

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 8, 2006, 4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall

Call to Order

Presentation of Certificates of Service to 3rd Year Senators

Recognition of Senate officers, committee chairs, and task force chairs

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2006

Report of the Executive Committee

John A. McCarthy, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Report of the Chancellor

Summary of year-end reports of the Standing Committees

Interim report from Task Force on Freshman Commons

Interim report from Task Force on Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Interim report from the Mental Health subcommittee

Old business

Motions to amend the Senate Rules of Order (presented at the April 20 Senate meeting)

Election of Officers

New business

Good of the Senate

Motion to Adjourn

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

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barnett, Barry, Barz, Benbow, Burk, Campbell, Carter, Ellingham, Emeson, Fogo, Fuchs, Gabbe, Hearn, Heflinger, Hudnut-Beumler, Jennings, Lachs, LeBoeuf, Levine, Link, McCarthy, McCarty, Peebles, Pettepher, Smrekar, Tolk, Washington, and Wasserstein.

Voting Members absent: Adams, Bradford, Casagrande (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Cummings (regrets), Dowdy (regrets), Ernst, Flake, Foster, Friedman, George

(regrets), Griffin (regrets), Hetcher, Hodges, Hoffman, Neely (regrets), Porter, Reisenberg, Rubin, Sandler, Schmidt, Shyr, Smith, Steinberg, Tarpley (regrets), and Wait.

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Gee, McNamara, Thompson, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balser (regrets), Barge, Chalkley, Gherman (regrets), Hall (regrets), Jacobson, Kovalcheck, Outlaw, Perfetto, Sandler, Schoenfeld (regrets), Spitz, Summar, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair John A. McCarthy.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of Certificates of Service to 3rd Year Senators

The presentation of certificates to third-year senators was made by Chancellor Gee. He thanked all of the senators for their service.

Next Item on the Agenda – Recognition of Senate officers, committee chairs, and task force chairs

Senate officers, committee chairs, and task force chairs were also recognized with gifts. Chair McCarthy thanked everyone for their service to the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the 4/20/06 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Senators Karen Campbell and John Lachs suggested minor corrections to the minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair McCarthy gave the report of the Executive Committee. He said that at the first meeting of the year, he urged senators to become active in shared governance through their work on the Senate. He also mentioned that the Senate set an ambitious agenda for this academic year. He said that one way to measure the effectiveness of the Senate is to look at the numbers; he enumerated the many meetings of the Senate, of the Executive Committee meetings, and the meetings of the standing committees and task forces. He added that contact with staff and student groups has been initiated and formalized this year. He also mentioned the lectures by Monk Malloy and Sander Gilman. He said that one measure of shared governance was that many senators have been appointed to university committees and task forces this year. He said that, this year, the Senate has focused on the issues of external research and grants, faculty participation in the Freshman Commons, improving child care, mental health services, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

He explained that the reports of the standing committees and task forces are available online at the Senate website. He then asked Associate Provost Tim McNamara to speak about upcoming faculty awards. Associate Provost McNamara encouraged senators to nominate colleagues for the Sutherland Prize and the Chancellor's Award for Research. He explained that there has been a minor change in the guidelines for the Chancellor's Research Award; it used to have a one-year window on eligibility, but now there is a three-year window to allow for differences in the rates of research dissemination in the humanities, social sciences, and the natural sciences..

Chair McCarthy thanked Associate Provost McNamara for sharing this information with the Senate. He then thanked all of the members of the Executive Committee and the standing Committee chairs for their hard work.

Chair McCarthy then introduced Chancellor Gee.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chancellor Gee thanked Chair McCarthy and said that it had been a pleasure to work with him over the year. Chancellor Gee said that the University Senate is an important ingredient in shared governance of Vanderbilt. He added that the Executive Committee is enormously helpful to him with his work as Chancellor.

He said that the health of the university couldn't be better. The number of undergraduate applications is up, the retention of faculty is high, and the university's financial status is strong. He said that there are plans to proceed further with the capital campaign, with the goal being moved from \$1.25 billion to \$1.75 billion. He also mentioned that the culture of undergraduate student body has been changed by the pending opening of the Freshman Commons.

He recognized the work of the Senate and thanked everyone for their work this year, but added that there is still much to do. He said that one of the most important issues for next year would be the mental health initiative

He asked for any questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak.

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

Chair McCarthy said that all year-end reports of the standing committee and task forces are posted online at the Senate website and were distributed via email to senators in advance of the meeting. He asked if there were any questions about these reports. Hearing none, he asked the task force chairs, Senator David Wasserstein and Secretary-Elect Norman Tolk, to give their interim reports.

Senator Wasserstein said that the Freshman Commons task force met at the end of March, and they plan to carry out a series of consultation with students, Mark Bandas, and Howard Sandler. He said that the task force will complete meetings with stakeholders in the fall and will give their report at the end of next semester.

Secretary-Elect Tolk reviewed the charge and the list of task force members for the Interdisciplinary Collaborations task force (see presentation at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/InterDtaskforce.ppt>). He elaborated on the issues discussed by the task force, and outlined some suggested interdisciplinary topics that the task force has generated (“Energy” and “Contemporary Clashes of Ideology”). Secretary-Elect Tolk asked for input from the Senate on any other topics that might be of interest. He concluded by stating that this task force’s work would be concluded by the end of the calendar year.

Chair McCarthy opened the floor for any questions.

Dean McCarty: Does Vanderbilt have any specific research strengths in energy?

Secretary-elect Tolk: Yes.

There were no further questions.

Chair McCarthy then recognized Secretary Heflinger who gave a brief presentation from the Mental Health subcommittee of the Student Life committee (see presentation here). She said that a full report would be forthcoming at the first Senate meeting of the fall. She asked for any questions.

Provost Zeppos: Could I have an interim briefing from your subcommittee sometime over the summer? This is the hot issue right now and I commend you for taking it on.

Secretary Heflinger: Yes, we can give you an interim briefing.

There were no further questions.

Chair McCarthy thanked everyone for their hard work.

Next Item on the Agenda – Old business

Chair McCarthy recognized Senate Affairs Chair Cathy Pettepher who introduced a motion to change the wording of the standing charge to the Student Life committee. The motion is to include the term “student grievances” in the standing charge to the committee. She asked for any discussion or questions. Hearing none, Chair McCarthy called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair McCarthy recognized Immediate Past Chair Bob Thompson who introduced a motion at the last Senate meeting to amend the Rules of Order and Constitution of the Faculty Senate to change the title of “Secretary” to “Vice Chair.” Chair McCarthy asked

for any discussion about this motion. Senator John Lachs asked if this was a change in name only. Chair McCarthy said that it was. Hearing no further discussion, Chair McCarthy called for a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously, and the Rules of Order will be changed by this vote. The motion will be presented to the full Faculty Assembly in the fall in accordance with the rules for amending the Constitution.

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of Officers

Chair McCarthy 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 Bruce Barry and Larry Dowdy.

A vote was taken by paper ballot, and Bruce Barry was elected as chair-elect.

Chair McCarthy explained that the nominating committee had put forward the names of Ray Burk and Ron Emeson for the position of secretary/vice-chair-elect.

A vote was taken by paper ballot, and Ron Emeson was elected secretary/vice chair-elect of the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business & Good of the Senate

Chair McCarthy then called for any new business. Hearing none, he asked if there were any items 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 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Anne Heflinger,
Secretary/Vice Chair