Dean Lauren Benton called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. in Wilson Hall 103. Approximately 70 faculty members were in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of April 19, 2016.

There were no comments or questions, and the Minutes were approved.

2. Update from the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center.

Kenny Moore introduced himself as the director of the Vanderbilt Recreation and Wellness Center (VRWC). He stated that the VRWC continually strives to improve its facilities and services, and he urged faculty members to take advantage of them. Marilyn Holmes, associate director of the VRWC, explained that several types of membership to the Recreation Center are available, including summer memberships, all of which may be paid by faculty members’ Go for the Gold wellness credits. She emphasized that faculty members have their own locker space at the Recreation Center, with showers, commodes, and sinks, and explained that early mornings are relatively quiet times for faculty and staff members to use the facilities. Ms. Holmes reminded faculty members that the VRWC has two fitness floors, three tracks (two of which are indoor), a bowling alley, a pool, and the city’s only squash courts. Moreover, the VRWC offers outdoor adventure trips; yoga, dance, and swim classes; massages; wellness programs; and youth programs, including Camp Vandy.

In response to a question, Ms. Holmes stated that the VRWC no longer offers scuba lessons, although they will consider offering them again in the future. She invited faculty members to send other comments or questions about the VRWC to Kenny or her. The faculty thanked Mr. Moore and Ms. Holmes for their information.

3. Approval of the Candidates for Degrees at the end of the spring semester, May 13, 2016.

Associate Dean Roger Moore presented corrections to the preliminary list of degree candidates that was distributed with the agenda material for this meeting. He then moved (1) that the faculty of the College of Arts and Science recommend to the Board of Trust that this list of candidates, as amended, be awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees on Friday, May 13, 2016; and (2) that a copy of the final official Commencement Program, as approved by the Registrar and the Dean of the College of Arts and Science, be appended to these minutes as a record of the actions of this faculty in recommending candidates for degrees and in awarding honors, prizes, and medals. His motions were seconded, and the
Faculty unanimously approved them. Faculty members applauded the graduates for their accomplishments.

Dean Benton thanked Deans Karen Campbell and Roger Moore for their work compiling and reviewing the list of undergraduate candidates for degrees. Dean Campbell in turn thanked Lisa Wright, Academic Services Coordinator in the A&S Dean’s Office, for her excellent work in this regard.

4. Review of the Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting of April 5, 2016, pending approval of the Faculty Council.

Dean Benton, in the absence of Professors Tiffany Tung and Laura Carpenter, chair and secretary respectively of the A&S Faculty Council, asked if there were any comments or questions about the Council Minutes or the Council-approved new and revised course descriptions; there were none.

5. Executive Motion Calendar.

From the Committee on Educational Programs:
Proposed revision of the Medicine, Health and Society major and minor.
Proposed revision of the Neuroscience major, minor, and honors program.
Proposed revision of the Women’s and Gender Studies major and minor.
Proposed revision of the Economics and History major.
Proposed creation of a Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BCB) major and honors program.

There were no comments or questions about the proposed revisions. The A&S faculty then approved all of the proposed revisions to A&S undergraduate programs as a group.

6. Announcement of the Professors Emeriti.

Dean Benton announced that seven A&S Faculty Emeriti have been appointed: Michael L. Aurbach, Professor of Art, Emeritus; Karen E. Campbell, Professor of Sociology, Emerita; Philip S. Crooke III, Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus; Dennis G. Hall, Professor of Physics and Dean of the Graduate School, Emeritus; Michael P. Kreyling, Professor of English, Emeritus; Volker E. Oberacker, Professor of Physics, Emeritus; and John F. Plummer III, Professor of English, Emeritus. She noted that these faculty members have a combined 247 years of service to Vanderbilt. The faculty congratulated each of these colleagues.

7. Announcement of the Professors Retired.

Dean Benton announced that four A&S Faculty Retired have been appointed: John H. English, Senior Lecturer in Communications Studies, Retired; Peter Guralnick, Writer in Residence, Retired; Raquel Rincón, Senior Lecturer in Spanish, Retired; and Margaret
Setje-Eilers, Professor of German, Retired. The faculty congratulated each of these colleagues.

8. Announcement of New Officers of the 2016-17 A&S Faculty Council.

Dean Benton reported that David Weintraub, professor of astronomy, has been elected chair of Faculty Council, and John McLean, Stevenson Professor of Chemistry, has been elected secretary of Faculty Council for 2016-17. The faculty applauded both of these colleagues.

9. Original Motion Calendar.

No issues were raised.

10. Good of the College.

Dean Benton thanked everyone for a happy and productive year. She stated that A&S had an extraordinarily effective year at faculty recruitment—there have been 19 new faculty hires, on only 21 offers, across A&S ranks and academic divisions. Moreover, of these 19 hires, 6 persons self-identify as members of underrepresented groups. Faculty retention has been good as well, she said.

Dean Benton thanked Cindy Kam, senior associate dean for faculty, for her collegiality and leadership in the dean’s office, and thanked Karen Campbell, senior associate dean for undergraduate education, for her significant contributions during the five years she has been in the dean’s office (Deans Kam and Campbell will be leaving the dean’s office this summer). The faculty congratulated Dean Benton on her successful first year as dean of the College of Arts and Science.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Driskill,
A&S Secretary of the Faculty