

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
September 26, 2011  
3:30 pm  
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

**ATTENDANCE**

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Deans:* JoAnn DellaNeva, Maura Ryan, Mark Schurr, *Assistant Deans:* Paulette Curtis, Ava Preacher, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel, Vicki Toumayan

Chairpersons and Directors: Susan Blum, Theodore Cachey, Jim Collins, Olivia Remie Constable, Richard Cross, Patrick Griffin, Richard Jensen, Louis MacKenzie, Elizabeth Mazurek, Peter McQuillan, Rory McVeigh, Robert Norton, Richard Pierce, Gretchen Reydams-Schils, Valerie Sayers, Dayle Seidenspinner-Núñez

Elected Faculty: Michael Brownstein, Laura Carlson, Noreen Deane-Moran, Joshua Diehl, Richard Donnelly, Robert Dowd, Margot Fassler, Robert Fishman, Mary Frandsen, Karrie Fuller, Lionel Jensen, Joseph Kaboski, William Krier, Nelson Mark, David Nickerson, Robin Rhodes, Deborah Rotman, Siiri Scott, Marcus Stephens, James Sullivan, Kristin Valentino, Elliott Visconsi, Shauna Williams

Graduate Student Representative: Katie Bugyis

Undergraduate Student Representative: Mariel Lee, John McKissick

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Marie Blakey (Office of the Dean), Patrick Claus (University Writing Program), Essaka Joshua (College Seminar Program), Matt Zyniewicz (Office of the Dean)

Excused: Charles Barber, Matthew Capdevielle, Peter Holland, Thomas Merluzzi, Jessica Payne, John Welle

Dean John McGreevy called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dean McGreevy welcomed everyone to the September 26, 2011 College Council meeting, and asked members to introduced themselves.

The minutes from the April 26, 2011 College Council meeting were approved without corrections.

**COLLEGE BUSINESS**

**Enrollment issue-report back to College on initiatives**

Dean McGreevy rehearsed the ongoing enrollment issue: Fewer sophomores are choosing the College of Arts and Letters as their intellectual home, down to roughly 27% in the Spring 2011; whereas the number of majors in the College has remained relatively steady. The enrollment issue is a university-wide concern, and the College has developed a number of initiatives to address it.

## **Proposal for a Business Economics minor**

Dean McGreevy asked Associate Dean JoAnn DellaNeva to introduce the proposal for a Business Economics minor in Arts and Letters. J. DellaNeva explained that the proposed minor is the result of many conversations across campus during the summer months (2011). Many different types of minors were discussed, as was a certificate (instead of a minor), and the result was a minor that consists of five courses: principles of macroeconomics, principles of microeconomics, statistics, accounting (Mendoza College of Business), and finance (Mendoza College of Business). The purpose of the minor is to equip students so that they may be more competitive in the initial stages of a job search, should they desire to seek a business position after graduation. Students in the College of Arts and Letters certainly have skills that they can use in the business environment, but one issue is convincing employers that they should in fact interview College of Arts and Letters students. Another issue is equipping students such that they can demonstrate that they have business literacy that will enable them to success in the business world.

Robert Norton (Chairperson, Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) understood that the enrollment issue is a complex one and does not oppose the proposed minor. Is it the case that College of Arts and Letters students are not getting interviews to the degree that students from other Colleges are getting interviews? J. DellaNeva explained that we have an undergraduate business college in competition with the College of Arts and Letters. Lee Svete (Director of The Career Center) had explained to J. DellaNeva that some businesses will set aside, for instance, 20 interview slots for business school students and five slots for College of Arts and Letters students. J. McGreevy had spoken in detail with L. Svete, who reported that employers are dramatically increasing the number of their interviews of College of Arts and Letters students, and the students have great success in finding full-time employment. There is a group of employers, however, that limit the number of interviews of College of Arts and Letters students, as J. DellaNeva had explained. J. McGreevy's real target audience with the minor is the parents and students themselves who are nervous that the respective students might not find full-time employment after graduation. Hopefully the minor will help convince students who want to pursue a first major in the College of Arts and Letters that they can do so and have a business minor to help them show evidence of business literacy when seeking employment.

