

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 10, 2004
4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall, School of Nursing

Call to Order

Presentation of Certificates of Service to third-year Senators
Recognition of Senate officers and committee and task-force chairs

Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2004

Note: the minutes can be found on the Senate Web site at:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/41504facsen.pdf>

Remarks by Matthew Ramsey, Faculty Senate Chair

Remarks by E. Gordon Gee, Chancellor

Reports and recommendations from task force and standing committees

Q&A on final reports of standing committees

See final reports here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/04reports.htm>

Committee on Academic Programs and Services (Senator John Oates, Chair)

Report and recommendation on proposed new degree program in human genetics**pending approval of Graduate School** (School of Medicine)

See the proposal here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/PhDHumGen.pdf>

Committee on Faculty Life (Senator Bart Victor, Chair)

Report and recommendation on procedures relating to changes to the *Faculty Manual*.

See recommendation here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/FacLiferec.pdf>

Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics/Committee on Student Life

Final report from the Task Force (Senator Stokes Peebles, task force chair)

See report here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/AthleticsTF04.pdf>

Motion from the Committee to thank the Task Force for its report and recommend it to the attention of the administration (Senator Robert Innes, Chair, Student Life)

Senate Affairs Committee (Senator Beth Conklin, Chair)

Interim report on a proposal to expand the membership of the Senate

Report and recommendation on a proposal to make the terms of Senate officers run from July 1 to June 30

See both reports and recommendations here:

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

Election of Officers

New Business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment to reception (in the Atrium between Frist and Godchaux Halls)

Voting Members present: Adams, Barz, Benbow, Bess, Casagrande, Conklin, Conway-Welch, Eigen, Ellingham, Ely, Farran, Fleetwood, Fogo, Gabbe, Galloway, Hawiger, Heflinger, Heyneman, Hodges, Horn, Hudnut-Beumler, Innes, Le Boeuf, McCarthy, McGill, Morrow, Neff, Paschal, Peebles, Perkins, Ramsey, Sevin, Strauss, Summar, Swift, Thompson, Victor, Washington.

Voting Members absent: Christie, Cummings, Flake, Gay (regrets), Goldfarb, Greene, Griffin, Masulis, McCarty (regrets), Oates (regrets), Osheroff (regrets), Retzlaff (regrets), Saff, Sasson, Smith, Syverud, Tellinghausen, Wait (regrets), Wcislo (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Gee, Hall.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Gherman (regrets), Goldring, Jacobson, McNamara, Outlaw, Perfetto, Schoenfeld, Shepherd (regrets), Spitz, Spruill, Williams, Zeppos.

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

Presentation of certificates to third-year senators was made by Chancellor Gee. Senate officers, committee chairs, and task force chairs were also recognized with gifts.

Minutes from 4/15/04 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda - Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Ramsey then gave the end of year report of the Senate Executive Committee. He started with a list of accomplishments including: recommendations on the grievance process for cases involving promotion/tenure/appointment and on the policy on conflicts of interest and commitment, the report on cross-school initiatives and academic investment at Vanderbilt from the Senate task force, and an interim report on classified research. He continued by saying that the Senate also recommended a set of improved procedures for selecting recipients of faculty awards, which was approved with a minor modification by the administration and is being implemented now. The Senate worked with the administration to implement the reform of the

university committee system recommended by the ad hoc Committee on Committees with a few modifications. A new master's level degree program in laboratory science has been approved and a proposed new Ph.D. program in human genetics will be considered today. The Senate also approved affiliation with the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics as well as a proposal to create a program of faculty athletic fellows. The Senate held two executive sessions for elected faculty senators only, which led to plans for a faculty survey on benefits and other job-related issues and also plans for meetings between the Senate Executive Committee and the Deans of the schools and colleges. A statement on diversity and freedom of expression was issued by the Senate, and a discussion on how the Faculty Manual gets revised has begun. Kassian Kovalcheck was appointed parliamentarian and a discussion has begun to consider changing the size and composition of the Senate membership. Finally, a vote will be held today on the proposal to change the start and end dates for the terms of senators and Senate officers.

