

**THE MEETING MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
March 1, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Deans: *Dean:* Sarah Mustillo; *Associate Deans:* James Brockmole, Mary Flannery, Ernest Morrell, Mike Pries, Michael Schreffler; *Assistant Deans:* Darlene Hampton, Mary O'Callaghan, Nicholas Russo (Director of Advising), Joseph Stanfiel

Chairpersons and Directors: William Carbonaro, Kevin Dreyer (*Acting Chairperson*), Margot Fassler, Luca Grillo, Berthold Hoeckner, Elisabeth Köll, Geoffrey Layman, Tim Matovina, Sarah McKibben, Mark Schurr, Eric Sims, Jeff Speaks, Thomas Stapleford, Xiaoshan Yang

Elected Faculty: Ann Astell, Kathleen Boyle, Christopher Chowrimootoo, Noreen Deane-Moran, Kirk Doran, Kiera Duffy, David Gibson, Stephen Lancaster, Amy Langenkamp, Congcong Ma, Alexander Martin, Erin McDonnell, Todd Walatka

Undergraduate Student: Noelle Dana

Regularly Invited Guests, Observers, and Resource People: Alessia Blad (*Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures*), Ted Cachey (*Devers Program*), Matthew Capdevielle (*Writing Center*), Kate Garry (*Dean's Office, Communications*), Robert Goulding (*John J. Reilly Center*), Geraldine Meehan (*Global Gateways at NDI*), Margaret Meserve (*Glynn Family Honors Program*), Ellen Roof (*Academic Advancement*), Matthew Zyniewicz (*Dean's Office*)

Guests: Michael Hildreth (*Associate Dean of Research, College of Science; and Director, University Core Curriculum*) and Dan Groody, CSC (*Vice President and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs*), Kirsten Martin (*Director, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center*), Warren von Eschenbach (*Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center*)

Excused: Pedro Aguilera-Mellado, Gail Bederman, Cindy Bergeman, Tobias Boes, Tatiana Botero, Tom Burman, Christopher Chowrimootoo, Tarryn Chun, Maureen Dawson, Julianne Downing, Barbara Green, Michelle Karnes, Laura Knoppers, David Lantigua, Charles Leavitt, Lauren Lundy, Elena Mangione-Lora, Elizabeth Aura McClintock, Collin Meissner, Christopher Miller, Janeala Morsby, Andrew Radde-Gallwitz, Alison Rice, Jason Ruiz, Roy Scranton, Siiri Scott, Scott Shim, Jeff Spoonhower, Nicholas Teh, Sophie White

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

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

## COLLEGE BUSINESS

### Proposed New Core Curriculum Course

Michael Hildreth (*Associate Dean of Research, College of Science; and Director, University Core Curriculum*) and Dan Groody, CSC (*Vice President and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs*) introduced a [proposal](#) for racial justice. The proposal recommends a new, additional University core requirement centered on racial justice. Besides summarizing many of the proposal's salient points, D. Groody rehearsed the main course attributes.

Sarah McKibben (*Chairperson, Irish Language and Literature*) noted that the requirement would not add a new course to the Core requirements. She asked if the University would make any additional hires in the area. M. Hildreth responded that the University could make hires in this area.

Luca Grillo (*Chairperson, Department of Classics*) thanked M. Hildreth and D. Groody for generating the proposal addressing racism and social justice. He lamented that he was not privy to the written proposal prior to the meeting. M. Hildreth forwarded the written proposal as the meeting commenced, and he subsequently provided Council members the opportunity to submit written comments to him, D. Groody and Hugh Page (*Vice President and Associate Provost for Institutional Transformation and Leadership Development*).

Erin McDonnell (*Department of Sociology*) expressed enthusiasm about the proposal, especially about the interpersonal and experiential ways of knowing. E. McDonnell suggested that seats will not be evenly distributed among the students because some students will end up taking 4 or 5 of such courses, limiting the number of overall seats. . E. McDonnell noted that course attribute #5 "hit [her] soul". The attribute reads: "Equipping students with tools that enable them to understand their place in larger systems of power, privilege, and oppression and to apply the principles of racial justice in their daily lives." She advised, however, that course attribute #3 is vague. The attribute reads: "Building students' capacity to understand social, political, and other related categories of identity."

Robert Goulding, (*Director, Reilly Center; Director, HPS*) liked the proposed requirement very much. While observing that the requirement seems much broader than as a racial justice requirement, he suggested that perhaps the University could have a narrower requirement on racial justice. D. Groody noted that the former Provost, Marie Lynn Miranda wanted the requirement to focus on racial justice and then on social justice.

