

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
Tuesday, April 26, 2016
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

ATTENDANCE

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Dean:* JoAnn DellaNeva, Margaret Meserve; *Assistant Deans:* Collin Meissner, Ava Preacher, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel, Vicki Toumayan

Chairpersons and Directors: Thomas Anderson, Richard Cross, Kevin Dreyer, Jesse Lander, Peter McQuillan, Elizabeth Mazurek, Thomas Merluzzi, Dianne Pinderhughes, Tom Tweed, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: David Betson, Alessia Blad, Catherine Bolten, Jon Coleman, Jessica Collett, Ann-Marie Conrado, Noreen Deane-Moran, Denise Della Rossa, Robert Goulding, Tom Gresik, Clair Jones, Vittorio Montemaggi, Sarah Mustillo, Darcia Narvaez, Abby Palko, Jessica Payne, Catherine Perry, Jason Ruiz, Peter Smith, Jim Sullivan, Hannelore Weber

Graduate Student Representative: Dasha Safonova, Meagan Simpson

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Denise Ayo (Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures), Laura Betz (PhD in Literature Program), Kate Garry (Dean's Office), Peter Jeffery (Program of Sacred Music), Mary Celeste Kearney (Gender Studies), Geraldine Meehan (Faculty Engagement/Global Gateways at NDI), Kathleen Opel (Office of International Studies), Matt Zyniewicz (Dean's Office)

Excused: Gary Anderson, Matt Ashley, David Campbell, Catherine Cangany, Jim Collins, William Donahue, Richard Donnelly, Bill Evans, Sabrina Ferri, Curtis Franks, Timothy Fuerst, Agustin Fuentes, Daniel Graff, Richard Gray, Patrick Griffin, Daniel Lapsley, Tara MacLeod, Rory McVeigh, Laura Miller, Ashley Murphy, Gretchen Reydams-Schils, Brittany Sanok, Mark Schurr, Carmen Tellez, John Van Engen, Juan Vitulli, David Watson, Shauna Williams, Michelle Wirth, Lira Yoon

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 17, 2016 College Council meeting were approved.

COLLEGE BUSINESS

University Honor Code Committee (UHCC)

J. McGreevy invited Hugh Page (Associate Provost and Dean of the First Year of Studies) to introduce the topic regarding the Undergraduate Academic Code of Honor. H. Page explained the topic, which was to get a sense of what the Council thinks about the current code, concerns and application. There will be two campus-wide surveys (one to undergraduate students and one to faculty) in the fall 2016 to gather information on the honor code and proceedings in general. The committee will need sufficient information from campus before revising the code.

Jessica Collett (Department of Sociology) noted that graduate students remain an issue with regard to applying the Academic Code of Honor, and asked where do they fit into the plan? H. Page stated that graduate students fall outside the spectrum or concerns at this moment because the Graduate School has its own honor code. J. McGreevy stated that graduate students are often the teachers of undergraduate students and thus get embroiled in honor code violations and wonders if that necessitates a formal survey of them, even as they are a group that changes every year. Many cases have involved graduate students running a section, and have detected cheating. H. Page said that his office can look at the list of all instructors in the fall and ensure that the graduate student instructors receive the survey as well.

Tom Anderson (Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) observed that graduate students are actually instructors of record and are often very intimidated when dealing with the honor code and related academic issues.

Peter Jeffery (Department of Music and Sacred Music Program) had three recommendations: (1) in his previous position there were many rules about freshman writing seminars, one of which was that instructors had to cover the honor code. When a student allegedly cheated, the first question was whether or not the instructor covered the honor code. There needs to be a specific place in First Year of Studies where instructors talk to students about the honor code; (2) in a world where everything is on the Internet we do not merely need to talk about plagiarism in the traditional sense but also about critical use of sources, such as if an article comes from a reviewed journal or not. The broader issue has to do with a more critical sense of sources; (3) people are confused about academic honesty and intellectual property. The only commonality is that they are both about how to use other people's material. One can easily violate academic honesty and not violate intellectual property and vice versa. They are two sets of rules that have nothing to do with each other. The teaching of academic honesty should be clearly distinguished from concerns about copy right and intellectual property.

