

THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Tuesday, September 30, 2020

Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Deans: *Dean:* Sarah Mustillo; *Associate Deans:* James Brockmole, Mary Flannery, Peter Holland, Margaret Meserve, Michael Pries; *Assistant Deans:* Maureen Dawson, Darlene Hampton, Collin Meissner, Nicholas Russo, Joseph Stanfiel

Chairpersons and Directors: Cindy Bergeman, David Campbell, William Carbonaro, Margot Fassler, David Gasperetti, Richard Gray, Luca Grillo, Peter Jeffery, Mary Celeste Kearney, Elisabeth Koll, Jesse Lander, Tim Machan, Timothy Matovina, Peter McQuillan, Dianne Pinderhughes, Alison Rice, Jason Ruiz, Mark Schurr, Eric Sims, Jeff Speaks, Thomas Stapleford, Pamela Wojcik, Yongping Zhu

Elected Faculty: Pedro Aguilera-Mellado, Gail Bederman, John Betz, Tobias Boes, Tatiana Botero, Kathleen Boyle, Tarryn Chun, Noreen Deane-Moran, Darren Dochuk, Kiera Duffy, Li Guo, David Hernandez, Michelle Karnes, Stephen Lancaster, Amy Langenkamp, Charles Leavitt, James Lundberg, Congcong Ma, Tara MacLeod, Elena Mangione-Lora, Alexander Martin, Erin McDonnell, Elizabeth McClintock, Christopher Miller, Samuel Newlands, Mary O'Callaghan, Andrew Radde-Gallwitz, Mark Sanders, Roy Scranton, Jeff Spoohower, Todd Walatka, Shauna Williams, Weibing Ye

Undergraduate Students: Margaret Horan, Emma Shea

Graduate Student: William Orbih, Grace Song

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Alessia Blad (Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures), Ted Cachey (Devers Programs), Matthew Capdevielle (University Writing Center), Patrick Clauss (Undergraduate Writing Program), Charles Crowell (Computer Applications), Maria Di Pasquale (Academic Advancement), William Donaruma (Center for Creative Computing), John Duffy (University Writing Program), Kate Garry (Dean's Office, Communications), Robert Goulding (John J. Reilly Center), David Griffith (Undergraduate Studies Advising), Richard Jones (Gallivan Program), Michelle LaCourt (Dean's Office), Erin

Lemrow (Undergraduate Studies Advising), Linda Major (College Seminar Program), Geraldine Meehan (Global Gateways at NDI), Michael Rea (Center for Philosophy of Religion), Melvin Tardy (Undergraduate Studies Advising), Warren von Eschenbach (Office of Internationalization), Paul Weithman, (Glynn Family Honors Program), Matthew Zyniewicz (Dean's Office)

Dean Sarah Mustillo convened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

S. Mustillo asked for any amendments to the September 24, 2019 College Council minutes. The Council approved the minutes without corrections.

COLLEGE BUSINESS

Race Center & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

S. Mustillo invited Mark Sanders to say a few words about the proposed Race Center. M. Sanders said the committee has been working throughout the summer. He reported that the committee is close to a proposal. The committee will then begin to construct the website as it is working its way through the proposal stream and follow up with an announcement about the Center. The committee will ask faculty to submit materials to construct the core faculty. The Center's approach will be comparative international and transnational, interdisciplinary initiative, working with scholars across the social sciences and humanities and researching configurations of race, and reactions to systemic racism. The Center will have three foci: education, scholarship and community outreach. The Center will have programming and monies targeted specifically for research grants, for visiting faculty and fellows at ND to be at the Center for a semester or year. They will organize working groups and lecture series and engage in course development that involves anti-racism pedagogy. The Center will be engaged with local organizations who are addressing issues of racism throughout the community. Further, the committee is going to mount an artist-in-residence program (filmmakers or writers) and host performances beyond Notre Dame, promoting ways to reflect on specific issues that the arts are responding to. The Center should not simply engage underlying reasons for violence, etc., but also provide a place to celebrate cultural expressions of communities of color.