Nick Russo (*Assistant Dean; Director of Advising*) recalled that courses with this attribute will also carry another attribute. He explained that there are many upper-level courses that seem to satisfy a way of knowing. He wondered if the proposed core course could have only one attribute, rather than satisfy multiple ways of knowing. M. Hildreth imagined that the large introductory courses could have this attribute and maybe another one.

Noelle Dana (*student representative*) asked those who will further develop the proposal if they will consult students of color. She recalled that the Moreau courses have a component like this requirement. D. Groody regretted that the University broadly speaking does not teach this aspect of the Moreau courses very well. He indicated that the University is currently evaluating Moreau courses. He hoped that with the new proposed core curriculum requirement, we would have a broader context in which to address topics of racial justice. M. Hildreth mentioned that the proposal's authors will meet with members of the student government. They have and will continue to speak with many persons of color about the proposal. M. Hildreth observed that many peer institutions have been doing this for decades. One of the main intentions of the new core requirement is to have the researchers and experts in the area teach and discuss related topics.

Tom Stapleford (*Chairperson, Program of Liberal Studies*) agreed that the scope of the proposal seems broader than simply race and justice. He asked if the core requirement could allow for consideration of gender or sexual orientation, for example. That way, students and faculty would be encouraged to think in broader terms while keeping racial justice as a core.

Berthold Hoeckner (*Chairperson, Department of Music*) asked if it would be more effective to establish a department for the study of race, diaspora and indigeneity, similar to what the University of Chicago has developed. M. Hildreth replied that the intent of the proposed core curriculum requirement is not to limit discussion or provide certain parameters on all the things faculty and students would like to discuss.

Ann Astell (*Department of Theology*) wondered how the academic component—the theoretical and historical study of the requirement—relates to community-based learning, especially for empathy learning. For instance, will the core requirement have a connection to internships at the Center for Social Concerns? Will it include readings from Catholic Social Teaching or from magisterial teachings? D. Groody anticipated that the proposal's authors will continue to meet with various groups on campus, and, so far, the discussions have not been prescriptive. He hoped the courses would be connected to Catholic Social Teaching.

Margot Fassler (*Director, Sacred Music Program*) recalled that the document that black alumni wrote in 2020 was an incredible document. She suggested that it is important to talk about gender, especially with regard to current students who are applying to our programs. She asked about the resources that gay students have on campus. M. Hildreth mentioned that the proposal's authors are reaching out to a variety of student groups. D. Groody reiterated that the College Council's discussion on this day is just the beginning of the campus-wide discussion, and he asked for comments in email format.

### **Tech Ethics Minor**

Kirsten Martin (*Director, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center*) and Warren von Eschenbach (*Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Notre Dame Technology Ethics Center*) presented a proposal for an [Interdisciplinary Technology Ethics Minor](#). They presented the salient points of the proposal for the College Council's consideration.

R. Goulding offered his support for the proposal, noting that the proposal does a good job at expressing the more technical and ethical aspects in comparison to the broader social focus of the Interdisciplinary Minor of Science, Technology, and Values [STV]. He shared a concern found on page 3, indicating that the STV minor by itself would not provide enough preparation for related graduate studies.

Ann Astell observed that the Theology course listed on page 6 has the word “tentative” next to it, because it depends on whether or not Gerald McKenney (*Department of Theology*) will teach it.

S. Mustillo asked for a vote to approve the proposal for the Interdisciplinary Technology Ethics Minor.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

### **Sheedy Family Programming**

Mary Flannery (*Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies*) announced a program in [Economy, Enterprise, and Society](#). She announced the program simply for informational purposes, not for a College Council vote. The program will begin in the fall 2022. Paul Blaschko (*Department of Philosophy*) is the director, and he is beginning to advertise and recruit. M. Flannery went over salient aspects of the proposal. Its purpose is to help bridge the study of business and the liberal arts. It is a program and not another minor. There is a required gateway course and a required ethics course. Students have to be admitted to the program. There was an informational meeting on February 28, 2022, and M. Flannery reported that students were excited about having a deeper understanding of business.

S. Mustillo stated that another key component is an honors track for the program as well as a senior thesis and some honors courses. There is an advisory board.

E. McDonnell asked if the required courses could count toward the students’ primary majors. M. Flannery confirmed that the courses could also count toward a major, elaborating that the courses could likely count for a philosophy course or theology course for the core. The program will be flexible to fill other requirements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

S. Mustillo adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Zyniewicz  
Dean’s Executive Administrator