

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
Wednesday, November 11, 2015  
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

**ATTENDANCE**

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Deans:* JoAnn DellaNeve, Peter Holland, Margaret Meserve, Mark Schurr; *Assistant Deans:* Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel

Chairpersons and Directors: Tom Anderson, Matthew Ashley, Jim Collins, Richard Cross, Agustín Fuentes, Jesse Lander, Rory McVeigh, Peter McQuillan, Elizabeth Mazurek, Dianne Pinderhughes, Peter Smith, Tom Tweed, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: Gary Anderson, David Betson, Alessia Blad, Catherine Bolten, Ann-Marie Conrado, Noreen Deane-Moran, Denise Della Rossa, Richard Donnelly, Sabrina Ferri, Timothy Fuerst, Robert Goulding, Tom Gresik, Tara MacLeod, Laura Miller, Vittorio Montemaggi, Abby Palko, Catherine Perry, Jason Ruiz, David Watson, Hannelore Weber, Shauna Williams, Lira Yoon

Undergraduate Student Representative: Brittany Sanok

Graduate Student Representative: Dasha Safonova, Meagan Simpson

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Laura Betz (Ph.D. in Literature Program), Margot Fassler (Program of Sacred Music), Matthew Capdevielle (University Writing Center), Kate Garry (Office of the Dean), Essaka Joshua (College Seminar), Mary Celeste Kearney (Gender Studies), Geraldine Meehan (Faculty Engagement/Global Gateways at NDI), Brian O'Conchubhair (Center for the Studies of Languages and Cultures), Kathleen Opel (Office of International Studies), Matt Zyniewicz (Office of the Dean)

Guests: Diarmuid Ó Giolláin (Irish Language and Literature), Lisa Joy Oglesbee (Center for the Studies of Languages and Cultures)

Excused: Jon Coleman, William Donahue, Kevin Dreyer, Richard Gray, Collin Meissner, Tom Merluzzi, Ava Preacher, Vicki Toumayan

Dean John McGreevy convened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the September 16, 2015 College Council meeting were approved with one correction.

## **COLLEGE BUSINESS**

### **Report on the PhD in Literature**

J. McGreevy spoke about the basic recommendation from the report, to close the PhD in Literature degree program, explaining how the committee who wrote the report came to such a conclusion. The review of the program was prompted by the College's attempt to learn more about the graduate programs and the related stipends for each graduate program. The Dean's Office then constituted a committee to review the degree program and from that committee generated the report that the Council considered for the meeting. The majority of the committee members voted strongly in favor to close the degree program, but, notably, the vote was not unanimous; one member declined to vote to close the program and one member was strongly opposed to closing the program. The majority cited as their reasons: (1) the placement record was not very impressive; (2) long-time-to-degree span was a concern; and, (3) the absence of faculty ownership most profoundly influenced the decision to consider discontinuing the program. It has been difficult over the years to find someone to direct the program; the number of faculty in the departments affected by the program were not enthusiastic about the program. These three reasons persuaded the majority of the committee to vote to close the program and to think about another model for a degree program in the vernacular literatures at Notre Dame. In the near future, the College Council will most likely consider PhD degree programs in Italian and Spanish.

Associate Dean Margaret Meserve added that the placement data that the committee reviewed were somewhat troubling, but there were better academic results to report at the end of the last academic year.

J. McGreevy added that the program will not abandon the current students should the program close. In that sense, the program will be "open" until current students cycle through. Closing the program would mean that students could transfer into either a PhD in Spanish or Italian.

J. McGreevy opened the floor for discussion.

Elizabeth Mazurek (Chairperson, Department of Classics) added another reason to close the program: the admission standards for the program were surprisingly low. She urged that if the PhD in Italian and Spanish programs were to be pursued, the admissions standards must be very high.

M. Meserve added that there will be a formal proposal to close the PhD in Literature program and a related proposal to add a PhD in Spanish program and a PhD in Italian program in a February 2016 College Council meeting.

J. McGreevy called for a vote to accept the recommendation of the task force to close the PhD in Literature program in terms of admitting new students. The vote was: 45 in favor, 0 against, 5 abstentions.

### **PhD in Anthropology of Irish Music**

Agustín Fuentes (Chairperson, Department of Anthropology) introduced a proposal to begin a joint PhD in Anthropology of Irish Music degree program in cooperation with the University of Limerick in Limerick, Ireland. He briefly read the executive summary of the proposal. He emphasized that it is a small adjunct program to the current PhD Anthropology program, and will involve one student at most each year.

Diarmuid Ó Giolláin (Guest, Department of Irish Language and Literature) spoke to the uniqueness of the proposed degree program and his support of the program.

Ann-Marie Conrado (Department of Art, Art History and Design) asked about the scope of the degree program. Why could not the proposed degree program include the performing arts? And, if it is in music, why not include a music component to it? A. Fuentes noted that the joint program is with the World Academy of Irish Music at the University of Limerick who specialize traditionally in Irish music and is one of the most renowned places for the performance of such music. Students in the program will spend one year at Notre Dame for studies in Anthropology, and a second year in a series of modules at the University of Limerick all focused on the performance of Irish music and dance. The third year will be either at Limerick or Notre Dame depending on the student's focus. Fourth year will be for research and the fifth year for writing. Such a structure allows for an integration of scholarship and performance. It is an experiment to integrate an anthropological and ethnographic engagement with Irish traditional music and dance in its contemporary form, to connect such studies to the performative space of the practitioners.

