

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate**  
**7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 3, 2013**  
**Room 140 DeBartolo**

**Attendees:** William Berry, Matthew Capdevielle, Jeremiah Castle, Anjan Chakravartty, Xavier Creary, Antonio Delgado, Dennis Doordan, John Duffy, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Alexandra Guisinger, Martin Haenggi, Michael Hemler, Nancy Joyce, Danielle Joyner, Michael Kirsch, Linda Major, Paul McGinn, Walter Nicgorski, Carolyn Nordstrom, Sylwia Ptasinska, Dianne Pinderhughes, Kali Rath, Denis Robichaud, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Michael Ryan, Salma Saddawi, Joshua Shrout, John Stamper, Marsha Stevenson, Joe Urbany, Sandra Vera-Munoz, Bruce Williams, Richard Williams

**Excused:** Gail Bederman, mark Caprio, Erika Doss, David Gasperetti, Liangyan Ge, Catherine Perry,

**Absent:** Christine Becker, Karen Buranskas, George Howard, Matthew Leevy, Eric Morgan, Hildegund Muller, Meng Wang

Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Introduction of Senators
3. Approval of Minutes of the Nov 5, 2013 meeting

Small changes made to minutes – approved.

4. Chair's remarks

a. Follow up on Sexual Assault – reworking of the language, there are still some lingering issues to be discussed.

b. Freshmen physical education for First Year students – Senate response submitted to Hugh Page. He replied that he is grateful for our input and will pass along the proposal once it is formulated.

c. Faculty Executive Committee met with Tom Burish -- Results of satisfaction survey were discussed. Dan Myers and Jim Morrison discussed some of the data and the formation of a “blue ribbon” committee that will include women, sociologists, etc. They will formulate a report to be shared likely in the spring. Notre Dame is part of the “Colonial Group,” they provide comparanda for the results.

Additional discussion considered the progress and retention of women, the place of minority groups, and ongoing efforts to better understand these issues, how various initiatives might help.

There was some discussion of the place of Arts and Letters at the University, is it changing? The answer was roughly no.

d. Tom Burish asked if the Faculty Senate might be interested in the question of how junior faculty are membered across departments/colleges.

5. Committee Meetings began at 7:25.

6. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs – Room 140 - Elliott Visconsi – MOOCs, online education

Some discussion of the requested survey of mentorship in the departments. Rather than having Senators describe what is happening in their departments, Senators will ask department chairs for a written description of mentoring practices.

In advance of next week's townhall meeting, Elliott Visconsi discussed their efforts in doing industry research at Universities involved in online learning, researching industries involved in the practice, and examination of what has been done so far at ND, perhaps pulling back from "Semester Online." He mentioned some recommendations that will be made, such as developing the open-source Ed-X product which might be helpful for faculty, and also the establishment of a "robust team" for helping faculty develop these products.

b. Administrative Affairs – Room 136 - Tricia Bellia – athletics coalition

Discussed the invitation of Intercollegiate Athletics, a group made of Faculty Senates at schools that play in bowl games. ND has been invited to join. There will be additional discussion in the committee and a report made in the future.

c. Benefits – Room 131

HR told people that contraceptives will be covered, that plan is on hold because the University has placed a lawsuit to ask the court to place an injunction on that. Unknown if the University will cover it. Unclear what will happen with the insurance plans.

Also some discussion about the increase in the number of staff and not of faculty, that perhaps skews some of the benefits numbers. Further study will ensue.

d. Student Affairs – Room 129 - John Lubker- grad life survey

Discussion of the results of the survey on graduate student life on issues like perceptions, satisfaction levels, etc. Fairly high levels of satisfaction recorded,

though not across the board. Some dissatisfaction about health care benefits, but satisfaction on academic experience and quality of life. Perhaps more will be done for married students, child-care initiatives, more communication for spouses. There is intent to focus more on community, communication, and attention on “vulnerable populations.”

Brief responses and discussion about challenges for married students.

7. New Business

8. Next Meeting, 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4, 2014; Rooms will be scheduled in January

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Danielle Joyner.