

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 11, 2003
4:10 p.m. Room 140 Frist Hall, Nursing School

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Call to Order

Remembering September 11, 2001
Kate Daniels, Department of English

Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2003

Introduction of the Executive Committee and new Senators

Report of the Executive Committee
Matthew Ramsey, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Chancellor E. Gordon Gee

Standing committee reports

Committee charges for 2003-2004

Academic Policies and Services (John Oates, chair)

Faculty Life (Bart Victor, chair)

Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom (John McCarthy, chair)

Senate Affairs (Beth Conklin, chair)

Student Life (Robert Innes, chair)

Old business

New business

Motion to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Virginia Shepherd, Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Reception

Voting Members present: Adams, Barz, Benbow, Casagrande, Christie, Conklin, Cummings, Eigen, Ellingham, Ely, Farran, Flake, Fleetwood, Fogo, Galloway, Gay, Goldfarb, Greene, Griffin, Hawiger, Heflinger, Heyneman, Hodges, Horn, Innes, Link, Masulis, McCarthy, McCarty, McGill, Morrow, Neff, Oates, Osheroff, Paschal, Perkins, Ramsey, Saff, Sasson, Sevin, Strauss, Summar, Swift, Syverud, Tellinghuisen, Thompson, Washington, Wcislo

Voting Members absent: Bess (regrets), Conway-Welch, Gabbe, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), LeBoeuf (regrets), Peebles (regrets), Smith, Victor (regrets), Wait (regrets)

Ex Officio Members present: Barge, Gee, Gherman, Hall, Outlaw, Schoenfeld, Shepherd, Spruill, Williams, Zeppos

Ex Officio Members absent: Brisky (regrets), Goldring, Jacobson (regrets), Limbird, Perfetto, Spitz



The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Matthew Ramsey.

In memory of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Professor Kate Daniels of the Department of English read a commemorative poem.

With the reading's conclusion, Chair Ramsey welcomed those present and quickly reviewed the agenda. He also requested any changes to the Minutes of May 5, 2003. With none, the Minutes were approved.

Next Item on Agenda – Introduction of Executive Committee Members & New Senators

Chair Ramsey introduced the members of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate: Secretary Dale Farran, Peabody College; Chair-elect Bob Thompson, Law School; Secretary-elect Marshall Summar, School of Medicine; Immediate Past Chair Ginny Shepherd, School of Medicine; and, Immediate Past Secretary Ellen Goldring, Peabody College.

Chair Ramsey then introduced the 16 new senators, noting that Senate membership is renewed by 1/3 each year. The new members are:

School of Nursing:	Susie Adams
Divinity School:	Kathleen Flake
Peabody College:	Craig Anne Heflinger
School of Engineering:	Peter Cummings, Eugene LeBoeuf
Blair School of Music:	Greg Barz (re-elected)
College of Arts & Science:	Sara Eigen, John McCarthy (re-elected), Dieter Sevin, Michael Hodges, Mark Ellingham, Helmut Smith
School of Medicine:	Stokes Peebles, Vivien Casagrande, Kay Washington, Marie Griffin

Next Item on Agenda – Brief Overview of the Senate and Its Duties

Chair Ramsey noted that the Senate handles a great deal of work, and it has increasingly helped shape University policies. He recommended that for a full account of the design and functions of the Senate and its five-standing committees, senators refer to their notebooks, which were given to all senators upon their arrival at the meeting.

Chair Ramsey noted that the Senate has only one actual statutory power, which is to prove honorary degrees. Unfortunately, the University awards no honorary degrees. He continued by noting that under the University Code of By-Laws and the Faculty Constitution, “The Faculty Senate is the representative, deliberative, legislative body of the Faculties. The Senate may discuss and express its views about any matter affecting the University, and the Senate shall have the power to review, and evaluate the educational policies and practices of the University. They make recommendations concerning them to any individual, faculty or other group within the University.” He suggested that these responsibilities highlight the importance of the Senate’s work and its role in discussing policy matters. The Senate’s success in performing this work depends on the partnership between faculty and administration.

Chair Ramsey noted that in an arrangement, which is unusual among Faculty Senates, the Deans of the schools and colleges are full-voting members and the Chancellor and other administrative officers participate as ex-officio members. He shared that the Executive Committee meets regularly with the Chancellor, and with Provost Zeppos and the Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs Jacobson. The committee also meets with other senior administrators as needed.

Chair Ramsey shared four changes that will occur during this academic year.

1. Danielle Mezera, Chief of Staff, will be leaving the Senate in the next several weeks. Her successor will start in October.
2. In order to help further the Senate’s agenda, several of the standing committees will implement a little known provision in the Constitution that allows for the creation of special task forces within the committees. These task forces, in addition to regular committee members, will include ex-officio members of the Senate and non-senators who can contribute special expertise in the areas of concern.
3. At regular Senate meetings, there will be a drastic reduction in the number of presentations in order to allow more time for the Senate to conduct business and to discuss issues.
4. Due to a recently approved amendment to the Constitution, the Senate will hold at least one special meeting a year for elected members only.

