

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING of November 11, 2009
McKenna Auditorium
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Panos Antsaklis, Kevin Barry, A.J. Bellia, Ryan Brellenthin, Thomas Burish, Rev. John Coughlin, O.F.M., Greg Crawford, Stephen Fallon, John Gaski, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Thomas Gresik, Paul Huber, Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., Lionel Jensen, Peter Kilpatrick, A. Graham Lappin, John LoSecco, Kelly Martin, Chris Maziar, Kathleen McDonald, John McGreevy, Scott Monroe, Nell Newton, Hugh Page, Cathy Pieronek, Donald Pope-Davis, Joseph Powers, Ava Preacher, Bill Rayball, J. Keith Rigby, Grant Schmidt, Cheri Smith, Ann Tenbrunsel, Julianne Turner, John Welle, Carolyn Woo, Jennifer Younger

Members and Observers excused: John Affleck-Graves, Robert Bernhard, Seth Brown, Laura Carlson, Neil Delaney, Mary Frandsen, Dennis Jacobs, Michael Lykoudis, William Nichols, Susan Ohmer, Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., Jim Seida, Greg Sterling

Members absent: Dennis Doordan, Glynnis Garry

Observers present: Dale Nees, Harold Pace, Brandon Roach

Observers absent: Daniel Saracino

Guests: Erin Ponisciak

1. Welcome and opening prayer: Father Jenkins opened the meeting, welcoming members, and invited Prof. A. Graham Lappin to give the opening prayer.

2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Academic Articles—Amendments: Chris Maziar

a. Inclusion of Post Doctoral Scholars

Prof. Maziar said that the proposed amendment is a minor change to the Articles. The proposed amendment is to subsection E, article 3, section 3 of the Academic articles, a subsection that defines the qualifications for conducting a course at Notre Dame. The current language requires an individual to be a member of the faculty or a graduate student to be duly appointed to conduct a course at Notre Dame. Left out is a group which has been conducting

courses already, that is, postdoctoral scholars. The proposed language would simply add postdoctoral students to the list of duly appointed individuals.

In discussion, members asked about various terms and titles which might be connected with or confused with the designation of postdoctoral scholars. Prof. Maziar clarified that postdoctoral scholars are not considered full time as they are presumed to be engaged in research as well as teaching. Prof. Maziar also noted this proposed amendment does not refer to the various different titles which might be held by a postdoctoral scholar. The Office of Vice President for Research is primarily responsible for the appointment of all postdoctoral scholars; Kevin Barry noted that the website wrongly identifies the appointing agency as the Graduate School.

Prof. Welle expressed his surprise at the need for this proposed change, as he is familiar with postdoctoral scholars who are currently teaching courses at Notre Dame; he noted, for instance, that the Sorin Postdoctoral fellowship has a teaching element built into it. Prof. Maziar agreed that, in fact, the University has been out of compliance with its own Articles for some time. This modest change is undertaken to correct that problem.

Prof. A. Graham Lappin concurred with other members in finding the proposal acceptable, noting only that because those departments that have maintained compliance with the rules did so by giving postdoctoral scholars an additional title to permit teaching activities, some postdoctoral scholars will experience a slightly diminished curriculum vita with the loss of this additional job title entry.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendment to the Academic Articles; it was approved unanimously.

4. Policy Change: Chris Maziar

a. Part-time Employment of Regular Faculty

Prof. Maziar said the proposed change of policy—this matter is not a concern of the Academic Articles—refers to a policy approved by the Academic Council, in which the first item states that an individual who holds a part-time appointment to the University may not be employed outside of the University. It has been recognized that there may occur a compelling University interest that would require the University to be able to appoint someone to part-time status and simultaneously permit that person to be employed outside of the University.

Prof. Maziar gave as examples a priest employed by the University who also holds a government position or is connected with an institution with which the University has a partnership. The language of the change indicates that the University interest must be

compelling. The decision to waive the prohibition against outside employment would be subject to the approval of the Provost upon recommendation of the faculty member's Dean. This procedure puts safeguards in place to insure an appropriate application of this waiver. In no way does this proposed change alter the way a faculty member would be approved as established through the various CAP mechanisms for either initial appointment or renewal, in the case of a SPF.

In response to a question, Prof. Maziar said this proposed change does not affect the ability of a faculty member to work at another university, which would continue to be subject to the University's policy on conflict of interest.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the policy change proposed. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Committee Updates on Goals:

- a. **Advanced Studies:** Prof. John LoSecco, chair, reported that the committee is currently working on the question of normalizing the position of the postdoctoral scholar at Notre Dame. He said the rights and responsibilities of postdoctoral scholars vary among the Colleges. Postdoctoral scholars are currently appointed by the Office of Research; one item is to consider changing that to the Graduate School, as the position is primarily an educational and learning position. The committee is currently collecting information on this topic. Liz Rulli, Office of Research, has been invited to attend today's committee meeting to provide information on current policy.
- b. **Undergraduate Studies:** Dean Page, chair, reported that the committee is working on four projects: the impact of advanced placement credit on undergraduate intellectual life; the ongoing work of University Core Curriculum Committees; the issue of dual degree pursuit by undergraduates—this topic involves consideration of regularizing the guidelines procedures or else the addition or the limitation of such pursuit; and the major project of vetting the changes of the working group to the Academic Code. The committee hopes to complete this last project by January, 2010.
- c. **Faculty Affairs:** Ann Tenbrunsel, chair, said two issues have been continued from last year's work. First is the consideration of the appeals process for research library and special professional faculty. The working group crafted a draft proposal last spring, following the appeals process of the teaching and research faculty. This proposal has been commented on by deans and directors and revised and resubmitted to the Faculty Affairs committee members. The revised proposal has recently been sent to deans and

directors and members of the Faculty Senate; a deadline of November 18 is set for comments. The next iteration of the proposal will then be submitted to the Committee again and when approved, come before the Council.

The second continued issue concerns the question of post-tenure review, which is now known as faculty flourishing. The committee is considering specific ways to best encourage faculty in reaching their objectives.

The working group is concerned with a new draft of the conflict of commitment policy, based on the old policy, as well as crafting new SPF classifications.

Father Jenkins thanked the chairs for their reports.

6. New Business:

There was no new business.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned; members convened in subcommittee meetings.