

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

ATTENDANCE

Deans: *Dean:* John McGreevy; *Associate Deans:* James Brockmole, Peter Holland, Essaka Joshua, Elisabeth Köll; *Assistant Deans:* Ava Preacher, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel, Vicki Toumayan

Chairpersons and Directors: Jon Coleman, William Donahue, Margot Fassler, Brian Krostenko, Jesse Lander, Tim Matovina, Sarah Mustillo, Diane Pinderhughes, Alison Rice, Mark Schurr, Tom Stapleford, Tom Tweed, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: Carolina Arroyo, David Betson, Liang Cai, Jessica Collett, Ann-Marie Conrado, John Deak, Denise Della Rossa, Richard Donnelly, Kirk Doran, Mary Flannery, David Gibson, Thomas Gresik, William Mattison, Diarmuid O'Giollan, Jessica Payne, Siiri Scott, Lynette Spillman, Erika Summers-Effler, Juan Vitulli, Lijuan Wang, David Watson, Hannelore Weber

Undergraduate representatives: Brittany Ebeling, Christina Murphy

Graduate Representatives: Rachel Jonker, Jessica Kim

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Maria Di Pasquale (*Dean's Office*), Robert Goulding (*History and Philosophy of Science*), Matt Zyniewicz (*Dean's Office*)

Excused: Lee Anna Clark, Noreen Deane-Moran, Luis Fraga, Ben Heller, Encarnacion Juarez-Almendros, Mary Celeste Kearney, Collin Meissner, Peter Smith, Jeff Speaks, Meghan Sullivan, Lira Yoon

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

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the May 12, 2017 meeting were approved. (The September 11, 2017 College Council meeting was dedicated to the election of members to serve on the College of Arts and Letters search committee for Dean McGreevy's successor.)

Proposed minor in Data Science

J. McGreevy gave some background to the development of a data science minor. The College and the Career Center engage in ongoing analyses of where our graduate land jobs, and J. McGreevy provided

some statistics. He then invited Associate Dean Essaka Joshua to provide an overview of this meeting's vote. She reminded the Council that the Council is to recommend or not recommend the proposal for a proposed minor in data science. Sarah Mustillo (Chairperson, Department of Sociology) introduced the proposal for a data science minor.

Kirk Doran (Department of Economics) inquired about the proposed introductory course. After reading the set of courses in the proposal, he noted that the introductory course might not be necessary. S. Mustillo described the introductory course as an overview of the field of data science. Students should understand the broad concepts of the field as they begin their studies in the minor. K. Doran observed that the proposed minor appears to be more about data applications and not about data mining. He wondered if the introductory course would be more of an integration course at the end of the set of courses for the minor. S. Mustillo agreed that the introductory course should provide some unifying theoretical perspective. K. Doran wondered if the introductory course should be taken at the end of the minor's curriculum rather than at the beginning. S. Mustillo envisioned that the introductory course would "set the table," or would better prepare the students for the rest of the courses in the minor.

Ann-Marie Conrado (Department of Art, Art History and Design) asked if the business school's data analytics would be open to other students. S. Mustillo mention that there would be a fair amount of overlap between the business school's data analytics and the proposed data science minor but she recalled that the business school's data analytics is more oriented to business applications, and the proposed minor would not be oriented in such a way. The business school's data analytics appears to be very customer driven.

Denise Della Rossa (Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) questioned whether or not the College needs a data science minor if indeed students are already getting jobs in such areas. J. McGreevy mentioned that currently Notre Dame students pick up data science skills on the job.

Tom Stapleford (Program of Liberal Studies) indicated his approval of the proposed minor program. He encouraged the directors of the minor program to develop a version of data science that draws on the strengths of the College of Arts and Letters. He suggested that it might be interesting to have a philosophy course on statistical inference. S. Mustillo noted that indeed the Department of Philosophy has some graduate students who would be able to teach courses on statistical inference. J. McGreevy stated that Stanford University has a number of tracks that they label "CS+X" (e.g., Computer Science + English, or Computer Science + Philosophy). In fact about 55% of Stanford's undergraduates are majoring in computer science. J. McGreevy noted that Stanford continues to try to figure out how to deal with such a large number majors.

Tom Tweed (Department of American Studies) questioned why the minor should have five courses. J. McGreevy noted that the College's minors are typically five courses.

A. Conrado wondered if sociology majors would be able to minor in data science. S. Mustillo responded that sociology majors would be able to pursue the minor because the minor does not consist of many sociology courses.

D. Della Rossa wondered if the textual analysis class had to be offered only English. S. Mustillo responded that the list of courses that was submitted with the proposal should be understood as simply

a list of sample courses. The data science minor will be open for departments to submit proposed courses.

M. Flannery suggested that perhaps there needs to be more specific language about what courses might be double counted. Associate Dean Essaka Joshua agreed, thinking that such issues would be addressed at the academic advising level.

Wrapping up the discussion, J. McGreevy recalled that there was one formal request from the deliberations—the revised proposal would need to be more specific on double counting.

J. McGreevy called for vote to approve the proposed minor in data science. The proposal passed, with 46 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz
Dean's Executive Administrator