

Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
November 2, 2006, 4:15 p.m.  
140 Frist Hall, School of Nursing

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Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of September 14, 2006

Report of the Executive Committee

D. Catherine Fuchs, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Report from Academic Policies and Services Committee (Senator Ann Neely, chair)

1. Motion to approve Master of Accountancy degree program
2. Motion to approve Ph.D. Program in Chemical and Physical Biology to be offered by departments in the School of Medicine and the College of Arts and Science

Panel on Mental Health Issues (moderated by Chair Fuchs)

Mark Bandas, Associate Provost and Dean of Students

John Greene, Associate Dean for Health and Wellness

Craig Anne Heflinger, Immediate Past Vice Chair of the Senate/Mental Health subcommittee

Boone Lancaster, President of Student Government Association

New business

Motion to communicate to the University Board of Trust support for Chancellor Gee (Senator John Lachs)

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

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Voting Members present: Ahner, Barry, Breyer, Burk, Campbell, Carter, Conway-Welch, Dowdy, Emeson, Fogo, Fuchs, Gabbe, Galloway, George, Hetcher, Jennings, Kirshner, Lachs, McCarty, Medina, Moore, Neely, Norden, Pettepher, Reisenberg, Shepherd, Shields, Smrekar, Tarpley, Tolk, and Weller.

Voting Members absent: Barnett, Benbow, Bradford, Chen (regrets), Cooil, DeHart, Dickerson (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler, Levine (regrets), Lybrand (regrets), McLendon, Porter, Retzlaff (regrets), Rousseau (regrets), Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Schmidt (regrets), Sharpley-Whiting (regrets), Shiavi (regrets), Shyr (regrets), Slovis, Wait, Wasserstein (regrets), Wood (regrets), and Wright.

Ex Officio Members present: Barge, Brisky, Gherman, Heflinger, Kovalcheck, McCarthy, McNamara, Perfetto, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Chalkley, Gee (regrets), Gotterer (regrets), Hall (regrets), Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Sandler, Schoenfeld (regrets), Spitz, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chair Catherine Fuchs.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the September 14, 2006 minutes**

Minutes from the 9/14/06 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Fuchs moved to the next item. She explained that she will defer her report of the Executive Committee as there is a full agenda for the Senate meeting today.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Report from Academic Policies and Services Committee**

Chair Fuchs then turned the floor over to Senator Ann Neely, chair of the Academic Policy and Services committee. Senator Neely presented a motion to approve the proposal for the Master of Accountancy degree program submitted by the Owen Graduate School of Management; the APS committee has reviewed and recommended it for Senate approval. She asked for questions.

Associate Provost Tim McNamara asked if it was true that this degree requires 32 hours. Senator Neely replied yes. She asked for more questions. Hearing none, Chair Fuchs called for a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

Senator Neely then presented a motion to approve the proposal for the Ph.D. degree program in Chemical and Physical Biology submitted by the Medical School and College of Arts and Sciences; again, the APS committee has reviewed and recommended it for Senate approval. She asked for questions. Hearing none, Chair Fuchs called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fuchs thanked Senator Neely for her committee's work.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Panel on Mental Health Issues**

Chair Fuchs then moved to the next agenda item: the panel on mental health issues. She introduced the panel and turned the floor over to Associate Provost Mark Bandas. He thanked Immediate Past Vice-Chair Craig Anne Heflinger and the subcommittee from Student Life for their report and hard work. He said that we are at a critical juncture at the university and this gives us a chance to make changes. He mentioned the Commons and Vanderbilt Visions as examples. He gave a history of the reorganization of Student

Life, and discussed how various issues are addressed with first year students. He also mentioned the suicide prevention program (MAPS) and how the resident assistants are trained since they are first responders. He touched on the “3 Strikes and you are out” program. He said that he agrees with the recommendation that there should be a one-point of contact 24 hours and he agrees that there should be better data collection on health and wellness issues. He also agrees that there should be more training for faculty.

Next, John Greene, Associate Dean for Health and Wellness, gave his remarks (link to his presentation: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/JohnGreene.ppt> ). He responded to the Senate Mental Health subcommittee’s report within the text of his presentation.

Then, Boone Lancaster, Student Government Association president, spoke and thanked the Senate for a chance to speak. He identified stress as one of the main health concerns of students. He also mentioned that it is important for students to know all of the resources that are available at Vanderbilt. He mentioned that the Commons should be a place where students can get even more information on resources.

He said that the biggest change next semester will be the creation of a single organization (VSG—Vanderbilt Student Government). This will combine Interhall and SGA into one student group. He mentioned that there has been discussion about putting important numbers for mental health contacts on the back of the student ID.

Finally, Craig Anne Heflinger, Immediate Past Vice-Chair, wrapped up the remarks. She said that there is not a big discrepancy in what the report recommended and what the administration agrees on--there are common goals. She mentioned that one of the few groups who are not included in the training groups are the faculty. She said that this is one of the main issues that the Mental Health subcommittee is working on this year. She then asked the panel what they think are some ways to help faculty and students get more involved.