J. McGreevy asked H. Page about how students currently learn about the honor code. H. Page replied that every newly matriculating student is required to take an online honor code examination during the summer before they arrive on campus. It consists of several interactive questions and presumes that they will read the academic honor code beforehand or at least the academic honor code handbook for students. Then the examination quizzes them on the code, and there is a threshold of correct answers

that they must meet. Pat Murphy (Faculty Honor Code Officer, Mendoza College of Business) sends a letter to instructors at the beginning of the academic year to ask them to spend significant time explaining to students what the expectations are in the individual classes. The honor code is applied in a variety of ways depending on the nature of the courses. In some classes students are expected to do all their work absolutely on their own. And some classes there is a certain amount of collaboration that is allowed. Often there have been honor code violations because students have not known or fully understood what the expectations are in their individual classes. The University must be much more robust in terms of the kinds of information given especially to First Year students. There is also a section in the Moreau class that deals with academic integrity and the honor code.

Kevin Dreyer (Acting Chair, Department of Film, Television, and Theatre) stated that last year one of the more intriguing issues was that the way the code is currently written people can be in violation of the code through inaction as opposed to action. The concept that a student who is aware of or has witnessed what he or she believes to be some violation of the honor code is obligated to report the incident. This concept seems to be contentious, and K. Dreyer wonders if there have been further conversations about it. H. Page recalled that College Council member, Tom Gresik (Department of Economics) is also on the honor code committee. T. Gresik can attest that the Honor Code Committee has discussed this concept within the committee as a whole and has gathered anecdotal data from several focus groups. For example, Margaret Dobrowolska-Furdyna (Associate Dean, College of Science) has conducted several focus groups in the College of Science. And for the past two years, advisors in the First Year of Studies have been commissioned to speak with students about the code. Almost universally the data show that that Notre Dame students are reticent to turn in one another for honesty violations. They feel that in some ways it would be a violation of the community ethos on campus. This subverts the honor code.

Robert Goulding (Program of Liberal Studies) generally understood the honor code to be about preserving honor among peers, on their honor as fellow students they will not violate the code. This was the case at R. Goulding's previous institution. And when there was a breach, students would run the hearings. Is it right to have the code applied top down, from the Provost's Office? Do students really own the honor code? H. Page noted Notre Dame has a system that is centrally administered by the Provost's Office but governed by the colleges and schools. A majority of members on the hearing committees must be students. The College of Arts and Letters has three students and two faculty members. The procedures allow colleges and schools to make their own judgements in cases, but the Provost Office keeps a record for a period of seven years after graduation and weighs in on particularly serious cases that might involve expulsion.

Ann Marie Conrado (Department of Art, Art History, and Design) asked for guidance with collaborative projects and honor code violations. With collaborative projects there can be a misrepresentation of one's work if there is an uneven effort among the students. The review of the honor code could be an opportunity to develop more guidance for instructors and students, as courses increasingly incorporate collaborative work.

Vittorio Montemaggi (Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) suggested that the honor code should not simply be about following a set of rules. Students should be encouraged that the code is very important and to think of honesty as part of who they are. H. Page observed that it will be challenging to do. He explained that in some instances students see the honor code as some sort of trap that they have to avoid. Students often do not understand citations. It is a foreign world for students.

They do not understand that they need to cite Wikipedia, for example, because they think the website is “common knowledge.”

J. McGreevy said the council members can submit written comments and suggested that they do that by the end of May 2016, and a fuller report will be available next year for the Academic Council to consider.

J. McGreevy observed that the University appears to deal much better with the honor code and violations of the code compared with how the University used to apply the code fifteen years ago. The University has more student ownership now. He was eager for the University to get to an even better student-centered process.

Darcia Narvaez (Department of Psychology) reported that she reviewed current research on academic dishonesty, and at the more successful places at the beginning of each academic year students pledged to be honest with each other in their academic endeavors.

At the end of the meeting Associate Dean Margaret Meserve announced that Pamela Young, Director for Academic Diversity and Inclusion, will meet with Committees on Appointments and Promotions (CAP committees) next fall 2016 at the beginning of recruiting season.

ADJOURNMENT

J. McGreevy adjourned the plenary meeting at 4:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz
Dean’s Executive Administrator