

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**  
**November 7, 2016**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**McKenna Hall Auditorium**  
**University of Notre Dame**

MINUTES

**Members present:** Panos Antsaklis; Scott Appleby; Brad Badertscher; Bryce Badura; Bob Bernhard; Sunny Boyd; Jay Brandenberger; Julia Braungart-Rieker; Kasey Buckles; Tom Burish; Laura Carlson; Patricia Champion; Ann-Marie Conrado; Michael Desch; Margorzata Dobrowolska-Furdyna; Mary Galvin; Brad Gregory; Erin Hoffmann Harding; Peter Holland; Roger Huang; Fr. John Jenkins, CSC; Matthew Leevy; Michael Lykoudis; Ed Maginn; Chris Maziar; John McGreevy; Maria McKenna; Margaret Meserve; Bill Nichols; Eva Niklinska; Hugh Page; Michael Pippenger; Heather Roberts Stanfiel; Jeanne Romero-Severson; Maura Ryan; Nicholas Schilling; Laura Sill; Janet Stengle; Diane Parr Walker; Sophie White

**Members excused or absent:** John Affleck-Graves; Philip Bess; Peter Burns; Umesh Garg; John Gaski; Nasir Ghaiasedin; Peter Kilpatrick; Louis MacKenzie; Nell Newton; Carter Snead; Mason Zurovchak

**Observers present:** Kevin Barry; Kathy Brickley; Earl Carter; John Carter; Jim Frabutt; Kate Garry; Chuck Hurley; Dale Nees; Angie Appleby Purcell; Demetra Schoenig; Lee Svete; Matt Zyniewicz

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

**Approval of Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2016** Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 8. A motion was made, and the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

**Discussion and Vote: Core Curriculum Review Committee Final Report** Fr. Jenkins noted that the Decennial Core Curriculum Review Committee, co-chaired by John McGreevy, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Michael Hildreth, professor of physics, and composed of 11 other faculty members from across the University, had shared their recommendations via a Report that was published in August 2016. The Undergraduate Studies Committee of the Academic Council discussed the report on September 8 and October 5. At their October 5 meeting, the Committee voted to approve the report and recommend that it was ready for a discussion and vote by the Academic Council.

Prior to inviting discussion of the Report, Fr. Jenkins asked John McGreevy to share information about the substantive recommendations contained in the report, and to also discuss the process that the committee had taken in forming the recommendations. John shared the original Committee Charge from circulated by the President and Provost in August 2014, shared information about the consultative meetings the committee had held at various points over the two years of deliberations, and provided an overview of the guiding principles and changes to the Core Curriculum recommended in the final Report.

Fr. Jenkins thanked John for the overview. He then invited Maria McKenna, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, to make a motion. Maria made a motion to approve the CCRC report and all of the recommendations therein, with the understanding that, if approved, the Undergraduate Studies Committee would be tasked to change the language in the relevant documents, such as the Undergraduate Academic Code and the Academic Articles, as needed, to reflect the recommendations in the Report. Subsequent approval of those changes would subject to approval of the Academic Council Executive Committee. Fr. Jenkins invited a second. Maria's motion was seconded, and with the motion on the floor, Fr. Jenkins invited discussion.

Ed Maginn began the discussion of the Report by offering several amendments. First, he recommended adding a definition of an elective. Following discussion, the amendment proposed was to define an elective on page 15 of the Report as “any standard course offered by the University, selected thoughtfully in consultation with the student’s department or school faculty.” Fr. Jenkins invited a discussion and vote. This amendment was approved with no objections. Ed then recommended deleting the following sentence from page 30 of the Report: “If the committee’s recommendation to require a certain number of electives within each student’s course schedule is adopted, almost all students in the College of Engineering would see a reduction of up to three courses in their degree program.” Fr. Jenkins invited discussion and vote. This amendment was approved with no objections. Ed offered a final amendment, to remove the introductory clause, “Working in consultation with the Dean of Engineering Peter Kilpatrick” from the beginning of the second full paragraph on page 33 of the Report. Fr. Jenkins invited discussion and a vote. It was approved with no objections, and the sentence now reads, “The committee decided to recommend that the combination of major requirements and University requirements for any single student in any major program should still permit at least three University elective courses to be taken in any college, school, or department.”

Maria McKenna then offered two amendments. First, she recommended adding language to the paragraph on Advanced Placement (AP) credit to include credits earned in high school through programs such as International Baccalaureate exams. Fr. Jenkins invited discussion and a vote. This addition was approved with no objections, and this sentence was added to the end of the first paragraph of the Advanced Placement section of the Report on page 31: “Here and in the report, the focus is on the use of AP credit (by far the most common source of credit earned outside the University of Notre Dame), but the recommendations also apply to other sources of credit like the International Baccalaureate exams.” Maria offered a second amendment, to amend or strike this sentence on page 34: “The committee also recommends that the associate provost for undergraduate education may serve simultaneously as associate provost and director or dean of First Year of Studies.” This led to discussion on the emphasis on the endeavor of advising undergraduate students and helping them navigate the selection of their courses and majors, and how this effort should be led by the faculty of the University in partnership with the administrators and advisors in the First Year of Studies and the Colleges and Schools. Following the discussion, Fr. Jenkins invited a vote. One member of the council voted in favor of amending the paragraph, and the remainder of council members voted to not to accept the proposed amendment.

Fr. Jenkins invited additional discussion. There being none, he put the question to the Council. He invited a vote to “approve the CCRC Report and all the recommendations therein, as amended today, with the understanding that if approved, the Undergraduate Studies Committee will be tasked to change the language in the relevant documents, such as the Undergraduate Academic Code and the Academic Articles, as needed, to reflect the recommendations in the report, with the subsequent approval of the Executive Committee.” A motion was made, duly seconded, and approved unanimously on a voice vote.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.