Minutes of the Faculty  
College of Arts and Science  
September 16, 2014

Interim Dean John Sloop called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 200 faculty members were in attendance.

1. **Appointment of the Arts and Science Parliamentarian.**

Dean Sloop appointed Professor Malcolm Getz as Parliamentarian of the Faculty for 2014-2015. His appointment was approved by acclamation and applause.

2. **Update from News and Communications.**

Melanie Moran, associate director of Vanderbilt News and Communications, explained that her office is part of the Division of Public Affairs, which is the primary external media relations and communications office for Vanderbilt. She encouraged faculty members to share news about their research and accomplishments with Public Affairs; to do so, please call 322-NEWS (2706) or write to news@vanderbilt.edu Her office helps faculty members distribute information to the broader community by distributing research news and opinion pieces and by matching the expertise of faculty members to incoming media calls and requests. In this way, Public Affairs could then produce breaking news stories, videos, social media messages, and website updates. She emphasized that Public Affairs does not charge for its services. Ms. Moran also explained that News and Communications produces MyVU twice a week, supports web communications for Vanderbilt, and publishes alumni and staff newsletters.

Donna Pritchett, the art director for creative services in Vanderbilt’s Public Affairs office, explained that she provides photographic services to help support news stories and for other public relations purposes. She said that this year photographs of A&S classrooms and labs will be taken for future use in stories, press releases, and websites.

Dean Sloop added that News and Communications provides a valuable service for the university by distributing scholarship to the community. They are constantly looking for news stories, and this is an important way for departments, and especially department chairs, to spread news about their research and developments.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of May 6, 2014.**

There were no comments or questions, and the Minutes were approved.
4. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting of September 2, 2014.

Professor Beth Conklin, Chair of Faculty Council, explained that at the September Council meeting Dean Sloop asked Council members for their input into the kind of information that would be helpful to include in the annual State of the College Address, which will be presented at a faculty meeting later this fall. In the discussion that followed, Council members expressed concern about: 1) the problems and issues of sexual assault, physical violence, racial stereotyping, and alcohol abuse on campus; 2) top-down decision making at Vanderbilt and communication between the Vanderbilt administration and academic departments and programs; and 3) attendance at A&S faculty meetings and participation in the broader intellectual community, and the mentoring of junior faculty members. There were no questions or comments about the Minutes.

5. Executive Motion Calendar: First reading—Proposed revision of the A&S Rules and Procedures for Faculty Appointments, Renewals, Promotions, and Tenure.

Professor Conklin explained that this agenda item is the first reading of a proposed revision of the A&S Rules and Procedures, and, consequently, no action is needed on it at this meeting. The key change in the proposed revision, she continued, is the addition of sections related to the new rank of Principal Senior Lecturer for non-tenure track faculty members. In order to implement the decision by the A&S faculty two years ago to approve the new Principal Senior Lecturer rank, the Rules and Procedures needs to be revised. There are several other minor changes to the document as well. Dean Sloop further explained that the language in the new Principal Senior Lecturer sections mostly replicate the language in the Lecturer and Senior Lecturer sections. If the revision of the Rules and Procedures are approved by the A&S faculty, Senior Lecturers can be appointed Principal Senior Lecturers (PSL) next year for those persons who have completed two consecutive three-year terms as Senior Lecturer and who are up for renewal next spring. Principal Senior Lecturers would be appointed for a term of up to five years.

Professor Bisch, chair of the Mathematics department, expressed two concerns about the proposed revision of the Rules and Procedures. First, he suggested that the proposed new sentence added to III.B.2. be deleted, which specifies the kinds of documentation required to support a candidate’s application for Senior Lecturer (“peer observations, syllabi assessments, student evaluations, and examination review”). These documents have never been part of a Senior Lecturer’s file before and departments have not been required to collect these kinds of information by the Rules and Procedures before, he argued, and consequently the reason for including this requirement in the proposed revision is not clear. Even if these documents are required or requested by the Guidelines for Recommendations for Promotions and Reappointments, he explained that the Rules and Procedures and the Guidelines are different kinds of documents—the former is analogous to a code of law and the latter is a set of guidelines to help implement the former. He would thus be more comfortable if the Rules and Procedures did not include the sentence requiring departments to include specific kinds of documentation in
candidates’ files. Second, Professor Bisch expressed concern about the proposed new sentence in III.A.3. that states that Principal Senior Lecturers are eligible to serve on college-level committees. Several Senior Lecturers in the Mathematics department already serve on college-level committees, yet the proposed new sentence has not been added to the relevant Senior Lecturer section, which would imply that they are not eligible to serve on such committees. Of the two alternatives, Professor Bisch said that he would prefer that the proposed sentence be removed from the Principal Senior Lecturer section rather than added to the Senior Lecturer section.