Chair Ramsey noted that the Executive Committee handled several matters over the summer recess. The committee met regularly with the Chancellor, and with the Provost and the Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs. The committee also presented position papers and reports to University administration on the following issues: conflict of interest disclosure forms, classified research policy, and the faculty awards nomination and selection process.

Chair Ramsey noted that on August 13th, the Executive Committee held a mini-retreat with the chairs of the standing committees to finalize the agenda for the coming year. Associate Provost Dennis Hall attended briefly to answer questions about graduate education and the Academic Venture Capital Fund. A separate meeting with Provost Zeppos and Vice Chancellor Jacobson was held on September 2nd to discuss the schedule for the Senate’s various charges.

Chair Ramsey opened the floor for questions.

Question: (Senator Jacek Hawiger) – You mentioned that honorary degrees can be granted, but the University is not awarding them?

Response: (Chair Ramsey) – Yes, for many years the University has not awarded honorary degrees. But if it did, it would require the approval of the Faculty Senate.

Follow-up Question: (Senator Hawiger) – What if we would like to begin awarding these degrees?

Follow-up Response: (Chair Ramsey) – If there is interest among senators or among any of the faculty, it should be conveyed to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Question: (Senator Victoria Greene) – Will the task forces be formed by the standing committee chairs?

Response: (Chair Ramsey) – The task forces have already been formed in consultation with the committee chairs. Each task force will have a chair who will be either a member of the committee or a non-Senator. Each task force will report to its parent committee.

Next item on the agenda – Remarks from Chancellor Gee

Chancellor Gee extended his welcome to all senators. He also extended his appreciation to the officers of the Senate for their hard work and for tackling the challenges of this term. He noted that the Executive Committee wished him to touch on his personal mission statement for the university, which was unveiled at the Fall Faculty Assembly. He said that he welcomes any comments about the statement.

Chancellor Gee then stated that there were four topics that he would like to touch on: (1) residential colleges, (2) the Academic Venture Capital Fund (AVCF), (3) graduate education, and (4) the restructuring of the Department of Athletics. He stated that the residential college issue was of paramount importance to the University and that the faculty have played (and will continue to play) a crucial role in its development. He noted that the question at hand right now was where to begin – what should be the first college and where. He stated that the economy has played a role in the University's fundraising efforts and has affected fundraising for the residential colleges initiative. He spotlighted a pilot effort to increase faculty and student interactions. The program, overseen by Associate Provost Susan Barge, involves pairing faculty with freshman residence halls. The faculty members are given a stipend for monthly dinners with the students. He expects this program to grow each year and will serve as a precursor for residential colleges.

Chancellor Gee stated that the Academic Venture Capital Fund (AVCF) has been a tremendous boon to the intellectual life of the University. He noted that a new AVCF support initiative had just been approved – The Vanderbilt Scientific Computing Center, which will be led by three faculty members: Associate Professor Paul Sheldon, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Assistant Professor Jason Moore, Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics; and Professor Ronald Schrimpf, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

This approval brings the number of AVCF centers to eleven. Gee recognized that having committed nearly all of the Fund's resources, the administration has decided to

temporarily halt the initiative. During this time, various groups will assess its effectiveness and that of the centers it has funded. It will also serve as a time to replenish the Fund so that it can serve as an evergreen fund.

Chancellor Gee then addressed graduate education. He noted that as a result of waiving application fees and implementing a new campus-wide online application process, the University received 6,924 applications for graduate study in 2003. This number was nearly twice the number received in 2002. The University extended 822 offers of admission. Of those, 437 were accepted. Though the application process was electronic, references and transcripts were accepted in paper form, which created some disruptions. The online application working group is taking steps to try smooth out the process further. He noted that Roberta Bell has been hired as associate director for institutional research and will focus on graduate and professional education. She will work with other key administrators to develop strategies and tools to attract the most talented graduate and professional students.

Chancellor Gee stated that Provost Zeppos and his staff have been reviewing the recommendations submitted by last year's graduate education task force, and Provost Zeppos is close to releasing a plan of action, as well as addressing the issue of resources. He expressed his confidence that faculty would be very pleased with the Provost's plan of action.

Chancellor Gee then discussed the restructuring of the athletics program, which was announced earlier in the week. He provided an overview of the rationale and structure of the new department, which will incorporate health and wellness and intramural sports. He noted that most of his peers are taking a wait and see approach. But, he recognizes that in order to begin the process of real change and reform in collegiate athletics someone needed to be the first out of the gate.

