had been given orally at Council meetings on a yearly basis. The oral reports were of variable content and detail. Committees were then asked to produce written versions of the report so that members could read and consider the reports prior to their formal oral presentation to the Council. The written reports were also of variable written content and detail. A simplified template was distributed; this was used by some but not all committees. Prof. Carlson welcomed suggestions about specific content from members.

Attachment A

Prof. McGreevy recommended that the Council consider what it would like to learn from committee reports. Dr. Burish agreed, invited suggestions from members on how to conduct a review and assessment of the committee report template and purpose, and offered to raise the topic with the Executive Committee for further consideration.

A motion to accept the two reports submitted for today's meeting was made and seconded. By a unanimous vote, the reports were accepted by the Council.

The meeting was adjourned to committee meetings.