

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
University of Notre Dame
13 September 2016
213 DeBartolo Hall**

Attendees: Matthew Capdevielle, Annie G. Coleman, Chuck Dittbenner, Bridgette Drummond, Mary Frandsen, David Galvin, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Ben Heller, Mike Hemler, Daniel Hopkinson, Daniel Johnson, Randy Kozel, Howard Lanser, Byung-Joo Lee, Hai Lin, Chau-Shin Liu, Adam Martin, Paul McGinn, Natalie Porter, Sylwia Ptasińska, Benjamin Radcliff, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Anna Simon, Phillip Sloan, Meng Wang, Hannelore Weber, Xiaoshan Yang, Samir Younés, Guangjian Zhang

Excused:

1. Opening prayer: Jeanne Romero-Severson (JRS), Chair of the Senate
2. Introduction of all members
3. Minutes of meeting of 3 May 2016: approval was tabled due to the lack of a list of attendees.
4. Chair's Remarks
 - a. Retreat: JRS reported on the Senate retreat, held on the morning of 19 August 2016. All found it very useful; JRS presented an overview of the Senate (structure, suatory power, agenda authority, etc.), and provided updates on several issues from last spring. Senators then heard presentations on University budgeting processes from John Affleck-Graves, Executive Vice President, and Chris Maziar, Vice President and Senior Associate Provost for Budget and Planning; both also took questions from the floor.
 - b. Senate overview: nearly two years ago, the Provost's Office decided to look at issues of faculty governance; the provost also appointed a Provost's Fellow, Mary Ann McDowell, to foster relations and make the Senate a more effective body. JRS stressed the importance of the Senate's role in university governance, and opportunities for the Senate to provide input.
 - c. JRS also stressed that the administration takes a keen interest in the Senate. Following each Senate meeting last year, JRS met with Provost Burish for an informal discussion; this year the entire Executive Committee will be included in these discussions, which are designed to foster communication and apprise the provost of faculty views on particular issues.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. This year the Senate will experiment with a new format; in order that committees might have more time for deliberation, their meetings will be held during the hour before the full Senate convenes. Committee chairs will then make their reports during the meeting of the full Senate.
 - b. There were no reports given, as none of the committees had yet met.
 - c. Two committee chairs have been elected: Benefits: Nasir Ghiaseddin; Student Affairs: John Gaski. The Administrative Affairs and Academic Affairs committees still need chairs.
6. Old Business
 - a. Notre Dame International (NDI) Resolution: JRS provided some history of the resolution and its consideration by the Senate, and then opened the floor for discussion on how the Senate might proceed. Senators noted that NDI is a high-profile effort with great potential for research, development, and faculty and student engagement. JRS noted that NDI has the biggest impact on Arts and Letters, and some Senators from that college reported hearing concerns about a lack of

consultation with faculty. It was suggested that the resolution as originally framed by the Arts and Letters College Council be sent to Dr. Pippenger, with a request to address the Senate and share his vision for NDI as well as his views on how the concerns expressed therein might be addressed. It was also suggested to invite a representative from the Arts and Letters College Council to speak to the issue as well. The Senate will postpone any further action on the resolution until after these presentations.

7. New Business (addressed after Dean McGreevy's presentation)
 - a. Proposal to invite the Provost to the first 20 minutes of each meeting: the Senate will consider this proposal at the next meeting.
 - b. Bookstore representative: JRS will send out a request for this representative via e-mail.

8. Presentation and Discussion of the Core Curriculum Review with John McGreevy, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Co-Chair of the Core Curriculum Review Committee.

Dean McGreevy first provided a detailed overview of the history of the review process, the five central questions that framed the process, and the resulting proposed changes to the Core Curriculum, which reflect the "ways of knowing" approach taken by the committee. He indicated that the changes are also intended to address three basic student concerns: (1) flexibility in the curriculum; (2) intellectual challenge in introductory courses; (3) more intellectual integration in course offerings. He pointed out what was new in the proposal, including "integration courses" and "Catholicism and the disciplines" (CAD). He also laid out the next steps: the co-chairs of the committee will visit the various college councils for input; the proposal will then be considered by Academic Council later this fall. If passed, the provost will appoint an implementation committee, with a goal of beginning implementation in Fall 2018. Dean McGreevy then took questions from faculty:

Q: Did the committee ask whether students use AP credit to graduate early?

A: The number is growing, but is still under 1%.

Q: Could AP credit be used to waive major requirements?

A: The committee is open to the idea; departments could decide to do this.

Q: Is a course in logic not required?

A: Such is not required at present; however, logic is part of some philosophy and math courses.

Q: How might we ensure faculty support, and the participation of senior faculty? Departments cannot always afford to have senior faculty teach these courses.

A: This is a question of will; the old Core courses died due to lack of participation of T/R faculty. How can we avoid that same situation here? CAD and integration courses should help.

Q: Could you describe the formation and structure of the committees that will oversee these courses, and will decide which ones will count for particular core requirements?

A: A university committee will be elected from across the entire faculty, and sub-committees in the various areas will also be constituted; the latter will have three members, and will be asked to make unanimous decisions.

Q: How will a high AP score be used?

A: The student will move automatically to the next course in the sequence; for example, if a student tests out of Calculus I with AP credit, s/he will move automatically to Calculus II.

Q: May departments add credits to majors in order to accommodate the new requirement for three free electives?

A: The Core Committee would prefer that departments examine their majors to see if they are perhaps “overbuilt,” and find ways to reduce major requirements rather than add credits to the overall total.

Q: Can Notre Dame still attract students with a score of 5 in many AP courses? How do we explain this change to them?

A: About half of our peers do not count AP credit. The Director of Admissions does not think it will be an issue.

Q: Will this change in the use of AP credit impact the number of majors completed by students?

A: It may have an impact on second majors, but data suggest that this is not likely. Core requirements have been reduced for 70% of students. Currently 70% or more of students in Arts and Letters major in two areas, and this is not likely to change.

After Dean McGreevy departed, JRS encouraged senators to send feedback to the committee via e-mail: corerevw@nd.edu.

9. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, in 136 DeBartolo Hall.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Frandsen
Dept. of Music
Co-Secretary