Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Princeton University Community held December 10, 2012 in 010 East Pyne. Present were Council members Ms. Alivisatos, Prof. Bhatt, Ms. Bui, Mr. Burd, Ms. Cherrey, Mr. Cook, Prof. Davis, Mr. Diskin, Ms. Doyle, Ms. Durden, Mr. Durkee, Mr. Easop, Provost Eisgruber, Prof. Harman, Dr. Hourihane, Ms. Kim, Mr. Kugelmass, Mr. Maisel, Dr. Matthies, Mr. McDonough, Prof. Morel, Dr. Neglia, Mr. Okuda-Lim, Mr. Riley, Prof. Rivett, Mr. Robertson, Ms. Scott, Mr. Stolzenberg, President Tilghman (chair), Ms. Wright, Prof. Wysocki, Dr. Yao, and Mr. Zhu; Ms. Halliday was secretary.

The President called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., and the roll was called. She asked for and received approval of the minutes of the November 12 meeting.

Question and Answer Session

An alumni member of the Council, Mr. Robertson ’91, noted that University Archives no longer plans to accept and keep on file senior theses in other than electronic format. He described his own view of the significance of the bound thesis as a physical representation of the culmination of an undergraduate’s work at Princeton. He asked if the decision could be reviewed in light of the meaning of the thesis to generations of undergraduates. The President replied that due to the lateness of the submission of the question (that afternoon), she would ask that further information be gained from University librarians and the question answered outside of the meeting. [In a subsequent conversation between Mr. Robertson and University Archivist Daniel Linke, Mr. Linke verified for Mr. Robertson that archival shelf space is at a premium, and the cost in staff time of storing paper copies of the theses is significant, and these considerations did enter into the decision to move entirely to an electronic format. He also noted that since the 1990s Archives does not keep bound volumes but rather stores the theses as loose paper sheets in folders. He explained that storing them electronically offers much greater access both to students on campus who wish to view them while writing their own theses and for scholars off campus who wish to consult them. In addition the electronic version of the theses has the significant advantage of providing a searchable format.]

Introduction of the Dean of the School of Architecture

As is customary when new deans are appointed, the President took the opportunity to introduce the new dean of the school of architecture, Alejandro Zaera-Polo, who assumed his position this July. She described his background in his native Spain, then at Harvard and his training with the internationally acclaimed architect Rem Koolhas. He is founder of an architecture firm, FOA, and is recognized as a leading critic as well as for his architectural projects. Dean Zaera-Polo described these first few months as a learning experience, about the school and how it fits into the University community. He described the unusual efforts at Princeton for the School of Architecture to build connections among disciplines, and pointed to the role of architecture as a bridge between the humanities and the sciences because the School includes a professional accreditation program, has a long history of furthering knowledge of history and theory; and has strong connections to engineering and technology and urban studies. He mentioned the Andlinger Center as providing a new area of collaborative study. He invited the audience to send him ideas.
Report from Career Services

Beverly Hamilton-Chandler, Director of Career Services, and her colleagues then presented information about the Office of Career Services and its current activities and initiatives [please see the attached PDF document and visit the office’s website for in-depth information about their programs and initiatives: http://www.princeton.edu/career/index.xml]. The discussion was wide-ranging and included information about assistance the office provides to undergraduate and graduate students and alumni. The office has experienced a marked increase in visits (up 41% over the past 3 years). Recommendations from a 2010 external review are now being put into place and include significant outreach improvements to all students so that they are aware of the full range of opportunities the office offers; and increased alumni engagement with students. She noted that the number of alumni seeking help has grown exponentially, especially in the first five years after graduation. The office continues to strengthen assistance to students before they graduate who wish to explore career routes through internship programs, and alumni have been helpful there as well as in offering seminars to introduce students to professional fields. Their work with non-profits to increase opportunities for students continues also to be a high priority.

Amy Pszczolkowski described the special responsibility she has to help graduate students to consider career paths both inside and outside the academy. Career Servicers’ programs include organizing panel discussions and focus groups to talk about common concerns; and transition programs. Eva Kubu gave an overview of communication efforts ranging from in-person consultation at Frist to e-newsletters to connections through social media outlets. The goal is to provide personalized services that can be accessed 24/7.

Ms. Hamilton-Chandler concluded by outlining future action steps which include expanding the sophomore outreach to build on successful programs with freshmen and continued efforts to increase communication, across campus and through social media.

President Tilghman thanked Ms. Hamilton-Chandler and her colleagues for their clear and comprehensive report. Discussion followed and included the comments below.

- Graduate students asked about help bridging the time between finishing degree requirements at Princeton and finding an academic placement. It was noted that they can make use of the job listings board, and that the office is placing emphasis on outreach to alumni about short-term projects.
- The office’s efforts to get reliable information from students about achieving their career goals were described and include the survey at senior checkout. It was confirmed that after 6 months, 85% report having achieved their post-graduation goals.
- Ms. Hamilton-Chandler described the ways that Princeton works with other Ivy League institutions on benchmarking and best practices.
- The recent increase in the office’s staff has helped the office in outreach to students and also to academic departments and their efforts to make them active partners with Career Services.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Halliday
Secretary