

ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING of JANUARY 20, 2009
McKenna Auditorium
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Members present: Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C., John Affleck-Graves, A.J. Bellia, Robert Bernhard, Seth Brown, Tom Burish, Laura Carlson, James Collins, Greg Crawford, Sarah deGroot, Neil Delaney, Umesh Garg, Nicole Garnett, Nasir Ghiaseddin, Tom Gresik, Paul Huber, Dennis Jacobs, Lionel Jensen, Michael Jenuwine, Peter Kilpatrick, Daniel Lapsley, Kristin Lewis, John LoSecco, Sean Lyttle, John McGreevy, Scott Monroe, William Nichols, Patricia O’Hara, Hugh Page, Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., Don Pope-Davis, Joseph Powers, Ava Preacher, Bob Reish, Jim Seida, Cheri Smith, Greg Sterling, Kasey Swanke, Ann Tenbrunsel, Julian Velasco, Joe Venturini, Jennifer Younger

Members absent: Michelle Byrne, Bill Westfall, Carolyn Woo

Members excused: Panos Antsaklis, Steve Fallon, Michael Lykoudis, Chris Maziar, Susan Ohmer, John Welle

Observers present: Kevin Barry, Kathryn Lam

Observers absent: Dale Nees, Harold Pace, Brandon Roach, Daniel Saracino

After calling the meeting to order, Fr. Jenkins asked Prof. Bill Nichols to say the opening prayer.

1. Graduate Program ESTEEM Proposal: Copies of the “Engineering, Science, Technology Entrepreneurship Excellence Master’s Program” (ESTEEM) proposal were distributed to all members in advance of the meeting. Prof. Carlson described ESTEEM as a joint venture between the Colleges of Science, Engineering and Business for a year-long master’s degree program. Prof. Crawford said the program is a master’s degree program in which students will utilize their strong quantitative background and training in science and engineering to actually solve business problems with an entrepreneurial focus. Profs. Crawford and Kilpatrick then explained the program’s unique features and fielded questions.

Prof. Kilpatrick moved that the Council approve the ESTEEM prospectus and Prof. Crawford seconded that motion.

Prof. Powers expressed concern that the level of the courses that students were expected to take was not “hard-wired” into the document, thereby creating the possibility of future pressures to downgrade the level of courses. He offered a friendly amendment whereby the proposal would specifically outline the course levels required in the program. Profs. Crawford and Kilpatrick agreed to the amendment.

Fr. Jenkins called for a vote on the ESTEEM proposal which passed unanimously. He congratulated Profs. Crawford, Kilpatrick, and Woo and their faculties and thanked them for their hard work. He added that there has been a lot of talk about interdisciplinary and innovation in higher education, but this was really an initiative that draws on Notre Dame's strengths.

2. Committee Reports:

a) Undergraduate Studies: Prof. Collins, chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, explained that they have been primarily concerned with advanced placement credit policies. The committee has considered either maintaining the current policy, which allows students to essentially "opt out" of certain credits, or moving toward a stricter definition of advanced placement, in which case a student could pass out of a course but would be required to take a higher level course within that same rubric.

b) Advanced Studies: Prof. Carlson, chair of the Advanced Studies Committee, described the contributions the committee has made to the discussion about interdisciplinary work and its importance. The committee has had discussions to understand what interdisciplinary work on campus might be, identify the barriers that are in place that might halt its progress, and consider recommending a definition of interdisciplinary work. With the help of Mrs. Mary Hendriksen and the Graduate School, they have surveyed a number of institutions which have interdisciplinary centers, most of which also have institutional level interdisciplinary statements. The committee thought it might be valuable to offer a recommendation for an institutional level statement that could include definitions and ways to facilitate interdisciplinary work.

c) Faculty Affairs: Prof. Garnett, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, explained that the committee's focus has been on post-tenure faculty development. She thanked Profs. Kilpatrick and Jensen for spearheading the review and added that they are in the process of developing a working document called "A Plan for Faculty Flourishing at Notre Dame," which will be discussed by the committee in the near future. The committee will also consider the proposed amendments to the "Procedure for Appointment, Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure" in the Academic Articles. An online comment period on the process is currently underway and will end on January 26, 2009. Incorporating the comments provided, a small working group will finalize a proposal that will go to the Faculty Affairs Committee and then come before the full Council.

3. Committee Meetings: The Undergraduate and Advanced Studies Committees met immediately following the meeting. The Faculty Affairs Committee planned to meet in two weeks.

Having no further business to discuss, Fr. Jenkins adjourned the meeting.