

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

**ATTENDANCE**

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Deans:* James Brockmole, Mark Schurr; *Assistant Deans:* Ava Preacher, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel, Vicki Toumayan

Chairpersons and Directors: Thomas Anderson, Matthew Ashley, Maureen Boulton, Jim Collins, Richard Cross, Agustín Fuentes, Richard Gray, Patrick Griffin, Rory McVeigh, Peter McQuillan, Thomas Merluzzi, Hugh Page, Valerie Sayers, Robert Schmuhl, Peter Smith

Elected Faculty: David Betson, Alessia Blad, Tobias Boes, Noreen Deane-Moran, Larissa Fast, Sabrina Ferri, Claire Jones, Vittorio Montemaggi, David Nickerson, Alison Rice, Sebastiano Rosato, Jason Ruiz, Julianne Turner, Hannelore Weber, Shauna Williams

Graduate Student Representatives: Hilary Davidson

Undergraduate Student Representatives: Nikita Taniparti

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Marie Blakey (Office of the Provost), Martin Bloomer (Ph.D. in Literature Program), Maria Di Pasquale (Office of the Dean), John Duffy (University Writing Program), Jane Murphy (Office of the Dean), Matt Zyniewicz (Office of the Dean)

Excused: Cindy Bergeman, Michael Brownstein, Meredith Chesson, Denise Della Rossa, Richard Donnelly, Kathleen Eberhard, David Gasperetti, Peter Holland, Lionel Jensen, Essaka Joshua, Cynthia Mahmood, Collin Meissner, Brian O'Conchubhair, Abigail Palko, Robin Rhodes, Maura Ryan, John Joseph Shanley, Elliot Visconsi, Henry Weinfield, Michelle Wirth

Guests: Laura Carlson, *Vice President and Associate Provost, Dean of the Graduate School;* Anjan Chakravartty, *Professor of Philosophy*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

## **COLLEGE BUSINESS**

### **History and Philosophy of Science [HPS] Graduate Minor**

John McGreevy introduced Anjan Chakravartty, who is the interim director of the HPS graduate program and Professor of Philosophy. A. Chakravartty provided a summary of the proposed minor, noting some salient aspects. The HPS graduate program is housed in the Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values. It typically has about 12 core faculty members from various departments who are actively involved in teaching for the program and administering it. There are about 24 faculty who teach for the program on occasion. The students are made up of a Ph.D. cohort of about 20 or so. The subject matter for the program is highly interdisciplinary, focusing on humanist approaches to thinking about the sciences and technology. Students and faculty members come from a variety of backgrounds, from the sciences and/or the humanities. The purpose of the program is to help explore issues at the interface of humanist approaches with reflection about the sciences and their place in our society. Student demand—from both current and prospective students—is the main motivation for the graduate minor proposal. Currently there are two options for graduate students who are not pursuing the HPS doctoral program but are interested in taking courses in the program: (1) individual courses that students can take in an ad hoc manner; or (2) concurrent master's program which requires 36 credit hours. There are many students outside the program who would like to participate in the program but are unable to commit to a 36-credit-hour program. The graduate minor program would be more than the occasional course, and less than a full master's program. The minor would provide a clear structure for such interested students and would provide students with some recognition for the kind of sustained participation in the program.

In terms of benefits of the program beyond satisfying student demand for such a program, the program is meant to equip students with methods and tools for reflecting on the sciences and technology and the ways in which those reflections might be played out in historical contexts and in contemporary society. Some students in science and engineering have been especially interested in the program. Further, the NSF is increasingly stressing applicants' abilities to explain how it is that their work will have greater impact in terms of societal benefit. The program also assists students in thinking about ethical and policy issues in terms of science and technology.

The program itself requires 11 credit hours comprised of three courses to be completed at any time during the student's Ph.D. One of three courses is a core course, and must be HPS 93801 (Philosophy of Science) or HPS 93812 (History of the Philosophy of Science from the Scientific Revolution) or HPS 83602 (History of Science, Technology, and Medicine since 1750). The remaining courses may be selected from any of the offered HPS courses. There are two semesters of HPS colloquium (1 credit per semester), consisting of a reading group and a speaker series.

J. McGreevy asked for questions and comments.

Matthew Ashley (Chairperson, Department of Theology), Agustín Fuentes (Chairperson, Department of Anthropology), Patrick Griffin (Chairperson, Department of History) and Valerie

Sayers (Chairperson, Department of English) expressed their strong support for the proposed graduate minor.

J. McGreevy called for a vote for those in favor of approving the graduate minor in History and Philosophy of Science: 38 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

J. McGreevy thanked A. Chakravartty for his presentation.

## **Graduate School**

J. McGreevy next introduced Laura Carlson, Vice President and Associate Provost, Dean of the Graduate School, who spoke about her own professional background, the current state of the Graduate School, highlights from Graduate School Services, graduate student achievements from the College of Arts and Letters, new relationships with the various colleges across campus, and her current projects and challenges as Dean of the Graduate School.

She concluded her presentation by summarizing her five-year strategic plan for the Graduate School. She mentioned that her strategic plan continues to develop. For now she has four goals: (1) Advance excellence in post-graduate training; (2) deepen and enrich post-graduate experience; (3) expand graduate offerings; (4) deepen internal and external partnerships to promote graduate programs.