Margot Fassler (Director, MSM program) noted that one way to strengthen the proposal would be to engage two leading ethnomusicologists who work in this subject in Limerick, Aileen Dillane and Colin Quigley. M. Fassler shared that neither scholar vetted the proposal nor were they involved in the writing of it. It would be helpful to include them as the program unfolds. J. McGreevy indicated that there should be a friendly amendment in the proposal to involve the best scholars in the field engaged in the program.

Denise Della Rossa (Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) asked what the career trajectory would look like for students. A. Fuentes said that the goal of the program depends on the emphases of particular students. Some might have a strong interest in the anthropological analysis side of the program, then they might track into a performing arts school. If the student wants to focus more on performance with an engagement in ethnographic and folkloristic components, he or she will most likely continue to perform but link with an academic department.

Hannelore Weber (Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) asked if there are other academic degree programs outside of performance and film at peer institutions or elsewhere. A. Fuentes that there are some PhD programs that have some performative aspects but there are no other similar programs for Irish traditional music. Associate Dean Mark Schurr indicated that in the landscape of anthropology there are no specific programs that look at performance in the same way.

D. Della Rossa noted that this degree program is the first joint PhD degree program that the College of Arts and Letters has engaged, and it will be an important model for any field that may wish to pursue joint degree programs. J. McGreevy indicated that such programs are relatively common for engineering programs.

J. McGreevy called for a vote to approve the proposal to begin a PhD in Anthropology of Irish Music degree program. The vote was 46 in favor, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

**Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures (CSLC) Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**

Brian Ó Conchubhair (Director) and Lisa Joy Oglesbee (English for Academic Purposes Programs) introduced a proposal for a minor in TESOL.

Tom Anderson (Chairperson, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) noted that there are three faculty who teach courses for the minor. Are there other faculty who can teach for the minor? B. Ó Conchubhair said that the proposal listed faculty in the CSLC, but there are other faculty who can teach courses for the minor.

Dianne Pinderhughes (Chairperson, Africana Studies) was curious about teaching English from a variety of world settings. Will the minor program teach students to teach in particular settings, particularly in Africa? B. Ó Conchubhair replied that most students will likely go to South America or Asia. While it is true that native language does affect second language learning, L. Joy Oglesbee offered, the program will prepare students to teach from a level no matter what the language or context is. It is a global teaching method.

J. McGreevy noted that a sunset clause should be added to the proposal and then called for a vote to approve the proposal for a new minor in TESOL. The votes were 49 in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

**Draft Resolution on Internationalization**

Gretchen Reydams-Schils (Chairperson, Program of Liberal Studies) introduced the report. The report focuses on efforts to achieve better faculty government or input in the area of internationalization by Notre Dame and diversification of efforts in internationalization. She noted that it is an ideal moment to be a part of critical thinking to review the mandate for Notre Dame International, as leadership will undergo some changes. If more and more resources are going to Global Gateways, then tougher questions and assessment of the Gateway efforts need to occur as well.

M. Meserve mentioned that it is helpful to think of the report as a recommendation that the committee wished to put forward, especially as NDI changes leadership; the recommendation should not be considered an indictment about what has been done so far. The report is a way for the College to communicate to future leadership some of the College's priorities going forward.

J. McGreevy indicated that the committee wishes the College Council to vote to affirm the broad proposals in the report: strengthen the committee on internationalization, include more direct support for faculty projects, etc., as a signal that the College of Arts and Letters wishes to work more closely with NDI.

A. M. Conrado stated that at times she has had difficulty navigating NDI. Sometimes her own personal research objectives are at odds with the ways to receive institutional research support. She noted that NDI struggles to understand that individual faculty navigate countries differently depending on the structures of the institution in each context. Further, to what level does Notre Dame want to institutionalize international faculty research? Faculty cultivate their own networks and contacts that become crucial to how faculty operate in various countries. Some guidance, protocols and roadmaps

would be helpful but also some leeway.

J. McGreevy observed that Notre Dame continues to attempt to find the right balance. NDI has done a brilliant job at developing the concept of the Global Gateway. The “study abroad centers” were really about undergraduates going to study abroad. NDI helped transform the concept to centers of research.

A. M. Conrado would like to have more information about who and where our students are going. Perhaps a database would be very helpful for faculty in various countries, especially to help care for students in those countries. More standardization would be helpful.

Tom Gresik (Department of Economics) noted that NDI is a university-level organization or office, yet some elements in the proposal seem to be more College-specific. How do College-level elements fit into the university-level organization?

G. Reydam-Schils indicated that we need good communication. Notre Dame should decide what matters should be handled by the College and what matters should be handled by the broader University to reduce duplication of efforts.

Associate Dean Peter Holland stated that no tensions exist with the interests of the colleges. Global Gateways are used more by the Arts and Letters faculty and students than any other college. The report emphasizes that there must be good consultation, good communication and more faculty ownership of Notre Dame’s efforts in internationalization.

J. McGreevy called for a vote. The vote was: 43 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstentions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

J. McGreevy adjourned the plenary meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz  
Dean’s Executive Administrator