

Academic Council, University of Notre Dame

February 22, 2022, 3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Mediation Room, Jenkins-Nanovic Hall

Voting Members Present: Appleby, Scott; Bernhard, Bob; Brown, Seth; Buckles, Kasey; Carlson, Laura; Champion, Patricia; Clements, Aedin; Cole, Marcus; Coleman, Jon; Cory, Therese; Cullinan, Shannon; Cremers, Martijn; Culligan, Patricia; Dowd, Robert, C.S.C.; Garnett, Rick; Groody, Daniel, C.S.C.; Jenkins, John, C.S.C.; Jensen, Lionel; Kolda, Christopher; Liberatore, John; Mattison, William; Maziar, Christine; McGinn, Paul; Meserve, Margaret; Mustillo, Sarah; Niebur, Glen; Niemier, Michael; Olinger Gerry, C.S.C.; Page, Hugh; Pippenger, Michael; Ramanan, Ramachandran; Rich, Kelley; Ryan, Maura; Sisk, Matthew; Stinson, Sierra; Stober, Thomas; Urbany, Joe; Visconsi, Elliott; Walsh, Molly; Williams, Richard; Younes, Samir

Nonvoting Individuals Present: Cherian, Joseph; Collins, Kelley; Ganesan, Shankar; Hurley, Chuck; Rudenga, Kristi; Schoenig, Demetra; Willerton, Ryan

Voting Members Absent or Excused: Clark, Patricia; Clinton, Grace; Dames, K. Matthew; Devaraj, Tara; Fein, Jeremy; Forsgren, La Donna; Johnson, Daniel; Lucero, Cecilia; Morsby, Janeala; Njomo, Allan; Polyzoides, Stefanos; Schnell, Santiago; Sheridan, Susan; Springs, Jason; Wong, Stephanie

Minutes

Fr. Jenkins called the Academic Council meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and invited Aedin Clements to open the meeting with a prayer. He then invited a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. There being no discussion or corrections, the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion to approve the next item, a proposed modification to Rule 2 of the University's Academic Calendar. He invited Chris Kolda, chair of the Council's Undergraduate Studies Committee to share information about the proposal and answer questions. Chris advised that the Undergraduate Studies Committee had been asked to propose a solution to complexities in the Spring Semester Academic Calendar each year that were highlighted this year when the University made the decision to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a day without classes. The approach recommended by the Undergraduate Studies Committee is to adjust the [Perpetual Academic Calendar Rule 2](#) for **spring semester** (see red and green notations below):

1. "Should include at least 70 class days...exclusive of study (reading) days." (Academic Council minutes 2/16/1988; 2/16/1993)
2. First day (class day) of the semester will be a **Tuesday Monday**. "This **Tuesday Monday** is either the second or third **Tuesday Monday** in January. It ranges from January ~~11~~ 10 through January ~~17~~ 16 and always falls in the same week as January 15." (Academic Council minutes 2/16/1993) **When MLK Day is the first Monday of the semester, classes will begin on Tuesday**. The last class day is a Wednesday.

Chris Kolda also noted that there was one anomaly identified in this proposal: When the University starts on January 10 in a leap year, it looks like commencement will be the second week of May. During the rest of this century, that combination of starting on January 10 and it being a leap year will occur only three times: 2028, 2056 and 2084. That is slightly inconsistent with Perpetual Academic Calendar Rule 8: "...Commencement ceremonies on the third Sunday in May should remain in effect." (Academic Council minutes 2/16/1988; 2/16/1993)."

With the extraordinary rarity of this anomaly, the Undergraduate Studies committee did not recommend changing the text of spring Rule 8, but rather acknowledging in the Academic Council minutes that this anomaly will only occur a few times this century. Fr. Jenkins invited questions and comments from the Council, and a discussion ensued. Following the discussion, the motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion to approve a proposed Master of Science degree in Digital Marketing, and a motion was made. He asked Ram Ramanan, chair of the Advanced Studies Committee, to provide information about the proposal. Shankar Ganesan, chair of the Marketing Department in which the program would be based, was present to answer questions. Following a discussion about the proposal, the program was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins thanked the council members for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The Faculty Affairs committee met subsequently.