

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
March 1, 2007, 4:15 p.m.
Room 1220, Medical Research Building III

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2007 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

D. Catherine Fuchs, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Report of the Chancellor

Motion from Academic Policies and Services Committee on honorary degrees

Ann Neely, chair

Discussion on Graduate Education (**POSTPONED DUE TO ILLNESS**)

Dennis Hall, Associate Provost for Research & Graduate Education

Presentation on International Education

Joel Harrington, Associate Provost for International Affairs

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barnett, Barry, Benbow, Breyer, Burk, DeHart, Emeson, Foster, Fuchs, Galloway, Jennings, Kirshner, Lachs, Link, Lybrand, McCarty, Moore, Neely, Reisenberg, Rousseau, Shepherd, Shiavi, Shields, Slovis, Tarpley, Tolk, Weller, Wood, and Wright.

Voting Members absent: Bradford, Campbell, Carter, Chen, Cooil, Conway-Welch, Dayan, Dowdy, Fogo, Gabbe (regrets), George (regrets), Hetcher, Hudnut-Beumler, Levine (regrets), McLendon (regrets), Norden (regrets), Pettepher (regrets), Porter, Retzlaff, Rubin, Sandler, Schmidt, Sharpley-Whiting, Shyr, Smrekar, Wait and Wasserstein.

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Gee, Heflinger, Kovalcheck, McCarthy, McNamara, Sandler, and Schoenfeld.

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

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the February 1, 2007 minutes

Minutes from the 2/1/07 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report from the Executive Committee

Chair Fuchs thanked everyone for attending the luncheon with Dr. Paul Barreira on February 22. She updated the Senate by sharing that in response to the meeting with John Greene and Mark Bandas, a meeting is being scheduled after Spring Break with all of the key players to talk about how to move to a more seamless delivery of mental health services to students.

Chair Fuchs then gave an update on the Living Wage issue as a follow-up to the presentation by Chair-elect Bruce Barry at the February Senate meeting. She also explained that Associate Provost Dennis Hall's presentation will be postponed until the April meeting due to illness. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Gordon Bernard will be presenting about effort reporting at the April meeting, as well.

Also in April, Chair Fuchs added that we will expect the final report from the Interdisciplinary Collaborations task force. She gave an update on the Commons task force and said that their report has been sent to the Student Life committee. Finally, she added that Frank Wcislo, Dean of the Commons, will make a presentation at the May meeting and that questions will be solicited ahead of time (in addition to his taking questions at the meeting itself).

Chair Fuchs reminded the senators that April 5 is the Spring Faculty Assembly. She announced that Michael Bess is the faculty speaker this year, and urged the senators to attend.

She asked for any questions. Hearing none, she welcomed Chancellor Gee and turned the floor over to him.

Next Item on the Agenda – Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Gee first responded to the motion on environmental sustainability. He said that he personally expresses his commitment to the spirit of the motion. He noted that we already have a functioning Environmental Affairs Committee that is staffed university-wide. Since last September, some new hires have been made--Andrea George was named as Sustainability Coordinator, and she has been with the university for over 10

years. Also, we have hired an outside consultant to help us with this issue. He mentioned that next week's Register is running an article on Vanderbilt's efforts. And, finally, there is a new website for Sustain VU: www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainVU

Regarding the living wage issue, Chancellor Gee reported that we have just entered into an agreement with the union. He said that he also hopes that you will know that Vanderbilt provides the largest amount of unremitted medical care at \$2 million/year. Also, we do not outsource and we will not do that to our workers. He said that we are committed to our workers.

Chancellor Gee then turned to the Faculty Athletics Fellows program and the motion that was approved by the Senate in 2004, this motion was approved by the Senate. The university administration does not oppose this program, but the Deans have expressed concerns about it (NCAA compliance issues, etc.). Chancellor Gee said that he concurs with the Deans. He added that the Provost recently met with the SEC faculty athletic representatives and they are not for this program. He reminded the senate that Vanderbilt is a different institution from other universities in the SEC in terms of the structure of our athletics programs. He mentioned his recent interview with Bob Costas, and the good press that Vanderbilt Athletics is receiving. He encourages a continuing discussion about this issue.

Senator Richard Shiavi asked when the settlement with the union happened. Chancellor Gee said it was settled late Tuesday night, and the contract will be signed soon.