Chair Ramsey stated that the new executive officers are already actively planning for 2004-2005. The Senate will need to reach a decision on classified research. Work will continue on the faculty survey, on the status of retired faculty and on the proposal for a faculty ombudsperson. Chair Ramsey observed that the task force model utilizing non-senators and ex officio members of the Senate has proved itself this year and will offer a useful tool for the future use of the Senate. He noted that one likely charge for such a task force next year, for example, will be to make recommendations on how the faculty manual gets revised.

Chair Ramsey encouraged senators to send their comments to the executive committee via the Senate email address (senate@vanderbilt.edu) and asked them to encourage their faculty colleagues to do the same.

Chair Ramsey asked for any questions. Hearing none, he turned the podium over to Chancellor Gee.

Next Item on the Agenda - Report from Chancellor Gee

Chancellor Gee spoke about the work of the Faculty Senate this year. First, he mentioned Chair Ramsey's hard work and diligence this year. He also recognized Secretary Farran's good work. He then welcomed Chair-elect Thompson and Secretary-elect Summar into their new positions.

Next, he turned to the importance of the process of recruiting and retaining faculty members. He said that the focus for this coming year would be to develop a fair and positive reward structure for faculty members. He also said that development of talent would be a priority for the coming year. He thanked the senators for their service, and opened the floor for questions. Hearing none, he turned the podium back to Chair Ramsey.

Next Item on the Agenda – Final Reports from Standing Committees

Chair Ramsey explained that the executive committee decided to have the chairs of the standing committees post their end-of-year reports online rather than read them aloud at the Senate meeting. Chair Ramsey asked if there were any comments or questions on these reports. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.

Next Item on the Agenda – Proposed Degree Program in Human Genetics

Chair Ramsey moved to the next agenda item—the proposed doctoral program in Human Genetics. Before moving to the presentation, he mentioned that for this portion of the meeting, the Senate will be operating under a Senate Rule that supersedes Robert’s Rules of Order; this is Article 3, Section E of the Senates Rules of Order: “the chair may, at the outset of debate on any issue announce a time limit for debate. This limit may be extended by a majority vote of the senators present and voting. He then proposed a 10-minute limit on the discussion of this report.

Chair Ramsey then recognized Senator John Oates, chair of the APS committee. Senator Oates presented the proposal for a new Ph.D. program in Human Genetics, which was reviewed and approved by the APS Committee. He said that interest in this program has already been expressed by students for the coming fall semester. He then said that the APS committee has unanimously recommended that this program be approved by the Faculty Senate.

Senator Doug Perkins asked where the Graduate School stands on the approval of this program. Chair Ramsey replied that this program has very recently been approved by the executive faculty of the Medical School. He added that it does still need to be approved by the Graduate School and so the motion asks the Senate to approve this program subject to further approval by the Graduate School. He explained that the reason for doing this is that students have already expressed an interest in starting this program in the fall, so the point is to expedite the approval process so that the program can be in place by then.

Chair Ramsey asked for further questions. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The motion was approved by a vote of 29 for, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report from Faculty Life Committee

Chair Ramsey next introduced Senator Bart Victor, chair of the Faculty Life Committee, to present a report from his committee (see the text of the report here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/FacLiferec.pdf>). Senator Victor outlined recommendations from the Faculty Life committee regarding revisions to the Faculty Manual, and noted that Chair-elect Robert Thompson has proposed a friendly amendment that gives the Senate Executive Committee more discretion when dealing with this issue. Senator Victor explained that there are many problems with the Faculty Manual—for example, there is no stated process for its revision, different parties have different ideas about the nature of the Faculty Manual, etc. He said that the committee decided that a task force was needed to address these larger issues.

Senator Sara Eigen asked if there was any mechanism by which the entire Senate or the entire faculty would be invited to engage in identifying what action may be appropriate or necessary. Chair-elect Thompson answered that there will probably be a task force charged with dealing with this issue next year. Senator Victor explained that the committee did think that it was necessary to make a distinction between archiving past changes and creating changes for future versions of the manual.