Chancellor Gee opened the floor for questions:

Question: (Senator Joel Tellinghuisen) – Could you elaborate on what the change in the athletics department really means?

Response: (Chancellor Gee) – It will mean the total integration of our athletic operation – facilities and academics – and a movement back to what it used to be. We want our student-athletes to experience collegiate life close up not from an isolated distance. The restructuring also means the integration all of sports facilities.

Question: (Senator Doug Perkins) – Why does it seem that our SEC peers are opposed to this integration?

Response: (Chancellor Gee) – The other SEC presidents receive a lot of pressure in a variety of ways. I'm not saying they're opposed to what we did – unfortunately, it would be very difficult right now for them to implement what we did. And, that is the problem. The presidents of the universities in Division I-A schools have gotten themselves in a conundrum where they no longer control athletics, and that goes to the heart of the matter.

Question: (Senator John McCarthy) – While this move will position us further as a leader in the intellectual athletic realm, what is this going to do to our recruiting efforts?

Response: (Chancellor Gee) – I met with the coaches today and we talked about that very subject. They recognize that other schools may use this against us; however, I believe that if we have the chance to share with the recruits and their parents what we are really after, then I challenge any other school to recruit against us on that basis. Some editorials are using the term “moral merger” to describe what we have done. I like that.

Comment: (Ginny Shepherd) – I want to share with the Senate, and I will do so later in the meeting, that there is a national movement going on right now in the faculty ranks. It is a very wonderful and exciting movement that supports collegiate athletics, but also recognizes that there is a need for strong reform.

Question: (Senator Joel Tellinghuisen) – Has there been any thought given to awarding credit to student-athletes for their road time and their weekend time, or their 20-hours a week practices?

Response: (Chancellor Gee) – I have not thought about that at all. Vice Chancellor Williams?

Comment: (Vice Chancellor Williams) – These student athletes need to be able to enjoy the intellectual and social happenings of this campus. Yes, student-athletes often do exceed their mandated 20 hours a week practice; however, the answer lies with us in not allowing that to happen.

Comment: (Chancellor Gee) – The bottom line is we’re trying to stem the arms race. There’s an arms race in terms of money, there’s an arms race in terms of time, there’s an arms race in terms of compensation. I’ll be the first to say, I’m very embarrassed by the kind of salary demands that are out there for coaches.

Chair Ramsey thanked Chancellor Gee for his comments.

Next item on the agenda – Standing Committee Charges

Chair Ramsey introduced John Oates, chair of Academic Policies and Services (APS). Senator Oates reviewed his committee’s charges, including the formation of a task force on classified research. He also noted who will be serving on APS for the academic year. (View Standing Committee Charges at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/0304charges.pdf>)

After reviewing the charges, committee Chair Oates opened the floor for questions.

Question: (Dean Richard McCarty) – Could you elaborate on the last sentence under the AVCF charge? [The sentence in question: “One key issue will be how to deal with initiatives in the humanities and nonquantitative social sciences.”]

Response: (Chair Ramsey) – This was an issue that was discussed last year. The question was raised – how can the model that is currently being used for the AVCF better accommodate the initiatives that come from the Humanities and the non-quantitative Social Sciences? This is not to say that the current model hasn’t succeeded in funding proposals in these areas. However, as the chancellor pointed out, one of the things we’re trying to do while there is a pause in funding is to examine how we did things during

phase one of the program, and how we might conceivably do things differently in the future.

Chair Ramsey concluded discussion on APS and introduced Dale Farran, Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Senator Farran filled in for Bart Victor, chair of Faculty Life, who had a family emergency. Senator Farran reviewed the committee's charges. She shared with the Senate that it was just announced that another increase in premiums and a reduction in benefits was planned for the upcoming open enrollment period. She also reported that Senator Anne Neff serves on the university committee that addresses health care benefits, and that the committee will be discussing the matter in more detail. She also noted who will be serving on Faculty Life for the academic year. (View Standing Committee Charges at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/0304charges.pdf>)

After reviewing the charges, Secretary Farran opened the floor for questions.

With no questions, Chair Ramsey introduced John McCarthy, chair of Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom (PEAF). Senator McCarthy reviewed his committee's charges, including the formation of a task force on the conflict of interest compliance form and policy, which will be chaired by Jim Blumstein, Professor of Law. He also noted who will be serving on PEAF for the academic year. (View Standing Committee Charges at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/0304charges.pdf>)

After reviewing the charges, committee Chair McCarthy opened the floor for questions.

Question: (Senator Jacek Hawiger) – I would like to ask about the policy concerning task force membership. What guidelines were used to select task force members?

Response: (Chair Ramsey) – We actually moved a few senators from various standing committees so they could serve on a certain task force within other committees. Though there was discussion of possibly having senators serve on a committee and a task force, we recognized that may be too much to ask.

