

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Friday, April 16, 2021, 3:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes

Members present: Scott Appleby, Aaron Benavides, Bob Bernhard, Seth Brown, Kasey Buckles, Laura Carlson, Patricia Champion, Aedin Clements, Marcus Cole, Martijn Cremers, Patricia Culligan, Shannon Cullinan, Michael Desch, Patrick Flynn, Anna Geltzer, Dan Groody CSC, Michael Hildreth, Erin Hoffmann Harding, John Jenkins CSC, Dan Johnson, Ryan Karl, Christopher Kolda, Cecilia Lucero, William Mattison, Chris Maziar, Margaret Meserve, Connie Mick, Marie Lynn Miranda, Sarah Mustillo, Glen Niebur, Michael Niemier, Hugh Page, Michael Pippenger, Anghy Ramos, Ramachandran Ramanan, Maura Ryan, Jason Springs, Thomas Stober, Diane Parr Walker, Molly Walsh, Jason Wanamaker, Richard Williams, Samir Younes

Members excused or absent: Ann Astell, Michael Cimino, Patricia Clark, Patrick Griffin, Michel Hockx, Lionel Jensen, Paul McGinn, Stefanos Polyzoides, Lauryn Pugh, Bryan Ritchie, Carter Snead, Joe Urbany, Elliott Visconsi

Observers present: Kevin Barry, Brian Flaherty, Jim Frabutt, Chuck Hurley, Mark Prokopius, Ryan Willerton

1. Opening Prayer: Fr. Dan Groody

Fr. Dan Groody offered the opening prayer for the group.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2020

Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, which were sent via email. The motion was offered, and a second was made. The minutes were approved with all votes cast in favor.

3. Proposed New Program: PhD in Management

Fr. Jenkins invited Ram Ramanan to introduce the proposal on behalf of the Advanced Studies Committee.

Ramanan introduced the proposal, and then invited Ken Kelley and Jason Colquitt to address the group.

Kelley shared the history of the planning for a PhD program in business, and the motivations to do so now. This is expected to have a positive impact on faculty recruitment, and to help increase the number of future faculty members available.

Colquitt shared that there continues to be a need for PhD students in Management. There were 100 R1 jobs in the last hiring cycle, and only 20 qualified PHD/ABD students available to fill the positions. The PHD Project is in place to develop a pipeline to PhD programs, and will help find top applicants.

A member ask how students would be engaged in teaching, as TAs instructors of record? There was also a question about the rationale for the proposed program size? Colquitt responded that students would be instructors of record in year 3 or 4, which is standard at most peer schools. That is part of the job market process as well. Colquitt shared some peer program sizes: Cal 12, Michigan 12 USC 12 Washington 22, Penn State 16 Maryland 20. The plan is to start small to allow for an adjustment in a school that has not had a previous PhD program. This also reduces competition within the cohort for career opportunities. Growth is certainly a potential in the future.

A member asked where the program recruit, and are any of the target schools HBCU? Colquitt responded that the PHD Project is a key strategy. Notre Dame is uniquely set up with 3 alumni of that program on our faculty. ND undergrad alumni and Catholic schools without a PhD program are opportunities. HBCU should be pursued as well. Kelley shared that they will also leverage the Mendoza marketing team.

A member asked why Management was chosen instead of other areas? Kelley shared that there is another proposal in development from Analytics. It is expected to be presented in May. The other departments are not yet ready to start a PhD program. We can expect other programs in the future, but these two areas are ready now.

A member asked how much of the faculty retention churn is attributable to not having a PhD program? Colquitt shared that it is a part of the anecdotes when people leave. It is much more commonly stated as a reason why individuals do not apply for open positions.

Martijn Cremers expressed his strong support as Dean. He stated that this is important for the research culture and faculty recruitment and retention. Cremers is hopeful that all programs in the college will work towards developing PhD programs.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was offered, and a second was made. The program was approved with all votes cast in favor of the proposal.

4. Proposed Designation for New University Institute and Centers

a. Lucy Family Institute Proposal

Fr. Jenkins invited Mike Desch to introduce the proposal on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was offered, and a second was made.

Desch introduced the proposal and invited Nitesh Chawla to address the group.

Chawla shared the background of the Institute, which was founded a year ago. He explained that the Institute has met the financial requirements outlined in the procedures document. Chawla shared that there are 47 Faculty members active in the Institute, and that the number could reach 65. Participation spans across Engineering, Science, Business, Law, A&L, and the Keough School.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted to approve the proposal. The motion was approved with all votes cast in favor of the proposal.

b. Environmental Change Initiative Research Center Proposal

Fr. Jenkins invited Mike Desch to introduce the proposal on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was offered, and a second was made. Desch introduced the proposal and invited Jennifer Tank to address the group.

Tank shared that the ECI started through the SRI program. It is now seeking designation as a University Research Center. There are 62 faculty from 7 colleges and 17 departments active with ECE. Research funding continues to grow, and is diversified across several funding agencies. Tank shared some of the key research areas of ECI, and how those initiatives have continued and adapted during the pandemic.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted to approve the proposal. The motion was approved with all votes cast in favor of the proposal.

c. Technology Ethics Center Proposal

Due to a schedule conflict, this item was deferred to the May meeting.

5. Adjournment

With no additional business, Fr. Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.