Senator Joel Tellingheusen explained that the intention of the amendment was to give the Senate executive committee flexibility in figuring out how best to implement the recommendations. He added that there was a bit of confusion as to what was meant by an “archive.”

Senator Susie Adams said that the task force should also look at the evolution of the Faculty Manual, and how changes are archived. Chair-Elect Thompson responded that the task force will look at this issue.

Chair Ramsey explained that the motion asks the Senate to endorse the idea of creating a task force with a charge to first clarify how the Faculty Manual gets changed. This would include working out an agreement that will be written into the Faculty Manual itself. The second part of the charge would be to work to create an archive of the Faculty Manual.

Dean James Hudnut-Beumler stated that one of the premises of the revision of the Faculty Manual seems to be that the manual itself is a commitment to individual faculty members. Senator Victor responded by saying that this is one of the issues that was discussed in the committee, and was not resolved. He said that this issue is part of an ongoing conversation with the administration as to the role of the Faculty Manual.

Chair Ramsey responded that this will be an important part of the discussion and that there are different opinions about whether the Faculty Manual is a contract or not and about the relationship between the Faculty Manual and university constituencies.

Chair Ramsey then called for a vote on the motion as amended. The motion was approved by a vote of 30 for, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report from Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics

Chair Ramsey then recognized Senator Stokes Peebles, chair of the Senate Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics. Senator Peebles’ presentation can be found here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/AthleticsTF04report.ppt>

Senator Peebles recognized the members of the task force: Len Feldman, Bruce Oppenheimer, Senator Doug Perkins, Sharon Shields, Senator Marshall Summar (Executive Committee Liaison), and Ginny Shepherd (Immediate Past Chair, Faculty Senate).

He then listed the specific concerns that the task force identified during the beginning of the fall semester:

- Academic advising: our student athletes—are not receiving the best academic advising that might be possible.
- Admission standards for student athletes.
- The majors of student athlete were not representing the distribution of majors across the university as a whole.

- Student athlete academic progress and graduation rates--although Vanderbilt has one of the highest graduation rates in the nation.
- Scheduling of games and practices which would interfere with students' academic endeavors.

Senator Peebles added that the task force came up with a list of areas where they thought that faculty could assist the athletics program:

- Participation in faculty fellows program
- Assistance with recruiting
- Meeting regularly with the coaches (this has recently been initiated)
- Assisting with academic advising
- Serving on search committees for athletic administration and coaches
- Involvement in setting academic standards

Senator Peebles added that he believes that Vanderbilt coaches feel isolated from the rest of the university, and that this is an issue that the Senate can work on. He added that one of the most attractive aspects of Vanderbilt is its strong academic reputation, but the coaches have expressed a desire to know more professors in various departments.

He mentioned the following concerns from the coaches:

- Class selection for upperclassmen is very difficult due to conflicts with practice times
- Summer school budget is only for basketball and football student-athletes
- A perception that in some cases, academic advisors have dissuaded student-athletes from more time-consuming majors
- Lack of career counseling for all students

Senator Peebles then listed these concerns from student-athletes:

- Possibility of scholarship reduction or elimination with little warning
- "Funneling" student-athletes into majors which are perceived as more friendly to athletes in terms of grading, advising, etc.
- Lack of communication between academic counselors and academic department advisors.
- Some coaches not recognizing academic schedules and special projects
- Priority of summer school opportunities
- Pressure to keep individual and group problems within the athletic community and not seek university-wide help
- Student athletes do not have an annual opportunity to evaluate coaches and academic advisors to enforce the accountability of the athletic staff

Chair Ramsey thanked Senator Peebles and the task force for their hard work. He then opened the floor for questions or comments. Senator Robert Innes, chair of the Student Life committee, made a motion to thank the task force for their good work. Chair Ramsey declared that the motion was approved by acclamation of the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – Senate Affairs

Chair Ramsey introduced Senator Beth Conklin, chair of the Senate Affairs committee. Senator Conklin said that the committee had two items for discussion. The first was the issue of Senate terms, and the second was the issue of reapportionment of the Senate (both motions can be found here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/SAinterimreport.pdf>).