Chancellor Gee then called for any further questions. Hearing none, he turned the floor back over to Chair Fuchs.

Next Item on the Agenda – Motion from Academic Policies and Services Committee on honorary degrees

Chair Fuchs then turned the floor over to Senator Ann Neely, APS chair. Senator Neely presented the following motion from her committee:

“The APS Committee recommends that Vanderbilt continue the policy of not awarding honorary degrees. We commend the administration for soliciting nominations for the Nichols-Chancellor's Medal from the community at large, as we believe this honor is a more appropriate recognition than an honorary degree would be. We recommend this policy stand until 2012 or later.

Rationale:

- Awarding honorary doctorates would weaken the earned degree
- The Nichols-Chancellor's speaker provides the same sort of recognition and speech
- This issue has been considered repeatedly and rejected repeatedly”

Chair Fuchs thanked her and asked for any discussion.

Senator John Lachs: Any reason for designating the year 2012 as the time when the policy shall be reviewed again?

Senator Neely: We chose it because it is 5 years from this year.

Senator Joey Barnett: This is one of the few powers of the Senate. Why are we being asked to vote on the motion?

Senator Neely: The main issue is to have it in the Senate minutes. I would be glad to delete the last sentence.

Senator Richard Shiavi: What about other universities? Do they have this policy of offering honorary degrees?

Senator Neely: Some do, and we will put this in our report.

Past Chair John McCarthy: Why should we have a date in the motion at all?

Senator Neely: I will withdraw the last line. The motion will now stand with the first two sentences only.

Chair Fuchs called for a vote and a show of hands was taken. The motion passed as amended with only 2 opposed.

Chair Fuchs thanked Senator Neely for her work on this motion.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on International Education

Chair Fuchs then welcomed Joel Harrington, Associate Provost for International Affairs, to the Senate for a presentation on international education. (See website at: www.vanderbilt.edu/international)

Associate Provost Harrington thanked the Senate for this opportunity to speak to them. He gave an overview of the work that his office does, and said their main areas of responsibility are: 1) international student recruitment, 2) university international research efforts, and 3) international programs for students/study abroad.

He said that the goal for international undergraduate student participation is 8% of the student body; currently, it is 2%. He then spoke about the importance of international research, and demonstrated to faculty members how to search for information on the VIO website. He mentioned the database for international opportunities for faculty and staff, and the grant program that was recently sent to all faculty and staff.

He then explained the new Core Partnerships program. Instead of doing what most universities have done (many partnerships, not very deep at each institution), Vanderbilt is focusing on a small number of institutions (6 universities). We will put a lot of effort into those six, he added. The criteria for a core partner: outstanding university, strong

across the disciplines, and strategically located. The goal of the core partnerships is to have an institutional benefit due to the stronger ties. Another benefit will be that we will have strong institutional allies around the world.

Associate Provost Harrington said that the first 3 universities will be University of Melbourne in Australia, University of Cape Town in South Africa, and the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Chair Cathy Fuchs: In the spirit of looking at mental health for students, what about mental health for students of other cultures who are trying to adapt?

Associate Provost Harrington: He said that ISS is working with student wellness on this issue.

Senator David Wood: I applaud the initiative. But I have two concerns about core partnerships: 1) When you expand, you should look at adding a university in Europe and one in Asia. (China, Germany, Chile are next, Associate Provost Harrington says). 2) I don't want someone telling me which universities I should partner with; I want the best people wherever they are. I'm worried about this.

Associate Provost Harrington: There are 2 tracks--the core partnerships are one track and the individual researchers track is the other track. The message would be that we wouldn't discourage individual participations. I ask you to suggest ways to help encourage people to do research in these core partner universities without discouraging individual research opportunities.

Past Chair John McCarthy: What about a joint degree or dual degrees?

Associate Provost Harrington: I need to learn a lot more about these degrees. I have talked to my counterpart at Duke about this, and they are not enthusiastic. But I am not saying that we are against it, we are still looking into all options.

Past Chair McCarthy: It would make sense in order to internationalize Vanderbilt students and it would enrich their educational experiences.

Associate Provost Harrington: I agree that we need to discuss this further. What we do is from the ground up...from what faculty and students want to do. If you want to make a strong argument for this, please do it.

Chair Fuchs thanked Associate Provost Harrington for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business and Good of the Senate

Chair Fuchs then called for any items under New Business or Good of the Senate. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Tolk,
Vice Chair