Rory McVeigh (Chairperson, Department of Sociology) asked if there is a danger that the College is feeding into some sort of stereotype, encouraging students who might not have considered taking business courses to do so? Does the creation of the minor actually confirm their fears, rather than encourage them to take courses and pursue majors that appeal to them? J. McGreevy explained that the strategy is to persuade students who go into Mendoza College of Business (MCOB) to come into the College of Arts and Letters. If we do that, more students will take courses in the College of Arts and Letters. The Business Economics minor is five courses, three of which are in the College of Arts and Letters, and two courses are in MCOB. There is admittedly a complicated message with the proposed minor. In the past some faculty members wanted to make clear that a College of Arts and Letters major can succeed in the business world without having taken a business major, and a business minor might complicate that message. This is a reasonable argument. But the pressures on students and parents today are so intense, based on focus groups and surveys, that we need to have a credential available to the College of Arts and Letters students that plays off of the facts: (1) that we have a number one ranked undergraduate business school, no matter how we view that ranking, and (2) that Economics is the College's fastest growing major (3) that some students are looking for more statistical background. The minor is an intellectually rigorous one that will attract some of the more pragmatic and utilitarian students in terms of their approach to education. J. McGreevy remained convinced that the College needs to implement the minor at this point even though it does present a complicated message.

Susan Blum (Chairperson, Department of Anthropology) had two questions. One question was about the structural issue that a student can major in MCOB and pursue a second major in the College of Arts and Letters, whereas, a College of Arts and Letters major is not able to pursue a second major in MCOB. J. McGreevy explained that we do need to address that issue, but we are not addressing it right now in part because that might accentuate the overcrowding problem in MCOB. J. DellaNeva acknowledged that the College has the power to create a minor and pursue other initiatives, but the College does not have the power to change MCOB policies and requirements. Further, J. McGreevy would prefer that the students pursue a modest five-course Business Economics minor (rather than a sixteen-course major in MCOB) and take the remaining credits in the College of Arts and Letters. The second question: Could the minor make the problem even worse such that no MCOB students switch to the College of Arts and Letters, or perhaps the minor would persuade students to pursue an Arts and Letters major together with the minor, rather than pursue two majors in the College? J. McGreevy said that in fact the minor could make matters worse, but the minor is an experiment. Some focus group data suggest that the minor will help alleviate the problem.

Margot Fassler (Departments of Music and Theology) noted that the minor could serve as a model for other disciplines besides Economics. J. McGreevy agreed; he recently spoke with Jim Collins (Chairperson, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre) who observed that a majority of the FTT majors are business students who want to combine their passion for FTT with business knowledge and skills to help enter the film industry upon graduation. The College of Arts and Letters would like to attract those students to the College as FTT first majors and take their electives in the College.

Mariel Lee (Undergraduate Student Representative) shared that she was elated when she read the proposal about the Business Economics minor, as were some of her friends when they heard about it. At one point M. Lee was wavering between the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Science, and chose foreign language (Chinese and Arabic) because that is where her true interests remain. The Business Economics minor would have helped her with the application of her interest in the business world. Without the minor in place, she had to pursue an internship in order to get some business background as she prepares for her job search.

Mary Frandsen (Department of Music) picked up on M. Fassler's observation. Perhaps music students could also pursue a Business Music minor, which would mean even more students taking business courses in a new minor. If there is a proliferation of such minors, what guarantees are in place that ensure that there are enough seats for College of Arts and Letters students in MCOB courses? J. McGreevy guaranteed that every student who pursues the minor next year will get into the relevant courses.

Elliott Visconsi (Department of English) thought the minor was a terrific solution for a pragmatic issue. But if we see a proliferation of "business-and-..." minors, would we communicate a notion of instrumentality in the College? The Business Economics minor makes sense because of the close affiliation of the disciplines, but it might be too instrumental to think that we could have many different "business-and-..." minors. J. McGreevy shared the concern, and suggested that the College focus on this minor alone for the next couple of years to see if it provides some relief to the enrollment issue.

Robert Fishman (Department of Sociology) mentioned that some departments would have a natural fit for a business-related minor, for example, sociology, political science and psychology, given the substance of the disciplines. Further, in terms of hiring faculty to help cover the courses that would be needed for the minor, R. Audi hoped that the College does not sacrifice faculty quality to build on an already fine reputation. J. McGreevy agreed; he would like to begin the proposed five-course minor, and then perhaps the College could consider providing options within the minor, such as a sociology course on organizations.

Richard Jensen (Chairperson, Department of Economics) explained his thinking concerning the content of the minor. It will be a very rigorous minor, and he thinks that it will appeal to parents. J. DellaNeva noted that other disciplines will be able to utilize this minor, but the DUSs will need to be attentive to the possibilities of how the minor can complement the major and help students think through the related issues such as selecting electives.

Associate Dean Mark Schurr was in favor of the minor as a past Chairperson of Anthropology. The number of Anthropology minors dropped in 2008, most likely because of the economy. The minor will help Anthropology keep majors, and will help students better think through their careers options if they do not wish to pursue an academic career. J. McGreevy understood that some parents and students realize that students will get good positions without having taken a single business course throughout their undergraduate education, which, in fact, is the norm at most of the College's peer universities (e.g., Harvard, Stanford, Columbia) who do not have an undergraduate business school. But many parents and students do not realize that students may secure a good job without at least some business courses, and have a fear about how an Arts and Letters degree will be viewed on the job market.

