Minutes of the Faculty
College of Arts and Science

December 6, 2016

Dean Lauren Benton called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 100 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of October 25, 2016.

There were no comments or questions, and the Minutes were approved.

2. Introduction to the Vanderbilt Wond’ry.

Robert Grajewski, executive director of the Wond’ry, explained that the goal of the Wond’ry is to foster creative and innovative endeavors in all academic disciplines. By taking a broad view of “innovation,” the Wond’ry serves all faculty members and students on campus and is unique among American university innovation centers, which tend to focus on revenue-generating endeavors. He stated that the Wond’ry focuses on four programs—Innovation Garage, Entrepreneur Pre-Flight, Social Entrepreneurship and Ventures, and Innovation Culture Development. In Innovation Garage, interdisciplinary and diverse teams of Vanderbilt faculty and students partner with corporations or non-profit organizations in identifying and developing innovative solutions relevant to their business or organization. These partnerships are a great, hands on, experiential learning program for students, he said. In the Entrepreneur Pre-Flight program, participants learn in a ten-week workshop whether their innovative idea is novel and worth pursuing as a business venture. It is free and open to all Vanderbilt faculty members, staff members, and students. In this program, the Wond’ry partners with Vanderbilt’s Commercialization and Technology Transfer Center and the Nashville Entrepreneur Center. The Social Entrepreneurship and Ventures Program provides Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students with a collaborative environment to solve or mitigate social problems associated with Nashville’s rapid change. Partnering with the city of Nashville and local non-profit organizations, the Wond’ry is developing pilot projects focused on solving urban issues like affordable housing and transportation. In the Innovation Culture Development program, the Wond’ry enhances Vanderbilt and Nashville by regularly hosting courses and workshops, events, artist displays, and expert mentorship programs for persons from all disciplines and from all levels of experience. Participants and visitors are encouraged to build, innovate, and explore in activities ranging from origami to foam fabrication and 3D printing.

Mr. Grajewski encouraged faculty members to get involved with the Wond’ry’s programs and activities (https://www.vanderbilt.edu/thewondry/). The Wond’ry had its grand opening on November 9th and since then more than 6000 persons have visited. Its building has collaboration and teaching spaces and is located at 2414 Highland Avenue, across from the Student Life Center and the baseball field. In response to a question, he
stated that the Wond’ry offers opportunities for persons in the broader Nashville community by connecting them with resources at Vanderbilt and by hosting events specifically for them. The faculty thanked Mr. Grajewski for his presentation.

3. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meetings of November 1 and November 29, 2016.

Professor David Weintraub, chair of the Faculty Council, asked if there were any comments or questions about the Minutes of the two Council meetings or the Council-approved new and revised course descriptions; there were none.

4. Executive Motion Calendar: From the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP).

**Proposed Vanderbilt Business Minor.** Professor Weintraub explained that the proposed Business Minor is a trans-institutional undergraduate minor developed by the provost’s office that will replace the two existing A&S Managerial Studies minors. Students matriculating at Vanderbilt in fall 2016 and later will not be able to declare the Managerial Studies minors. The five core courses of the new Business Minor would be taught by faculty members in the Owen Graduate School of Management, and the Minor’s Business Pathways and Business-in-Society courses would be offered by the four Vanderbilt undergraduate colleges.

Several faculty members expressed concern about the proposed Business Minor, especially about some of the administrative details of the five mandatory core courses offered by Owen and about the extent to which the A&S faculty will have input into the courses that count toward the new minor. Professor Weintraub explained that Faculty Council members expressed similar concerns when they discussed the proposal, but, in the spirit of collegiality, approved the Business Minor on the understanding that the details will be worked out as the minor is implemented; Council members agreed that the basic framework of the minor looks good. He also noted that Council members expressed concern about some of the ambiguous language in the proposed Catalog copy of the Business Minor, which the provost’s office has subsequently agreed to revise. In response to the faculty’s concerns, Dean Benton emphasized that the A&S faculty has control over any credit-bearing course, activity, or program in A&S, and, consequently, the faculty will have the ability to review and reconsider the Business Minor at any time. She also explained that undergraduate students have strongly expressed interest in a business minor and are enthusiastic about having the core courses of the minor taught by Owen faculty members. The A&S faculty then approved the Vanderbilt Business Minor, with 44 faculty members voting in favor and 11 faculty members opposed.

5. Presentation of the Undergraduate Advising and Teaching Awards.

André Christie-Mizell, senior associate dean for undergraduate education, presented Gabriel Briggs, senior lecturer in English, with the Harriet S. Gilliam Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Senior Lecturer or Lecturer. He then presented Teresa Goddu (English) with the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate
Teaching in the Humanities; William Collins (economics) with the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Social Sciences; and Kenneth Catania (biological sciences) with the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Natural Sciences. Roger Moore, associate dean, presented Mark Woelfle, senior lecturer in biological sciences, with the Ernest A. Jones Faculty Adviser Award. The faculty applauded each of these recipients.

6. Presentation of the Graduate Teaching and Mentoring Awards.

Keivan Stassun, senior associate dean for graduate education and research, presented William Caferro (history) with the Excellence in Graduate Teaching award; Kristin Navarro (English) and Amy McKiernan (philosophy) with the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching award; Jennifer Bradham (Earth and environmental sciences) with the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant award; and Jane Landers (history) with the Excellence in Graduate Mentoring award. The faculty applauded each of these recipients.

7. Update on Immersion Vanderbilt.

Dean Christie-Mizell stated that he has distributed the Immersion Vanderbilt proposal to department chairs and program directors. He requested that comments regarding the proposal be sent back to him or Associate Dean Dan Morgan by December 9th, after which the proposal will be sent to the members of the Committee on Educational Programs (CEP) for discussion and approval.

8. Original Motion Calendar.

No issues were raised.

9. Good of the College.

No issues were raised.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Driskill
A&S Secretary of the Faculty