

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 3:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes for Review

Members present: Scott Appleby, Ann Astell, Seth Brown, Kasey Buckles, Laura Carlson, Patricia Champion, Patricia Clark, Aedin Clements, Marcus Cole, Martijn Cremers, Patricia Culligan, Michael Desch, Patrick Flynn, Anna Geltzer, Patrick Griffin, Dan Groody CSC, Michael Hildreth, Erin Hoffmann Harding, Michel Hockx, John Jenkins CSC, Lionel Jensen, Dan Johnson, Christopher Kolda, Cecilia Lucero, William Mattison, Chris Maziar, Margaret Meserve, Connie Mick, Marie Lynn Miranda, Sarah Mustillo, Glen Niebur, Michael Niemier, Michael Pippenger, Stefanos Polyzoides, Anghy Ramos, Ramachandran Ramanan, Bryan Ritchie, Maura Ryan, Carter Snead, Jason Springs, Thomas Stober, Joe Urbany, Elliott Visconsi, Diane Parr Walker, Molly Walsh, Jason Wanamaker, Richard Williams, Samir Younes

Members excused or absent: Aaron Benavides, Bob Bernhard, Michael Cimino, Shannon Cullinan, Ryan Karl, Paul McGinn, Hugh Page, Lauryn Pugh

Observers present: Kevin Barry, Brian Flaherty, Chuck Hurley, Matt Lahey, Dale Nees, Ryan Willerton

1. Opening Prayer: Tom Stober

Fr. Jenkins called the meeting to order and invited Tom Stober to pray.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of April 16, 2021

Fr. Jenkins invited a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, which were sent via email. A motion was made, and a second offered. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Proposed New Program: PhD in Analytics

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

Ramanan introduced the proposal, and then made a motion to approve the proposal. A second was offered by Sarah Mutillo.

Ken Kelley introduced the proposal and described the structure of the department and its connections across campus. The proposed program will take advantage of partnerships across campus in other departments, but does not obligate any department to open courses to these students.

Ahmed Abbasi shared that the program will focus on both the research and scholarship, but also on ethics and aspects of fairness. The program will focus on T shaped scholars. Peer programs are focused on the methods, while not addressing the question of if a method is appropriate for use. The program will offer an individual plan of study for each student to establish a preferred path.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted using the raised hand in the participants panel in Zoom. All votes cast were in favor of the proposal.

4. Proposed New/Revised Program: MS in Global Health

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

Ramanan introduced the proposal, and then made a motion to approve the proposal. A second was offered by Marie Lynn Miranda.

Bernard Nahlen reminded the Academic Council of the initial development and growth of the 1-year Global Health program since its inception. The program was reviewed externally, and brought in consultants to provide recommendations. The 1-year timeframe created limitations in the capstone research program, limited the opportunity to take elective courses, and constrained the ability of the students to have a more significant impact on the research programs of the faculty mentors. The primary recommendation from the review was expanding to a 2-year program. Recruitment will target students who have been in the workforce in NGOs, government agencies, and the private sector, although recent graduates are still expected to apply and make up a portion of the student population. The program will offer tuition scholarships to aid in diversity in the student population.

Heidi Beidinger shared that this change in structure will enhance the education of the students, and allow the students more space to conduct research in coordination with the mentor. There was very little flexibility in the capstone project previously, with students constrained to just the early part of the summer term.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted using the raised hand in the participants panel in Zoom. All votes cast were in favor of the proposal.

5. Graduate School's Crisis Leave Proposal

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

Ramanan introduced the proposal, and then made a motion to approve the proposal. A second was offered by Patricia Champion.

John Lubker shared that the genesis of the proposal was the Task Force on Mentorship and Student Wellbeing. This is a complement to the medical leave policy, but expands the scenarios under which students may request a leave. The request is agreed to between the student and the advisor, and the Graduate School will provide the final approval and administer the process.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted using the raised hand in the participants panel in Zoom. All votes cast were in support of the proposal.

6. Proposed New Undergraduate Major: Education, Schooling, and Society

Fr. Jenkins invited Chris Kolda to introduce the proposal on behalf of the Advanced Studies Committee.

Kolda introduced the proposal, and then made a motion to approve the proposal. A second was offered by Ram Ramanan.

Nicole McNeil shared that the major is an expansion of the 2002 minor, with a goal to allow students to explore issues from a variety of perspectives. This major has a threefold mission: to provide students with tools to critically analyze issues in education, to encourage students to use said tools to serve as advocates, and to develop thoughtful citizens aware of the role education plays in democracy.

McNeil shared quantitative exit survey data on the learning goals and aspirations from students in the minor, and qualitative statements from students in support of the major.

Maria McKenna shared that the major maintains the requirements of the minor, and adds additional course requirements. It adds a research methods course, one additional elective credit, and 14 hours of engagement in the community observing education in action via a community based learning course or a summer experience. Three tracks will be offered: learning sciences, comparative education and policy, and language literacy and culture.

A member asked about who would be responsible for advising students in this major. McNeil stated that it would be the IEI leadership team. They currently advise those students in the minor.

McNeil was asked if Mark Berends, the new IEI director, was aware of the proposal. McNeil shared that he has been involved in the preparation of this proposal, and provided assurance that he would be briefed again.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted using the raised hand in the participants panel in Zoom. All votes cast were in support of the proposal.

7. Proposed Designation for a New University Center

a. Technology Ethics Center Proposal

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

Desch introduced the proposal and made a motion to approve the proposal. A second was offered by Ram Ramanan.

Mark McKenna introduced Kirsten Martin, who will serve as Director next year. This is a university-wide initiative. The Center has 25 affiliated faculty from 5 colleges/schools, and visiting fellows from NDIAS. The first chair hired in Mendoza's ITAO department. The Center's mission includes: a vibrant research program; engagement, with a goal of being a worldwide convening space; and Curriculum Development, building on existing offerings, and eventually maturing into an undergraduate minor in the near future. McKenna shared that the Center's funding includes four endowed chairs, an interdisciplinary endowment supported by the Provost's Office, 6 AOV lines, and a \$20M 10 year grant from IBM which supports the director and staff.

A member asked about the potential minor. McKenna shared that this would be a mix of existing courses and the development of new courses and a capstone course. While still being discussed, he anticipated a 5-course sequence, including an introductory course, 3 electives, and a capstone.

A member asked about how Theology and Religion from an ethical perspective fits in. McKenna responded that this is a comparative advantage for ND. At Notre Dame, we can bring in theology and philosophy to the discussions. The Center's work already includes Gerald McKenny and Megan Sullivan who are on the advisory committee.

At the conclusion of the discussion, members voted using the raised hand in the participants panel in Zoom. All votes cast were in support of the proposal.

8. Informational items:

The following items were shared with the Academic Council for their information.

a. New Patient Advocacy Minor in the College of Science

Because this minor is fully within the College of Science, it does not require approval from the Academic Council. It was approved by the College of Science, and is shared with the Academic Council for information.

b. Academic Council Procedure Guide

The Executive Committee has been discussing the procedures of the Academic Council, the Executive Committee, and the three sub-committees. The attached document outlines the procedures currently in place. A working group will be established to develop a formal procedures guide, which will be brought to the Academic Council for debate and incorporation in 2021-22.

9. Adjournment

With no additional business, Fr. Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:30.