S. Mustillo asked what the Center's relationship will be with the Department of Africana Studies. S. Sanders mentioned that the Center and the Department are already pursuing a joint hire for a position of history of slavery. The Center hopes to make additional joint appointments with the Department of English and other departments. M. Sanders mentioned that the Center will also address related issues in Latin America and pursue race matters more globally. The Center will have yearly or two-year cycles of focussed themes for programming, for example environmental racism. S. Mustillo thanked M. Sanders and invited faculty to send him follow-up questions by email.

S. Mustillo announced that she established a standing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC), composed of three elected members and three appointed members. Dianne Pinderhughes (Chairperson, Africana Studies) read the committee's initial charge. S. Mustillo set the committee's agenda at a high level. D. Pinderhughes noted that the committee

is a serious and generous group. The committee members have been visiting with campus leaders, including Pamela Young (Director for Academic Diversity and Inclusion) and Nyree McDonald (Associate Dean, Graduate Enrollment Management). The committee now has a sense of the coming tasks that include open listening sessions and visits to College departments to hear their issues and to inform them of the committee's work. The committee has been working to get an understanding of the issues of the various underrepresented groups on campus. The challenges will be in helping department leaders and how much work the College has before it. S. Mustillo stated that the committee's charge is to help prioritize what needs to be done, and she expects all faculty and staff to help bring this about.

Team Teaching and Integration Courses

Associate Dean Margaret Meserve announced a revamped [College of Arts and Letters Faculty Reference Guide](#). The previous version of the Guide was a 164-page PDF document. The new Guide is an updated and reformed version of the old Guide. One policy that arose for critique was the policy on team teaching that was created in 2013. The original purpose of the policy was to promote interdisciplinary collaborations and to create opportunities for faculty to co-teach in graduate programs. The actual process for having team-taught courses approved was to petition M. Meserve for approvals and receive a license to teach the courses 3 times. Since 2013, the University adopted a new core curriculum that included the creation of Integration courses. The intent of the Integration course was to invite two disciplinary or methods of perspectives from two faculty to couple to create a team-taught course. The College has--in view of the Integration courses--revised the old team-teaching policy. In short, if faculty get an Integration course designation from the Core Curriculum Committee, then those faculty do not need to seek College approval for the course. If departments have courses that are always team-taught, for example joint major courses or Philosophy, Politics and Economics justice seminars, then no permission is necessary for those courses. If faculty have a team-taught course that has not received an Integration course designation, non-integration designation, such as graduate courses, faculty will still need to apply to the College for permission to teach the course. It will be harder to get approval for this. S. Mustillo thanked M. Meserve for her work on the Guide.

Space

M. Meserve reported that the College recently opened a newly constructed ISLA suite on the 3rd floor of O'Shaughnessy Hall and it is partially open. S. Mustillo mentioned that the College has been working on trying to renovate space for the humanities departments in an attempt to unite the departments so that faculty, staff and students can come together rather than be separated into different buildings. The Departments of English and History have already moved into Decio Faculty Hall. The Covid-19 pandemic brought on a spending freeze for building projects. The Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures will move into the north wing of Decio on the ground floor, and that project will be funded by a grant from an external foundation. PLS will move into the 3rd floor of O'Shaughnessy Hall. The long winter break will allow for more construction to take place. The PLS reconstruction will also be funded by external donors. Over the summer 2020 the Department of Classics faculty with great fortitude moved into the former ISLA offices on the 2nd floor in O'Shaughnessy.

M. Meserve thanked faculty for their patience with the construction activities across campus.

Winter Session

Associate Dean Mary Flannery discussed the proposed new winter 2020-2021 term. The University tentatively plans three activities: (1) internships (10-week period), and Marty Whalen (Career Program Manager) is working with the Meruelo Family Center for Career Development and alumni; (2) 3-credit courses offered in a 4-week period in January 2021; and (3) 1- or 2-credit courses. Director of Advising Nicholas Russo will send a Google form to undergraduate students to get a sense of their interest in the courses. Regan Jones (Office of Military & Veterans Affairs) was appointed as head of this endeavor. Further, the winter session will be considered a part of the spring 2021 semester. This way students are not overloading. The courses will end by late January, and grades will register at the end of the spring term. In addition to courses and internships, there will be research opportunities, such as research practica. S. Mustillo explained that the winter term will not be required for students who plan to return for the regular spring semester.