James Sullivan (Department of Economics) asked if the students who pursue the Business Economics minor will have easier access to MCOB courses than other College of Arts and Letters students? Would those who pursue the minor also have easier access to other courses in MCOB beyond the minor? J. McGreevy confirmed that the College only has a guarantee from MCOB concerning the courses in accounting and finance that are required for the minor. Courses beyond those two required MCOB courses would be up to the individual MCOB instructors in terms of the access of the College of Arts and Letters students. MCOB used to reserve a few seats for College of Arts and Letters students, but MCOB is so overstretched in terms of seating capacity that they are not able to reserves seats for Arts and Letters students.

R. McVeigh wondered where alternative courses would fit into the minor if they were added later? Would such courses substitute for the business courses, for example? J. McGreevy's instinct was that the minor would keep the accounting and finance courses so that the business minor remains credible to parents. We could possibly be more flexible with the other three courses.

Theodore Cachey (Chairperson, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) had concerns about unintended negative consequences especially on the languages. What will be the methods used to know if the minor is accomplishing what it is intended to accomplish? What analysis will be used after the first year, for example? What is the review process? J. McGreevy mentioned that the College typically reviews a minor after its first three years to see if the minor has sufficient students and if it is accomplishing its intended purposes. As a friendly amendment, J. DellaNeva will report back to the College Council after one year of the proposal's implementation.

Assistant Dean Vicki Toumayan wondered if the Council could think about additional alternative courses, especially for students who enter Notre Dame with AP credit for macro- and microeconomics. Typically students would have to take other courses, perhaps upper-level economics courses. J. McGreevy thought such students would take upper-level courses. R. Jensen thought that cases where the students have AP credit in macroeconomics and/or microeconomics, the students could pursue the intermediate macroeconomics and/or intermediate microeconomics.

Dean McGreevy asked for a vote in favor to adopt the Business Economics minor to take effect during the new academic year (2012-2013): 49 votes in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

## **Irish Language and Literature proposed major**

J. McGreevy asked J. DellaNeva to introduce the proposal for a new Irish Language and Literature major. J. DellaNeva asked Peter McQuillan (Chairperson, Department of Irish Language and Literature) to summarize the content of the proposal. P. McQuillan underscored salient aspects of the proposal that had been distributed a week before the meeting. J. McGreevy asked for questions or comments.

Remie Constable (Director, Medieval Institute) had two questions. The Department of Irish Language and Literature wanted to wait for the major to be established before incorporating a senior thesis option. Why wait? Second, what is different from a major in Irish language and literature and Irish Studies? P. McQuillan responded that the major allows for more intensive study of Irish language in its own right. The incorporation of a senior thesis option remains an ongoing discussion. P. McQuillan will report back to the Undergraduate Studies committee with regard to the senior thesis option in the major.

R. Norton asked if there are other departments of Irish language and literature in the United States. P. McQuillan observed that there are not any self-standing departments as such, but many programs operating out of English Departments, for example. R. Norton followed up by asking if P. McQuillan sees any challenges in the establishment of the major given its unique status. P. McQuillan viewed the unique status as a plus.

Valerie Sayers (Chairperson, Department of English) noted that the major will provide a very rigorous curriculum for students, underscoring the College's commitment to the intellectual life.

Elizabeth Mazurek (Chairperson, Department of Classics) saw parallels between the proposed Irish language and literature major and the Classics major, in that Classics has one track in which students read texts in the original languages and a second track in which students do not read the texts in the original languages. The proposed Irish Language and Literature major, however, requires students in both tracks to a language requirement. Such requirements are commendable.

V. Toumayan reminded the Council that the study abroad program budget has been cut, and would not add additional programs any time soon. Students could take leaves of absences to study in Galway, for example, during the academic year.

J. McGreevy had two questions. External reviewers were emphatic that every department, especially the Department of Irish Language and Literature, should have a major. What would happen if the new major does not have sufficient enrollment in the courses, especially in new courses? P. McQuillan responded that the only new course would be the third year of intensive language which would be compulsory for anyone pursuing the primary major. Further, the Department could attract 16 students who are pursuing minors to switch to the major. The Department could attract as many majors as the Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures. J. McGreevy's second question was about the summer language program that builds on the College's summer language abroad programs. Are students required to go overseas during the summer? P. McQuillan stated that students are not required to go overseas during the summer but are encouraged to do so.

J. McGreevy asked for a vote for those in favor of a major in Irish Language and Literatures with the friendly amendments: 47 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz  
Dean's Executive Administrator