J. McGreevy asked for comments or questions.

Associate Dean Jim Brockmole observed that the increase in the subsidy for health care would mean a decrease in funding from other areas, such as graduate student stipends. Although incoming students have noted that the quality of available health insurance would not dissuade them from attending Notre Dame, the size of the graduate student stipend does matter to them a great deal. It might not be the greatest service in the long run to take increments of funding away from graduate student stipends in order to reduce the costs of student health insurance. Further, if the University asked the students to decide whether certain funds should be applied toward the costs of their health insurance or toward their graduate stipends, the University could be placing graduate students in positions where they would need to choose between their health and the scholarly needs, such as going to a conference.

L. Carlson stated that the University is at a point where either funds are used to reduce students costs for health insurance but graduate stipends are reduced, or graduate stipends are left alone while graduate student health insurance remains a financial burden for the students. And the incentive issue is a delicate one. If we simply offer graduate student health insurance without an understanding of who actually needs the health insurance, then graduate students who do not necessarily need health insurance may simply agree to the health insurance because it was offered. The University would then pay for health insurance when some graduate students do not necessarily need the insurance.

V. Sayers thanked L. Carlson for her innovations in the Graduate School and for her help with the Moreau Fellows program. V. Sayers commented that MFA students at Notre Dame receive the lowest stipends among terminal graduate degree students on campus. Further, the MFA

students will recognize that other terminal graduate degree students are eligible for graduate student health insurance while they are not eligible. It is and will be demoralizing for the MFA students. V. Sayers stated that she understood the fiscal realities that the Graduate School faces, but encouraged the School to recognize at least the harsh stipend and insurance realities that the MFA students face. L. Carlson noted that she will take V. Sayers suggestion back to the committee members who are considering health care insurance for students and would ask that cost projections also consider costs related to health insurance for MFA students.

P. Griffin wondered if health insurance for graduate students is as high a priority for the University as it ought to be. In view of the financial position of the University, it would seem that the costs for graduate student health insurance would be attainable. He also asked if the costs of graduate student health care are in the strategic plan. If such costs are not a part of the current strategic plan, he asked if the Graduate School is advocating on behalf of the graduate students so that such costs are considered without having to reduce the amount of graduate stipends. L. Carlson asserted that she has a commitment to cover as much health insurance as possible. Graduate Student health insurance was the number one item in the Graduate School's request to the budget working group. J. McGreevy observed that the University has increasingly funded graduate student health care insurance pretty steadily over the years, while such costs have also steadily increased. It is difficult to know where new money will come from to help better subsidize the costs of graduate student health care insurance. Tuition revenue used to be the pool from which the University drew for graduate student stipend and health insurance funding. Tuition revenue will not increase over the rate of the inflation any time soon. Either we need to cut from somewhere else or we need to raise funds for stipends and insurance purposes. L. Carlson explained that the Graduate School committee that is studying these matters was charged with developing recommendations that the entire University would agree with. Science and Engineering would have to agree to cover 100% health care costs if that is what is decided; that would have implications for their grant proposals. Another possibility that the committee is considering is to develop a fixed cost for graduate students to pay for health insurance over four years. Graduate students can then anticipate the cost rather than have the cost rise each year.

Robert Schmuhl (Chairperson, Department of American Studies) recalled from L. Carlson's presentation that there were over 300 applications for Moreau Academic Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowships this year, and he asked how many fellowships were awarded. L. Carlson noted that one fellowship was offered but it was declined. There was another case that was considered for a Moreau postdoc but the department could not clearly state that there would be a faculty line available for the postdoc at the end of the Moreau Fellowship. R. Schmuhl asked if the policy that a department must have a line available for the Moreau Fellow at the end of the fellowship advantages larger departments at the expense of smaller departments who would not have lines readily available. R. Schmuhl concluded that departments should not engage the Moreau program unless they have a line available. M. Schurr agreed. J. McGreevy added, however, that the College needs to think about a better system so that smaller departments can more readily engage the Moreau program without having to wait for an open line. The Moreau program overall however has been successful, with 3 of the Moreau Fellows placed on

the tenure track. There have been other similar programs that have not placed anyone on the tenure track. The Moreau program is helping Notre Dame diversify the faculty. R. Schmuhl opined that there is an equity issue in terms of large departments and smaller departments. J. McGreevy agreed.

Peter Smith (Chairperson, Department of Music) returned to the graduate health care issue addressed earlier. P. Smith observed that when John Affleck-Graves visited with faculty, he showed how health care costs have increased. The Graduate School is wrestling with the costs of health care for graduate students in a context where nationally the costs of health care have greatly increased. We do not know if the Affordable Care Act will adequately address the matter. Is Notre Dame strategizing about how it can team up with similar institutions to advocate at the political and research arenas to address rising health care costs? L. Carlson did not have an answer but will ask J. Affleck-Graves in her next meeting with him.

J. McGreevy thanked L. Carlson for attending the meeting and for her work in the Graduate School on behalf of the College.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

J. McGreevy adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz  
Dean's Executive