Gary Jaeger, Director of the Writing Studio, expressed concern that the Rules and Procedures does not specify the role of the director of an administrative unit in cases where one of his or her full-time staff persons is also up for renewal as a Senior Lecturer in a department or program. The Rules and Procedures appears to indicate that the decision rests entirely with the relevant department chair or program director, he continued, but in practice he has had some say in the decision-making process. In such situations, he and the department chair did not know how the process was going to work and where to look for guidance. In response, Dean Sloop and Melissa Wocher, Assistant to the Dean, stated that there are two separate processes: the staff person is primarily appointed to an administrative unit as recommended by its director and that person’s Senior Lecturer appointment is recommended by the relevant department chair or program director. Yet the Dean’s Office tries to coordinate these two processes. This question applies to a very small subset of persons, they continued, whereas the Rules and Procedures is a set of general rules for all faculty members. Dean Sloop and Ms. Wocher also stated that A&S does not have any guidelines for administrative appointments; the Senior Associate Dean for Faculty could work on developing such a document.

Dean Sloop stated that he would talk with Professor Bisch to discuss his concerns and that he would bring the proposed revision of the Rules and Procedures back to Faculty Council for its response to the questions raised in this discussion.

6. Approval of the Candidates for Degrees at the end of the Summer Semester, August 8, 2014.

Associate Dean Roger Moore moved that the faculty of the College of Arts and Science recommend to the Board of Trust that it confer upon these candidates their degrees (a list of degree candidates is attached to these Minutes). His motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

7. Introduction of new Arts and Science Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

Each newly appointed Arts and Science tenured or tenure-track faculty member was introduced to the faculty by his or her department chair or representative. A list of the new tenured and tenure-track faculty members is attached to these Minutes.

In addition, Senior Associate Dean Vicki Greene introduced Marion Pratt, the new A&S Grants Resource Officer for the humanities and social sciences.
8. Recognition of Significant Faculty Service Anniversaries.

Dean Sloop recognized faculty members for their significant faculty service anniversaries: Having served 20 years at Vanderbilt are Senior Associate Dean Senta Victoria Greene; Professors Lenn Goodman, Ralph McKenzie, Sokrates Pantelides, Mark Wollaeger, and David Wood; Research Assistant Professor Tetsuya Mori; and Senior Lecturers Stephen Buckles and Shawn Phillips; having served 25 years are Associate Dean Russell McIntire; Professors Michael Bess, Joel Harrington, Jeffrey Schall, and Andrew Tomarken; and Research Assistant Professor Iwona Stepniewska; having served 30 years are Professors Arthur Demarest, Richard Haglund, Matthew Ramsey, Philip Rasico, Bubba Singleton, Michael Stone, Norman Tolk, Barbara Tsakirgis, Steven Tschantz, Thomas Weiler, and Daoxing Xia; having served 35 years is Professor Volney Gay; having served 40 years is Professor John Ahner; and having served 50 years is Professor Akunuri Ramayya. The faculty applauded all of these individuals for their dedicated service to Vanderbilt.

9. Announcements and updates from Senior Associate Dean Karen Campbell.

Dean Campbell stated that the undergraduate teaching and advising awards will be presented at the December A&S Faculty Meeting. More nominations for these awards are needed, and Dean Campbell announced that she has extended the deadline for nominations to October 31. Dean Sloop suggested that departments and programs have one person solely responsible for identifying faculty members who would be good candidates for these awards and then have other faculty members write the letters of recommendation and collect information in support of the selected candidates.

Dean Campbell reported that work is continuing on the four-digit course renumbering project. To help ease the task of implementing this complex project by fall 2015, she said that departments and programs will be asked to revise their Catalog copy earlier this year than usual.

Dean Campbell also reported that the centralization of registrar’s offices in the Office of the University Registrar (URO) is still a work in progress—there is some flux in the URO as to who is responsible for what tasks. Michael Muise and Molly Thompson have moved to the URO from the A&S Registrar’s Office, while Racquel Goff and Lisa Wright continue to work for the A&S Dean’s Office in the newly constituted Office of Academic Services in Kirkland 311. Questions about these changes may be directed to Dean Campbell, Ms. Goff, or Ms. Wright.

Dean Campbell invited new faculty members to attend an orientation session, which will begin immediately after this meeting in Wilson 126.

10. Original Motion Calendar.

No issues were raised.
11. **Good of the College.**

Professor Vivien Fryd and Associate Dean Martin Rapisarda announced that a new exhibition has opened at the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery in Cohen Memorial Hall, *I am Unbeatable*, which addresses the issue of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The exhibition presents photographs by Donna Ferrato, who documents survivors of domestic abuse, and is linked with this year’s Commons reading, *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward. The exhibit and the Commons reading are intended to help expand the discussion of these important topics on campus this year. Professor Fryd and Dean Rapisarda invited everyone to visit the exhibition and participate in the discussions related to these issues.

12. **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Gill,
Secretary of the Faculty