Senator Conklin explained that the original proposal regarding terms dealt only with Senate officer terms. She added that the committee realized it made sense to also to propose changing the start date for the terms of senators.

Chair Ramsey pointed out under this proposal, the current chair-elect and secretary-elect will serve the full twelve months as chair and secretary in 2004-2005. In the case of 2005-2006, however, the current chair and secretary will only serve from September 1st until June 30th. From that point forward, the twelve month cycle will be followed, beginning July 1, 2006. Senator Conklin then asked for questions or discussion. Hearing none, Chair Ramsey asked for a vote. A vote was taken to recommend to the Faculty Assembly that it amend the Faculty Constitution so that terms of officers and senators begin on July 1st rather than September 1st. This motion passed with 30 votes for, 0 votes against, and 3 abstentions.

Senator Conklin then gave an interim report from her committee concerning a request to increase the size of the Senate, which requires reapportioning seats for elected senators.

The rationale for this request is that with the present number of 48 elected senators, it has been difficult to staff committees and task forces. Additionally, the Senate has taken on more work and a more active involvement in campus affairs. The guidelines for reapportionment are in the Constitution: each school or college, no matter how small, has at least two elected senators. No school or college can hold more than one third of the elected senate seats. And most important, “The allocation of elected Senate positions should be done taking into account the relative sizes of the faculty and of the student bodies of the various schools.”

Senator Conklin explained that using these principles, the committee came up with a formula to address the issue of reapportionment. It also proposes to increase the number of elected positions from 48 to 60.

Senator Conklin then explained the way that the formula was derived (please see pages 2 and 3 of the report for more details:

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

Senator Conklin thanked Senator Neil Osheroff for writing a memo explained the mathematical basis for the calculations (see the memo here:

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

She said that the Senate Affairs committee approved this formula unanimously, and that, by using this model, no school loses. Either a school maintains the same number of senators that it

currently has or it gains more. She added that there will be more discussion on this issue in the fall, and that this is simply one way to look at the issue of reapportionment. She then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Senator Doug Perkins asked about the issue of the School of Medicine, since there would be a large increase in its number of senators under this plan. Senator Conklin answered that the committee was unable to determine how previous numbers were calculated. She said that the committee felt strongly that it was important to have a clear, straight-forward rubric for reapportionment.

Chair Ramsey added that the School of Medicine is very under-represented now by any standard. He then suggested that senators should study this plan, since there will be further discussion in the fall. He added that he hoped senators would send their questions or suggestions to the Senate email address: senate@vanderbilt.edu

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of New Officers

Chair Ramsey then moved to the next agenda item—the election of new officers. He explained that paper ballots would be used, and that the election of a new chair would take place first. He reminded voting members that under the Senate Rules of Order, nominations would be accepted from the floor. He then stated that the nominating committee has put forward the name of John McCarthy. Hearing no other nominations, he said that the paper ballots would be distributed to voting members. Senator McCarthy was asked to make a brief statement before voting, and he said that he was inspired by Chancellor Gee’s comments concerning the need for investing in talent, looking for ways to create synergy within the university and among the faculty members who are here and to nurture everyone.

A vote was taken by paper ballot, and John McCarthy was elected as Chair of the Senate.

Paper ballots were then distributed for the office of Secretary for the Senate. Chair Ramsey explained that the nominating committee has put forward the names of Craig Anne Heflinger from Peabody, and Greg Barz from Blair. He asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he asked the voting members to mark their choices.

Craig Anne Heflinger was elected Secretary of the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

There was no new business.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Ramsey then called for business under Good of the Senate.

Senator Michael Hodges asked about the Senate’s role in approving awards given at commencement. Chair Ramsey answered that the Faculty Senate only has the power to approve

honorary degrees, not awards. Senator Jack Sasson asked if there was a way that the Senate could respond to this honorary award that was to be given at commencement. Chair Ramsey answered that the Senate office would be glad to collect any messages sent to the Senate email address and deliver them to the Chancellor.

Chair Ramsey declared the meeting adjourned and the business of the 45th Senate of Vanderbilt University concluded. He invited all to a reception following the meeting in the atrium. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Farran,
Secretary