

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
**Monday, April 11, 2016**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**McKenna Hall Auditorium**  
**University of Notre Dame**

**MINUTES**

**Members present:** John F. Affleck-Graves; Michael Altenburger; Rohan Andresen; Panos Antsaklis; Scott Appleby; Sunny Boyd; Jay Brandenberger; Tom Burish; Peter Burns; Laura Carlson; Patricia Champion; Ann-Marie Conrado; Michael Desch; Michael Ferdig; Mary Galvin; John Gaski; Brad Gregory; Erin Hoffmann Harding; Roger Huang; Rev. John Jenkins, CSC; Peter Kilpatrick; Chris Maziar; Paul McDowell; John McGreevy; Margaret Meserve; Robert Norton; Maria-Rosa Olivera-Williams; Hugh Page; Ram Ramanan; Bridget Rickard; Jeanne Romero-Severson; Maura Ryan; Josh Shrout; Laura Sill; Diane Parr Walker

**Members absent or excused:** Christine Becker; Bob Bernhard; Philip Bess; Don Crafton; Nick Entrikin; Jeremy Forbes; Nasir Ghiaseddin; Matthew Leevy; Michael Lykoudis; Ed Maginn; Maria McKenna; Gerald McKenny; Betsy Moore; Nell Newton; Eva Niklinska; Bridget Rickard; Casey Skevington; Carter Snead

**Observers present:** Kevin Barry; Earl Carter; Jim Frabutt; Chuck Hurley; Demetra Schoenig

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**Welcome and Opening Prayer:** Fr. Jenkins opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and invited Hugh Page to offer the opening prayer.

**Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 3, 2015:** Following the prayer, Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. A motion was made, duly seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved on a voice vote.

**2014-15 Academic Council Committee Reports:** Fr. Jenkins noted that prior to the meeting, the following University Committee Reports from the 2014-15 academic year had been provided to council members via email: Undergraduate Studies Committee and University Libraries Committee. Fr. Jenkins invited questions or comments on the reports. There were none. Laura Carlson noted that the committee reports for the 2015-16 academic year would be collected in June 2016.

**PhD Proposals in Spanish and Italian:** Fr. Jenkins introduced the next items on the agenda, consideration of a document from the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Letters. The document under consideration contained three proposals: one to discontinue the PhD in Literature, one to establish a new PhD program in Spanish, and one to establish a new PhD program in Italian. Joining the meeting for the discussion of the proposal were department chair Tom Anderson and director of Graduate Studies Carlos Juaregi. Fr. Jenkins noted that when voting on this at the March meeting, the Advanced Studies Committee elected to vote only once on the document as a whole. The committee vote was a unanimous approval.

Fr. Jenkins invited Margaret Meserve, Associate Dean for the Humanities in the College of Arts and Letters to describe the proposals. She provided contextual information and the overarching rationale for the structure of the proposals. Tom Anderson and Carlos Juaregi shared the principles that undergird proposals and provided additional detail about the funding, anticipated cohort size, faculty expertise, and likely placements for graduate students in the new programs. A brief discussion ensued. Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the proposals as a whole. A motion was made, duly seconded, and the proposals were approved on a voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.