David Campbell (Chairperson, Department of Political Science) asked if the University will plan to offer graduate courses during the winter session as well. S. Mustillo explained that the winter session will largely be an undergraduate effort. Graduate students can work on research and papers over the winter break. Associate Dean Margaret Meserve noted that departments sometimes struggle to get spring graduate courses to make, so winter courses might not be wise; perhaps faculty could offer directed readings.

Luca Grillo (Chairperson, Department of Classics) asked if students will have to pay extra for the winter session? S. Mustillo responded that students will not have to pay extra. Faculty will be paid between \$4800 to \$10000 per course.

Matthew Capdevielle (University Writing Program) asked if students can take two 3-credit courses during the winter session? M. Flannery mentioned that she anticipated that students could take only one 3-credit course.

Gail Bederman (Department of History) inquired about faculty who teach during the winter session; could they have a reduced teaching load in the spring term? M. Flannery responded that the reduced teaching load would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

M. Meserve asked what the schedule will be for the courses? How many hours a week? M. Flannery responded that 3-credit courses need to have at least 37.5 total contact hours with faculty and peer students.

S. Mustillo introduced the last topic of the meeting--Covid-19 updates. She explained that during the spring 2020 she used to know more about how the University continues to respond to the crisis. She reported that she has currently been less involved with the planning. Dianne Pinderhughes (Chairperson, Department of Africana Studies) recalled that two months or so ago, Provost Marie Lynn Miranda mentioned a Covid-19 case that was traced back to a particular course. Further, the daily positive cases of Covid-19 numbers show increasing numbers of faculty and staff. Have there been additional cases? S. Mustillo responded that there has been one case from a student in a lab. There have not been many cases from classroom contact. Most cases have come from spouses or food service workers. Earlier cases were from 4th of July gatherings.

Michelle Karnes (Department of English) observed that students seem to be struggling these days. She asked if there is any way in the spring 2021 to allow 4 courses to count as a full load for undergraduates. S. Mustillo indicated that there might be a way but it would depend on the specific degree programs.

Pam Wojcik (Chairperson, Film, Television and Theatre) recalled that earlier in the semester faculty were reminded that they do not have the authorizations to give students a day off from course work. She asked if faculty can we build in a fun day in the current fall 2020 semester so that faculty and students can have a brief rest? S. Mustillo stated that the central administration did not want the students to travel during the semester. She reported that the administration understood that there has been a strong desire to give students what essentially would be “a snow day”. Some faculty also thought it would be a good idea but they would need to be able to plan the day off into their syllabi. S. Mustillo questioned that if we provide a day off, what can faculty do if they are scheduled to teach a 3-hour graduate course that day. She wondered if the College could announce that there would be a day off from course work next week, and choose a day to surprise the students. M. Flannery asked what are students going to do if given a day off? S. Mustillo recalled that the idea was that Notre Dame would provide some activities. Maggie Horan (Undergraduate Student Representative) wondered if there would be enough space for indoor activity. Emma Shea (Undergraduate Student Representative) agreed with M. Horan on the indoor space capacity issue but indicated that undergraduates would love a day off from coursework to simply sleep in. Grace Song (Graduate Student Representative) also agreed with E. Shea, graduate students would appreciate a day away from courses to catch up on work.

D. Campbell considered the spring 2021 calendar and noted that there are some built in days off for the students such as Good Friday and Easter.

Bill Carbonaro (Chairperson, Department of Sociology) suggested that it might be informative to gather feedback from students and faculty about being on-campus during the pandemic. S. Mustillo will do something from College level or department level or from University level. The feedback will likely vary by discipline.

Elena Mangione-Lora (Department of Romance Languages) asked if the College can get feedback about what is impeding students and faculty from taking advantage of the available resources to support mental health. M. Horan agreed that there is an interest in mental health among undergraduates and some of her peers have engaged in the call-in services but found the services to require too much effort. E. Shea agreed that students have to be determined to seek out services. She has found that continuously advocating for herself has been difficult. Sarah will take the concern to Vice President for Student Affairs Erin Hoffmann Harding to look into why students are not accessing services. Vice President and Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Laura Carlson is also working on initiatives for more general mental health support.

ADJOURNMENT

S. Mustillo adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew C. Zyniewicz
Dean's Executive Administrator