

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

ATTENDANCE

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Deans:* Maura Ryan, Mark Schurr, *Assistant Deans:* Collin Meissner, Ava Preacher, Nick Russo, Joseph Stanfiel, Vicki Toumayan

Chairpersons and Directors: William Evans, Steve Fallon, Richard Gray, Elizabeth Mazurek, Peter McQuillan, Thomas Merluzzi, Hugh Page, Robert Schmuhl, Peter Smith, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: David Betson, Alessia Blad, Catherine Bolten, Noreen Deane-Moran, Sabrina Ferri, Robert Goulding, Christopher Hamlin, Louis MacKenzie, Tara MacLeod, Laura Miller, Vittorio Montemaggi, Darcia Narvaez, Tzvi Novick, Abby Palko, Alison Rice, Jason Ruiz, Thomas Stapleford, James Sullivan, Julianne Turner, Hannelore Weber, Shauna Williams

Graduate Student Representative: Kristin Drahos

Undergraduate Student Representative: Erin Portman

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Maria Di Pasquale (Dean's Office), Kate Garry (Dean's Office), Essaka Joshua (College Seminar Program), Kathleen Opel (Office of International Studies), Matthew Zyniewicz (Dean's Office)

Excused: Matthew Ashley, Cindy Bergeman, Martin Bloomer, William Carbonaro, Meredith Chesson, Richard Cross, JoAnn DellaNeve, David Gasperetti, Dan Graff, Patrick Griffin, Peter Holland, Encarnación Juárez-Almendros, Dan Lapsley, Rory McVeigh, Marisel Moreno-Anderson, Brian O'Conchubhair, Catherine Perry, Sebastian Rosato, Henry Weinfield, Michelle Wirth

Dean John McGreevy convened the meeting at 3:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 11, 2014 College Council meeting were approved.

COLLEGE BUSINESS

Proposal to raise the minimum credit hour requirement for the B.A. in the College of Arts and Letters

J. McGreevy asked Assistant Dean Joseph Stanfiel to introduce the proposal to raise the minimum credit hour requirement for the B.A. in the College of Arts and Letters.

Beginning AY 2015-16, all Notre Dame first-year students will be required to take a two-semester *First Year Experience Course*, worth a total of 2 credit hours, which replaces the Physical Education requirement that carried 0 credit hours.

Recognizing that all students will now enter their respective colleges with these 2 credit hours, the Academic Council has given each College the right to decide for itself whether or not to raise their minimum number of credits required for the degree. To maintain the status quo, the College of Arts and Letters will need to raise its minimum requirement from 120 credit hours to 122 credit hours for the B.A. degree.

The other colleges and schools have indicated that they will add 2 credit hours to their respective minimum requirements.

Steve Fallon (Chairperson, Department of English) opined that the five-course load that students carry is not ideal for student work. He wondered if students could have a four-course load instead. J. Stanfiel noted that the only difference would be that students would come into the College with 32 credits rather than 30 credits after their first year. The course would only add one credit in each of the semesters of the first year. He did not see this course having a real impact on the students' work loads.

Elizabeth Mazurek (Chairperson, Department of Classics) asked if the amount of time that students will study for the two additional credits is equal or less than the amount of time they use for the current physical education course. Are we adding hours of work to what students are doing now? J. McGreevy confirmed that the workload would be about the same.

J. McGreevy is sympathetic to the idea of moving from 5 courses to 4 courses per semester. But such a move would require a broader conversation. Further, he thinks the College has too many one-credit courses; students are better served in three-credit courses.

Darcia Narvaez (Department of Psychology) wondered how many students graduate in the College with only 120 credits. J. Stanfiel stated that typically a little less than a third of the graduates have 126 credits or less.

J. McGreevy called for a vote. All the Council members voted in favor of the proposal, except two members abstained from voting.

Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT) Minor Program

J. McGreevy invited Associate Dean Mark Schurr to introduce the proposal for a Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT) Minor Program. M. Schurr noted that the College suspended the CAPP program last year because of concerns about how the program was organized. Recently, some external advisors of alumni in the computing world broadly construed reviewed the program, and they gave the College some advice about how to revise the program. They suggested that the College suspend the major, and readjust the credits in the minor. The College has made those adjustments, especially with regard to the

computing aspects of the minor which became out dated. The advisors advised that there should be heavier work in the computing aspects of the minor with computing experts teaching those courses. The College will partner with computing science to offer the computer programming courses. The College also reorganized the electives in tracks that students could use to support their major interests. For example, a student in design might pursue the design track in the new CDT minor.

M. Schurr noted that the College's executive committee considered the proposal, and suggested that because the proposal simply rearranges the minor credits, no formal approval by the College Council would be necessary. After considering the proposal, the Registrar's Office indicated that there are codes for the various majors and minors across the University, and the original minor had been coded under a "CAPP" code. The College wanted the new minor to be coded with a new CDT code in order to get appropriate reports on the program. The Registrar would like a vote from the College Council on the new minor before changing the code to "CDT" indicating that the realigning of the minor and the name change to CDT were appropriate.

M. Schurr asks the College Council to approve the new credit alignment of the new minor and to approve the change of name from CAPP to CDT.

J. McGreevy enthusiastically supported the change. He observed that computer science is gaining more and more student interest across the country. In fact, computer science is the number one major at Stanford University and is the second biggest major at Harvard University and is the third biggest major at Yale University. A number of these institutions are trying to find links between computer science and the humanities. Reconfiguring CAPP is the College's first gesture toward finding such links. The CAPP program had its advantages. In the 1980s when it was founded it had 300-400 students in it. Then it dwindled to 25 students over the years, in large part because the faculty who were teaching computer science for the program were not in the Department of Computer Science. Often the courses were taught by adjuncts who often were not up to date in the research. The CDT minor would be the first ever collaboration between the College of Engineering and the College of Arts and Letters on such a program. In the long term it would be nice to have a B.A. in Computer Science.

E. Mazurek asked if any humanities faculty member could propose a course for the proposed minor. M. Schurr confirmed that faculty may propose courses. As the field develops, the program will welcome such partnerships with faculty. Further, there are social science and fine arts components to the minor as well.

J. Stanfiel asked who will administer the program. M. Schurr stated that Chuck Crowell has agreed to be the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the program and Claire Shelley will be the half-time administrative assistant. Ideally the minor will begin small, with about 25 students, and then grow it to a point where it would be competitive to join. J. McGreevy observed that the number of students in the minor is limited to the number of seats allowed in the computer science courses.

Associate Dean Maura Ryan spoke in favor of the minor and the broader process that allowed the College to review the minor and to ask if it continues to serve the students. J. McGreevy recalled that the process called in five alumni who had started their own software companies and the alumni really thought the new minor would serve the students extremely well.

Thomas Stapleford (Program of Liberal Studies) asked if a majority of the courses in the tracks are courses from the College of Arts and Letters and whether or not the faculty from Computer Science

resisted having so many non-computer science courses in the minor. M. Schurr indicated that the Computer Science faculty wanted two types of introduction to computer science courses, one for College of Arts and Letters students pursuing the minor and one for Computer Science students. The Computer Science faculty were concerned that the College of Arts and Letters students might not be ready for the math demands of the course, especially given that the College of Arts and Letters students do not have the heavy math requirements that the College of Engineering has. The College of Engineering will dedicate 2 introductory courses in computer science per semester for College of Arts and Letters students.

J. McGreevy called for a vote to approve the proposal for a Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT) Minor and to rename the minor as Computing and Digital Technologies (CDT). The Council unanimously approved the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

J. McGreevy adjourned the plenary meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz
Dean's Executive Administrator