

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 9, 2005, 4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall, School of Nursing

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2005

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

Report of the Executive Committee
Robert Thompson, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Report of the Chancellor

Summary of year-end reports of the Standing Committees

Motions from the Faculty Life Committee regarding Childcare and Phased-in Retirement

Election of Officers

New Business

Good of the Senate

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

Voting Members present: Adams, Anderson, Barnett, Barz, Benbow, Bradford, Campbell, Conway-Welch, Cummings, Ellingham, Fleetwood, Fuchs, Gabbe, Galloway, Goldfarb, Griffin, Hawiger, Heflinger, Hodges, Lachs, McCarthy, McCarty, McGill, Neff, Perkins, Pettepher, Sevin, Smrekar, Summar, Syverud, Tarpley, Tellinghuisen, and Thompson.

Voting Members absent: Booth (regrets), Casagrande (regrets), Conklin (regrets), Eigen, Foster, Greene, Haglund (regrets), Heyneman, Hoffman, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Kay, LeBoeuf (regrets), Levine, Link (regrets), Masulis (regrets), Morrow (regrets), Peebles, Porter (regrets), Schmidt, Shyr, Tolk (regrets), Wait (regrets), and Washington (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Farran, Gherman, Hall, Kovalcheck, McNamara, Ramsey, Schoenfeld, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley, Gee (regrets), Gotterer, Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Perfetto, Spitz, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Robert Thompson. Minutes from 4/14/05 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of Awards/Certificates of Appreciation

Presentation of certificates to third-year senators was made by Provost Zeppos. Senate officers, committee chairs, and task force chairs were also recognized with gifts. Chair Thompson thanked everyone for their work this year.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Thompson then outlined the highlights of the 2004-2005 Senate year, including: motions passed on classified research, amendments to the Faculty Manual, conflict of interest policy, grievance process, the new MS degree in Finance; the work on the Faculty Survey and the evaluation of administrators; and reapportionment of the Senate. He also mentioned the town hall meetings held on classified research and on the Living Wage initiative, along with the discussions about faculty/staff relations. He asked for questions or discussion. Hearing none, he turned the floor over to Provost Zeppos, standing in for Chancellor Gee.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Provost Zeppos said that the Senate has worked on some important issues this year. He added that the process for determining how to change the Faculty Manual went very well. He acknowledged that there were disagreements about restructuring the grievance procedures, but one issue that came out of these discussions was a fresh look at the tenure review process.

He stated that this year's entering freshman class has set a record in terms of diversity, and that there is a more selective applicant pool for undergraduates than ever before. He added that the faculty retention rate is good, and that the EGE (Excellence in Graduate Education) program will be starting this year.

He opened the floor for questions.

Senator Jacek Hawiger asked about the progress of the capital campaign. Provost Zeppos responded that \$100 million has been raised so far, with \$20 million dedicated to the Freshman Commons project that is breaking ground this week. Senator Doug Perkins asked about plans to start up the AVCF project again. Provost Zeppos responded that this is a priority, but we have to figure out how to fund this next round.

Provost Zeppos asked for further questions. Hearing none, he turned the floor back over to Chair Thompson.

Next Item on the Agenda – Summary of year-end reports of the Standing Committees

Chair Thompson reminded senators that the executive committee decided to have the chairs of the standing committees post their end-of-year reports online (reports can be found here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/05reports.htm>). Chair Thompson recognized each chair and asked that they make a brief statement regarding their committee's work over the past year.

Chair Thompson 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 – Motions from the Faculty Life Committee regarding Childcare and Phased-in Retirement

Chair Thompson then recognized Senator Dieter Sevin, chair of the Faculty Life committee. Senator Sevin presented two motions from the Faculty Life committee—the first concerning childcare issues. The motion stated, “The Senate enthusiastically urges the Vanderbilt University Administration to implement a plan for expanding the childcare benefit options.”

Both Senator Hawiger and Senator Joey Barnett spoke in favor of this motion. A voice vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Senator Sevin presented the next motion regarding phased-in retirement. The motion stated, “The Faculty Life Committee recommends the following:

- a. amending the existing phased-in retirement plan option for the University Central by expanding the period for phased-in retirement of appointments on a Full-Status-Partial-Load basis (at least 50 percent of full load) from three to five years,
and
- b. allowing faculty who have enrolled in the phased-in retirement plan to continue with the health-care plan on the basis of one year of medical coverage for every three years of service (from currently one year for every five years of service), up to a maximum of ten years (up from a current maximum of five years).”

Senator Sevin then called for discussion on the motion. Associate Provost Tim McNamara asked if this motion was in response to a problem that needed to be solved, and he also asked what peer institutions were doing in regards to this issue. This opened up a discussion about data collection on the need for phased-in retirement. Senator John McCarthy stated that this might be an incentive for junior faculty in addition to senior faculty.

After some discussion, Senator Dan Fleetwood made a motion to table the motion for now and to reconsider after gathering more data. Senator Michael Goldfarb seconded the

motion. A vote was taken by paper ballot, and the motion to table passed. Chair Thompson said that this issue would be taken up again by the Faculty Life committee the following year.

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of Officers

Chair Thompson then moved to the next agenda item—the election of new officers. He stated that the two nominees for chair-elect put forth by the Senate Nominating Committee were Joey Barnett and Catherine Fuchs.

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

Chair Thompson explained that the nominating committee had put forward the names of Douglas Schmidt and Norman Tolk.

A vote was taken by paper ballot, and Norman Tolk was elected Secretary of the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Chair Thompson then called for any new business. Hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Thompson then called for business under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he invited everyone to attend the reception immediately following the meeting outside the room in the Atrium. He called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall Summar,
Secretary