Comment: (Secretary Dale Farran) – Just to share with the Senate - to increase communication between committee chairs and with the Executive Committee, monthly meetings are held to ensure that no overlap occurs.

With no more questions, Chair Ramsey introduced Beth Conklin, chair of Senate Affairs. Beth reviewed her committee's charges. She also noted who will be serving on Senate Affairs for the academic year. (View Standing Committee Charges at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/0304charges.pdf>)

After reviewing the charges, committee Chair Conklin opened the floor for questions.

Question: (Senator Jack Sasson) – I wonder if any consideration has been given to opening up Senate meetings to all faculty who wish to attend?

Response: (Chair Ramsey) – Actually, regular Senate meetings are open to all full-time faculty members.

Comment: (Senator Beth Conklin) – You are correct though that there needs to be better methods of communication to the faculty body about the Senate's work.

Follow-up Comment: (Chair Ramsey) – The Executive Committee is working on improving communication. We are going to start sending e-mails to faculty on a regular basis, which will outline what major issues will be discussed at upcoming senate meetings, as well as share what progress is being made on those issues. We are also going to discuss the possibility of having a column or a regular insert devoted to Senate happenings in The Vanderbilt Register and The VUMC Reporter. In the next week or two, there will be a story in The Register that will describe what the Senate has planned for this year. One of the things it will also talk about is the need for faculty involvement.

With no more questions, Chair Ramsey introduced Bob Innes, chair of Student Life. Bob reviewed his committee's charges. He noted that Ginny Shepherd, immediate past chair, will chair a task force on athletics. He also noted who will be serving on Student Life for the academic year. (View Standing Committee Charges at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/0304charges.pdf>)

After reviewing the charges, committee Chair Innes opened the floor for questions. With none, Chair Ramsey thanked the committee chairs.

Next on the Agenda – Old and New Business

Chair Ramsey noted that Old Business would be a motion that was introduced in a previous senate meeting, but not voted on. Noting that there was no old business, Chair Ramsey elaborated on what New Business entailed. He explained that New Business was an opportunity for any senator to introduce a formal motion; however, he stated that the Executive Committee would prefer advance notice so that it can be placed on the agenda. Having stated that, Chair Ramsey noted that the Senate did have a motion under New Business.

Chair Ramsey introduced Ginny Shepherd, immediate past chair of Faculty Senate, to discuss and vote on formal membership in the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA). Professor Shepherd briefly acknowledged the timeliness of Vanderbilt's announcement on athletics and read a statement of support by NCAA President Myles Brand. She then stated that last year as chair of the Senate she got involved in COIA. She described the mission of COIA and the partnerships it has worked to develop. (COIA website: <http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/COIA-Home.html>). She added that in order for Vanderbilt to have a greater say in the efforts of COIA, the Senate would need to vote for formal membership.

Professor Shepherd asked for a motion from the floor to vote on formal membership in COIA. After it had been made and had been seconded, Chair Ramsey opened the floor for discussion.

Question: (Senator Cynthia Paschal) – Are there any costs associated with joining? What would be our responsibility as a formal member?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – As far as I know, there is no cost. The only responsibility on our part will be to participate in their meetings. I will most likely be Vanderbilt's representative for the year. As noted in the formal recommendation

statement, we will only be voting on membership. The Coalition is formulating a formal framework on reform, which we will discuss and vote on at a later date.

Question: (Senator Jack Sasson) – So is this more along the lines of a moral force?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – I think it is more than that. COIA really wants reform to happen. I think everyone involved recognizes that if we cannot come to some sort of agreement on reform – this includes the AAUP and the NCAA – then intercollegiate athletics could implode.

Question: (Senator Jacek Hawiger) – What is this reference to a framework for reform?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – We will discuss this document at a later date. Right now we are only voting on formal membership.

Follow-up Question: (Senator Hawiger) – So you envision a two-step process?

Follow-up Response: (Professor Shepherd) – Yes. That is correct.

Question: (Senator Michael Hodges) – What if we think reform is impossible? Can we abstain from voting on this measure?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – Yes. You can abstain.

Question: (Senator Jack Sasson) – Will we have official representation once we join?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – Yes. We will have representation. COIA works through faculty senates and their leaders. I am currently on COIA's steering committee. There are about 8-10 who serve on the committee. Vanderbilt will be represented each year by the senate chair.

Question: (Senator Steve Heyneman) – So COIA membership consists of university faculty senates, not university administrations?

Response: (Professor Shepherd) – Yes. That would be correct.

Chair Ramsey closed discussion on the motion and brought the measure to formal vote by the voting members of the Senate. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was passed.

(View approved motion at:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/COIAstatement.pdf>).

Chair Ramsey then called for business under the Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he thanked the senators for their service and adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m., inviting all attendees to the Senate reception.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Farran,
Secretary