

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018  
McKenna Hall Auditorium**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Chairpersons and Directors: Jon Coleman, Jim Collins, Bill Evans, Margot Fassler, Mary Celeste Kearney, Brian Krostenko, Jesse Lander, Tim Matovina, Dianne Pinderhughes, Alison Rice, Mark Schurr, Peter Smith, Tom Stapleford, Tom Tweed, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: Christopher Abram, Carolina Arroyo, David Betson, Denise Della Rossa, Liang Cai, Jessica Collett, Ann-Marie Conrado, Noreen Deane-Moran, Kevin Dreyer, David Gibson, Tom Gresik, Daniel Groody, Michael Kackman, Diarmuid O'Giollan, Matthew Payne, Siiri Scott, Justin Strong, Juan Vitulli, David Watson, Hannelore Weber, Kira Yoon

Graduate Representative: Justin Strong

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Maria Di Pasquale (*Dean's Office*), Kate Garry (*Dean's Office*), Matt Hawkins (*Film, Television, and Theatre*), Geraldine Meehan (*Global Gateways at NDI*), Kathleen Opel (*Notre Dame International*), Matthew Zyniewicz (*Dean's Office*)

Excused: Lee Anna Clark, Richard Donnelly, Ben Heller, Lynette Spillman, Meghan Sullivan, Erika Summers-Effler, Paul Weithman

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

John McGreevy asked for any amendments to the March 8, 2018 College Council minutes. The Council approved the minutes without corrections.

**COLLEGE BUSINESS**

**Announcement**

J. McGreevy invited Associate Dean Essaka Joshua to talk about the College's Honor Code Committee. She thanked those who served on the Committee this year: Curtis Franks (chair), Elizabeth Capdevielle, Maria McKenna, and Jennifer Warlick. David Thomas will chair the committee for the 2018-2019 academic year.

## **Interdisciplinary Minor in Music Theatre**

J. McGreevy invited Jim Collins (Chairperson, Film, Television and Theatre), Peter Smith (Chairperson, Department of Music), and Matt Hawkins (Department of Film, Television, and Theatre) to the front of the room to present a proposal for an interdisciplinary minor in Musical Theatre. J. Collins provided a brief overview of the proposal. He asserted that the most important aspect of the proposed minor is that it has been a student-driven initiative for many years. There has been a great deal of passionate commitment at the intramural level for musical theatre. Many students have been producing their *ad hoc* shows. The College would give them the opportunity to joyfully study theatre. J. Collins added that it is a national trend as well; Princeton, Duke, Northwestern, USC have also added these minors.

J. McGreevy opened the floor for comments.

M. Hawkins pointed out that the Notre Dame minor would not be competitive to declare. He and his colleagues visited Northwestern to find out that students had to compete to get into the minor. Students would not necessarily have to be good vocalists. E. Joshua reminded the group that it is an interdisciplinary minor and the undergraduate committee unanimously passed the proposed minor. P. Smith said that the department faculty are very enthusiastic for the minor. Further, new voice faculty are very interested in developing the musical component of the minor.

Dianne Pinderhughes (Chairperson, Department of Africana Studies) found the proposal exciting and interesting. She was glad to see commentary on page 2 where the College would approach this very broadly. She observed that the minor would provide wonderful opportunities for hiring too.

Margot Fassler (Director, Sacred Music Program) provided her enthusiasm for the proposal. The departments have tried to make music and theatre partner for years. She mentioned that it is important for sacred music to have African American popular music and other musical formats. She wondered if it would be beneficial to get a publishing scholar in the field. Also, could the College resuscitate the minor in liturgical music, with a partnership of the Department of Theology and the Department of Music?

Assistant Dean Joe Stanfiel commented that the estimate of 35 students in five years would be a very realistic goal.

Denise Della Rossa (Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures) said that she frequently attended student performances. Students recently produced *Spring Awakening* in an incredibly professional manner, and she applauded FTT.

Mary Celeste Kearney (Director, Gender Studies) asked if the students would have opportunities to fulfill the course requirements for Dance at St. Mary's College. M. Hawkins confirmed that students would have such opportunities and added that he teaches choreography. He will sometimes farm out dance but his class will be about performance.

Ann-Marie Conrado (Department of Art, Art History, and Design) echoed support for the minor as well. She noted that she is fond of musical productions. She reviewed the list of courses in Department of Music and wondered if the Department would provide some courses for those students who do not have musical talents. P. Smith said students would have the opportunities to take somewhat different scholarly approaches to the minor, for example, study direction. He noted that the proposal's authors

did not list other courses because they were CSEM or USEM courses, which would be for the non-skilled students.

J. McGreevy thanked the Department of Film, Television and Theatre and the Department of Music. He hoped that Notre Dame would now have a flourishing musical theatre program. He observed that over the course of ten years Notre Dame has built a nice tradition in opera. At the non-conservatory level, Notre Dame appears to have a state-of-the-art program, and the larger story, to his mind, was that Notre Dame is becoming more and more a place for students to come for the arts.

J. McGreevy called for a vote to approve the proposed interdisciplinary minor in musical theatre.

The minor passed with 46 votes, 0 negative votes and 0 abstentions.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

J. McGreevy adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz  
Dean's Executive Administrator