

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Meeting of February 20, 2012
McKenna Hall
3:30p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Panos Antsaklis, Robert Bernhard, M. Brian Blake, Thomas Burish, Greg Crawford, Darren Davis, Michael Desch, Rev. Tom Doyle, C.S.C., Morten Eskildsen, William Evans, Judy Fox, Mary Frandsen, John Gaski, Roger Huang, Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., Peter Kilpatrick, A. Graham Lappin, John LoSecco, Christine Maziar, John McGreevy, Dan Myers, Nell Newton, William Nichols, Ben Noe, Hugh Page, Catherine Pieronek, Donald Pope-Davis, Ava Preacher, Ramachandran Ramanan, Neal Ravindra, John Robinson, Brett Rocheleau, Jeffrey Schorey, Jon Schwarz, Cheri Smith, Greg Sterling, Diane Parr Walker

Observers present: Kevin Barry, Earl Carter, Chuck Hurley

Members and Observers excused: John Affleck-Graves, Don Bishop, Laura Carlson, Margaret Doody, Dennis Doordan, Nick Entrikin, Michael Lykoudis, Laura Ritter, Ann Tenbrunsel, Rev. John Coughlin, O.F.M., Julia Douthwaite.

Members absent: Nasir Ghiaseddin, Jeffrey Kantor, Jason Lovell, Alexander Martin, Thomas Pratt, Julianne Turner

Guests: Peter McQuillan

1. Welcome and opening prayer: Father Jenkins opened the meeting and invited Roger Huang to deliver the opening prayer.

2. Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the January 25, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. Proposed major in Irish Language and Literature—Dean Hugh Page

The proposal for a new major in Irish Language and Literature (IRLL) was forwarded to the Undergraduate Studies (US) committee of the Academic Council by the College of Arts and Letters after it had been vetted and approved there. The task of the US committee was to ‘review the proposal with thorough yet charitable eyes.’ In so doing, the committee provides a second reading with the opportunity to offer helpful suggestions.

The committee had several concerns: 1) the question of the appropriateness of having two tracks within the major, and whether there would be a sufficient number of courses offered; 2) whether sufficient library resources exist, on campus, within ND’s regular holdings, to support the new major; 3) what the enrollment trends are; 4) administrative costs; 5) resource allocations that

would enable the new major to be adequately funded; 6) likely job prospects for students who are part of the major; 7) the rationale for the major; 8) potential for engagement with other departments.

To address these issues, the committee invited the proposed department chairman, Prof. Peter McQuillan, to speak with members. The committee was satisfied with the information it received in this conference.

The US committee unanimously approved the proposal. It was then forwarded to the Executive committee, which approved it for discussion today. The proposal is thus brought forward for approval by the full Academic Council; the department chair, Peter McQuillan is available to answer questions.

Prof. Dan Myers reported that the Executive committee had two main questions: 1) Is there sufficient library support for a full major program? 2) In what ways is the Center for the Study of Language and Culture prepared to support the new program? In a letter to the committee, Hesburgh Librarian Diane Parr Walker provided information to support the statement that there are sufficient resources to support such a program.

Prof. Lance Askildson, director of CSLC, sent an email response today. Prof. Myers read the email message to members. Prof. Askildson offered his full support of the proposed program and reported that the CSLC already has a strong working relationship with the Irish Studies program and faculty. He noted that Irish Studies has been 'among the most active and engaged' of institutional departments. He gave the proposal 'his strong professional recommendation.' He noted that adding this program "will strengthen our institutional commitment to language study and internationalization of the curriculum while also codifying a distinctive legacy of Notre Dame's own international engagement."

Prof. Ansaklis asked for information about the extent of language programs offered by ND. Dean McGreevy reported that in Arts and Letters there are 13 languages taught, including French, German, Chinese, Latin, Irish, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, Greek, and Russian. The programs offer variations on the study of language and culture, the current term of art for this broad study. In response to a question, Prof. McQuillan stated that there are resources to support the tutoring of students. The IRLI regularly has a FLTA from the Fulbright program, a graduate student from Ireland with native speaker proficiency. In addition, as stated, the program already has a strong relationship with the CSLC.

Dean Peter Kilpatrick asked about the long term vitality of language and culture studies, given the fact that most of the programs do not graduate a large number of majors. Dean McGreevy commented on the paradox in higher education that the concept of internationalism is widely

discussed, while at the same time many institutions are eliminating language study programs. There is a puzzle to reflect on about the relationship—not a simple one—between languages and a more global environment. He noted that ND is in a favored position, because a Catholic university should have a sophisticated and significant commitment to languages since Catholicism is the world’s most multilingual institution. Nonetheless, the development of this area of the university’s offerings should also be efficient. He added that he does not foresee that the university will add another language program in the near future. In fact, Irish has been taught at ND for many years. This proposal in a sense remedies a ‘singular situation’ where a department existed without a major. McGreevy believed that ND is the only North American higher educational institution with a full-fledged Irish language program. The faculty is already in place, and the minor program has had respectable enrollments.

Prof. McQuillan reported that graduates who have minored in Irish at ND have found that prospective employers are ‘interested in knowing they’ve taken Irish.’ He said that as the university offers a first class liberal arts education, there is no reason why Irish language should not be a part of that education.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed major program in Irish Language and Literature. The proposal was unanimously approved. Father Jenkins added his approval. He thanked Dean Page and the US committee for their work, and thanked Prof. McQuillan for appearing before the Council.

4. Addition to the Severe Sanctions Policy-- Section III, 8 of the Academic Articles

Proposed addition:

(8) Extensions. Any deadline set forth in paragraph (3) or paragraph (4) of this subsection may be extended by mutual agreement of the University’s legal counsel and either the faculty member or the faculty member’s legal counsel.

Prof. John Robinson briefly reviewed the process by which the revision of the Severe Sanctions policy was approved at the January 25, 2012 AC meeting. At that discussion, a question arose concerning the fact that the early part of the severe sanctions process allows the two parties to the matter to alter deadlines at their shared preference. However, the latter part of the process does not build in any flexibility at all. There are reasons to offer as to why expeditiousness is a central element of the process but yet should not override everything else.

The committee drafted a sentence to establish that in the official hearing process and in the appeals process, if it should be the case that both sides agree that a reasonable delay was appropriate, that delay could be take place, without violating the provisions of this particular

section of the Academic Articles. At the same time, the language was carefully framed so that it did not also build in a general provision to the Articles allowing delays of other kinds. The proposed revision is ‘entirely tied to the Severe Sanctions policy,’ and it simply allows, ‘upon the agreement of both sides, for there to be an extension of time with respect to the hearing process itself and the appellate.’

There was a motion and a second that the proposed revision be approved by the AC. The revision was unanimously approved. Father Jenkins gave his approval to the revised severe sanctions policy. He thanked the subcommittee for its prompt response to this issue.

5. Discussion of Academic Council Committee Structure—Prof. Don Pope-Davis

As Prof. Pope-Davis was unable to attend today’s meeting, this discussion was tabled for another meeting.

As there was no new business, the meeting was adjourned.