

**University of Notre Dame**  
**Academic Council**  
**April 20, 2022**  
**Mediation Room, Lower Level Jenkins-Nanovic Hall**

***Voting Members Present:***; Bernhard, Bob; Brown, Seth; Buckles, Kasey; Champion, Patricia; Clements, Aedin; Cole, Marcus; Coleman, Jon; Cullinan, Shannon; Dames, K. Matthew; Dowd, Robert, C.S.C.; Garnett, Rick; Jenkins, John, C.S.C.; Jensen, Lionel; Johnson, Daniel; Kolda, Christopher; Liberatore, John; Lucero, Cecilia; Maziar, Christine; McGinn, Paul; Meserve, Margaret; Morsby, Janeala; Mustillo, Sarah; Niebur, Glen; Niemier, Michael; Olinger Gerry, C.S.C.; Page, Hugh; Ryan, Maura; Schnell, Santiago; Sisk, Matthew; Springs, Jason; Urbany, Joe; Visconsi, Elliott; Walsh, Molly; Williams, Richard

***Nonvoting Individuals Present:*** Collins, Kelley; Garnavich, Peter; Hurley, Chuck; Rudenga, Kristi; Schoenig, Demetra; VonEschenbach, Warren; Willerton, Ryan

***Voting Members Absent or Excused:*** Appleby, Scott; Carlson, Laura; Clark, Patricia; Clinton, Grace; Cory, Therese; Cremers, Martijn; Culligan, Patricia; Devaraj, Tara; Fein, Jeremy; Forsgren, La Donna; Groody, Daniel, C.S.C.; Mattison, William; Njomo, Allan; Pippenger, Michael; Polyzoides, Stefanos; Ramanan, Ramachandran; Rich, Kelley; Sheridan; Susan; Stinson, Sierra; Stober, Thomas; Wong, Stephanie; Younes, Samir

***Minutes***

Fr. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and invite Fr. Gerry Olinger to offer the opening prayer. Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion to approve the minutes from February 22; there being no corrections voiced from the floor, the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion on the next item on the agenda, a proposed name change for the Department of Physics. Patty Champion, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), shared background information, noting that the FAC had voted unanimously to approve the proposal. The chair of the relevant department, Peter Garnavich, was present as a guest at the meeting. Peter provided background information about the proposal and invited questions. Following a very brief discussion, Fr. Jenkins facilitated a voice vote. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Fr. Jenkins then invited a motion on the next item on the agenda, a proposal for a new interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in technology ethics. Chris Kolda, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) provided background information, noting that the USC had voted unanimously to approve the proposed major at their most recent meeting. The principal faculty proposers, Kirsten Martin and Warren Von Eschenbach were present to provide the motivation for the program and answer questions. Following a brief discussion, Fr. Jenkins facilitated a voice vote. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Fr. Jenkins then invited FAC chair Patty Champion to speak to the next item on the agenda, a recommendation from the Committee regarding how to interpret the Academic Articles and proposed language to add to the Academic Articles about the Council's role in the temporary suspension of a degree program. A discussion ensued and in response to a question from the Council, it was clarified that the Dean's writing a letter to the Executive Committee regarding the proposed suspension of an academic program was understood to mean that the Executive Committee would decide whether to approve the suspension on receipt of the letter. Seth Brown asked whether, in the interest of communication to the university community, the Executive Committee could inform the full Academic Council of such

suspensions. Maura Ryan said that that seemed reasonable. Following the discussion, Fr. Jenkins facilitated the voice vote. With zero “no” votes, one abstention, and the remaining members present voting “yes,” the motion to approve the FAC’s interpretation of the Academic Articles and the addition of new language to the Academic Articles regarding the Council’s role in the temporary suspension of a degree program was approved on a voice vote.

Fr. Jenkins then asked Patty Champion to lead the discussion of the final item on the agenda, the proposed addition to the University’s Academic Articles of a new committee, the University Committee on Committees. Patty shared background information about the proposal and a substantive discussion ensued. Several proposed changes to the proposal were voiced, and members of the Council debated the relative merits of the mechanisms available to faculty through the proposed Committee vis a vis the broader goals of increasing and improving faculty governance at Notre Dame.

In response to the discussion, Kasey Buckles proposed an amendment to the language that had originally been proposed by the FAC. After further discussion, Fr. Jenkins’ facilitated a vote on Kasey’s amendment. With six “no” votes, zero abstentions, and the remaining members voting “yes,” the amendment was approved. Fr. Jenkins then brought the FAC proposal, with the amendment included, to the floor for a vote. With three “no” votes, three abstentions, and the remaining members voting “yes”, the Council approved the creation of a University Committee on Committees.

Fr. Jenkins thanked the Council members for their time and adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m. The Undergraduate Studies Committee met subsequently.