



11. **ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF MORAL SCIENCES – COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES DEAN, J.P. JONES, AND CENTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF FREEDOM DIRECTOR, DAVID SCHMIDTZ**

Schmidtz explained that political economy and philosophy saw a separation in the mid-1800's, followed by a separation of political science and economics in the late 1800's, as economists developed mathematics tools for modeling supply and demand. Today, the specialization is trained in the analytic tradition, working with language of necessary truths and necessary conditions, a resemblance of geometry rather than science, moral philosophy is becoming increasingly limited in its implications for real-world, moral questions. Debates with economic, political, or social dimensions have become unresolvable, as dueling intuitions. Is the behavioral principle rational? Yes, in a mathematical model designed to crank out theorems. For human beings whose characters are outcomes of their choices, not only makers of their choices, at some point, we can respond to evidence, look for correlations, and embrace the risk of disconfirming predictions and hypotheses. The name Moral Sciences suggests a Scottish enlightenment tradition with which will be continuous with the intellectual position of the proposed unit. The name signals a political theory and economic history, plus a synthesis in reintegration that goes far beyond. Faculty will be sought for the new department whose interests are dedicated to these types of projects. UA is ranked the number one Political Philosophy program in the world, and it is the only University listed in the Group One category. The Department of Philosophy faculty feel that adding the new department will enhance the current cordial relations already existent in the department, and that rededicating the tenure and curriculum homes will reintegrate philosophy and social science. Senator Fink asked for clarification on the anticipated size of the department. Jones responded that with the current funding, the intention is to create a search for three new faculty members, and the Center for Philosophy of Freedom has four faculty members who will move in to the new department, and an additional two faculty members. There will also be part-time appointments to reflect the teaching contributions from other departments such as Political Science, Economics and Agricultural Economics. Schmidtz responded to a question regarding efforts to get the word out and testing the market in this area, and stated that efforts are not only being made communally, but also aiming to reach out nationally and internationally. The Philosophy, Politics and Economic (PPE) major has approximately 200 students enrolled, with anticipated growth. As an aside, the University of Maryland had a tenure-track position opening for Philosophy/Business, and all four finalists were students from the UA program. Bourget asked about the ranking of the department being threatened with the appointment of part-time faculty. Philosophy Department Head, Michael Gill, responded that none of the faculty in the Department of Philosophy will be leaving the department, they will have joint appointments. The ranking will not be affected, only enlarging the Department of Philosophy. Current faculty will have joint appointments, new hires will be designated in the new department. Brewer called the question. **[Motion 2017/18-06]** passed with nine abstentions, and is detailed at the end of these minutes.

12. **INFORMATION ITEM: REMARKS BY PRESIDENT ROBERT C. ROBBINS**

Nadel took this time to thank Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate, Michael Brewer, for his service as Chair of the Faculty during Nadel's sabbatical. Robbins thanked Nadel in his capacity as advisor, and Comrie in his capacity as Provost for his support. Robbins reiterated that he will undertake a University-wide strategic planning process that is already underway. Third-party facilitators will be consulted, and Robbins anticipates that the process will take twelve to fifteen months. The deans and department chairs will be an integral part of the process, as well as SPBAC and Faculty Senate. Robbins met with the Mayor of Tucson regarding the Honors College developments, and everything seems to be headed in the right direction to move to ABOR in September 2017 with construction starting in November 2017. An executive search firm has been selected for the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences vacancy, and a search committee is being assembled. Executive search firms and search committees are being implemented to start with the process of filling the vacancy for Senior Vice President for Marketing and Communications. The Veterinary Medical School is moving forward, and the UA is anticipating accreditation in the near future. Robbins mentioned before taking questions, that he supports Classified Staff gaining a voting seat on the Faculty Senate, and with his experience, have always been an underrepresented segment of the University. Robbins mentioned that he believes that the Faculty Senate at the UA already exemplifies the idea of a University Senate.

Senator Duran asked President Robbins about his perspective on the recommendations set forth by the Diversity Task Force last year. Robbins said he met with Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence and Senior Diversity Officer, Jesús Treviño, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, Melissa Vito, and Senior Vice President for Business Affairs, Gregg Goldman, and the sensitivity is whether or not to make the recommendations publicly available. Robbins would like to revisit the student groups to find out what has been addressed, and what needs to be addressed. Robbins considers diversity a core aspect of the UA, and has made a commitment for quarterly meetings with department chairs that address issues associated with diversity. Robbins will prepare a report in short order to address the issues that were raised by the marginalized students. M. Witte asked about the Honors Undergraduate Student Research Program started in the mid-1980's. The program was a collaborative agreement between the Research Policy Committee and the Administration, and offered \$30,000 per year to provide research scholarships across campus. The program was discontinued two years ago. Witte would like to know if \$30,000 can be reallocated to continue the program. Robbins

**[Motion 2017/18-03]** Motion to approve the proposal from Classified Staff Council to add an *ex officio* voting seat in Faculty Senate. Motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

**[Motion 2017/18-04]** Motion to add an *ex officio* voting seat in Faculty Senate for Postdoctoral Scholar representation. Motion failed.

**[Motion 2017/18-05]** Seconded motion from Undergraduate Council to approve the Undergraduate Minor in Educational Psychology. Motion passed.

**[Motion 2017/18-06]** Motion to approve the Request to Establish a new Department of Moral Sciences. Motion was seconded and passed with nine abstentions.

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