Mark Bandas said that one of the key steps is the Vanderbilt Visions programs. He also said that the MAPS program is willing and able to provide training to faculty. John Greene said that there are some faculty who are very involved, but many are not. He said that it is a matter of getting these faculty members involved and engaged. He said that he would welcome any suggestions.

Senator Karen Campbell said that she often gets emails about workshops for other issues, but she doesn’t remember getting an email for these kinds of workshops. She said having open workshops on these kinds of issues might be a place to start. Dean Richard McCarty said that this is happening in advisor training, but that it should probably be more global. He also mentioned that he has also heard a concern with faculty who are working with Vanderbilt Visions who expressed ambivalence with dealing with these issues, especially with mental health issues. Senator Neely mentioned that she thinks that it is important to send students to the right professionals and not deal with these issues themselves (as faculty members).

John Greene said that there was a survey of faculty that showed that many of them were interested in helping the students on these issues, but they feel like they don't know how to address these issues.

Chair Fuchs asked what sort of workshops would be helpful. Senator Campbell said that it would be helpful to know what signs to look for and also information that they need in order to pass along to them.

Senator John Lachs said that there are certain problems that students have that don't rise to the level of intervention, and that is where the faculty can be helpful. He said that the more training there can be for faculty members in how to deal with these problems, the better. Mark Bandas replied that the Commons is one example of how mature adults can help these novice adults make the transitions. Senator Bruce Barry said that he wanted to highlight the unique situation of graduate students. He also asked about classroom accommodations for students who have mental health disabilities. John Greene said that these are major issues with graduate and professional students. He said that his office can help with the Opportunity Development Center and find ways to work on these accommodations.

Chair Fuchs said that there is a need for education for faculty to know that there is a difference between behavior problems and the diagnosis—you need to look past the behaviors sometimes to understand the underlying diagnosis. She also mentioned that persons who have a mental health issue can sometimes see your help as interference, but you have to look past this.

She then asked what the Senate's response could be. Senator Larry Dowdy asked how faculty members can realize that they are causing stress for the students. Boone Lancaster said that he realizes that there is good stress in terms of a teacher "pushing" their students, but there are other situations where the stress is too much. He suggested engaging the students and communicating to them the reasons behind your methods. He also said that there needs to be a dialogue between faculty and students. He said that it is important to bring students into the conversation and that they appreciate being included. He also mentioned that students are interested in preventative measures as well. Greg Perfetto said that he thinks it is important to let faculty members find their place on the spectrum of care. Chair Fuchs said that she would like to acknowledge the significant changes that have already been implemented by the administration.

Senator Lachs made a motion to express our appreciation to these professionals and that we recommend to the administration that they offer more faculty training. There was a second. Chair Fuchs asked for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Next Item on the Agenda – New Business**

Senator Lachs presented his motion to communicate support of Chancellor Gee to the Vanderbilt Board of Trust. Chair Fuchs opened the floor for discussion. Senator Ron

Emeson made a subsidiary motion to table Senator Lachs' motion indefinitely. He explained that while he fully supports the Chancellor, and he feels that any motion put forth by the Senate would only exacerbate the situation and bring attention to the Wall Street Journal article that prompted the original discussion of this issue. Also, he said that the way the motion is worded, an unintended consequence would be that this would be perceived as a up or down vote on the Chancellor.

Senator Lachs mentioned that the Wall Street Journal article is the tip of the iceberg. Senator Emeson reiterated his position. Senator Lachs asked for help on the wording of the motion. Senator Campbell said that if we don't have a formal evaluation of the administration, then we are putting the cart before the horse. Immediate Past Chair John McCarthy said that he thinks it speaks volumes that Senator Lachs is willing to speak out in favor of Chancellor Gee. He suggests that we might consider creating a Faculty Senate cup and awarding it to the Chancellor at the end of the year. Senator Barry said that he is concerned that the motion is fairly general and that there might be a more constructive and detailed process to achieve the same ends. Senator Jose Medina said that he disagrees with Senator Emeson's assertion that there will be negative consequences of this vote. Senator Emeson explained that the Senate minutes are public and that he is trying to avoid having a public up-or-down vote on the Chancellor played out in a public arena. Senator Stan Link said that he doesn't agree that voting this down implies a lack of support for the Chancellor.

Senator Lachs made a motion to have a straw vote on his original motion (to see if it would pass if voted on). There was a second for the motion to take a straw vote. There was a vote to take a straw vote. There were 19 yes votes and 4 no votes; the motion to take a straw vote passed.

Vice Chair Norman Tolk then called for a quorum. After counting all voting members present, it was determined that there were 28 total members in attendance, which is not a quorum. Chair Fuchs noted that since there was not a quorum, there could not be a vote on any of the motions on the floor. The motions were tabled until the next meeting of the full Senate (December 7, 2006).

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

Chair Fuchs then called for any new business. Hearing none, she asked if there were any items under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Tolk,  
Vice Chair