

Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
April 12, 2007, 4:15 p.m.  
Room 1220, Medical Research Building III

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Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of March 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 proposed degree program in Law/Economics

Ann Neely, chair

Discussion on Graduate Education

Dennis Hall, Associate Provost for Research & Graduate Education

Presentation on Effort Reporting

Gordon Bernard, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research (Medical Center)

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

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Voting Members present: Barnett, Barry, Breyer, Conway-Welch, Dayan, DeHart, Dowdy, Emeson, Foster, Fuchs, Galloway, Hudnut-Beumler, Jennings, Lachs, Link, Lybrand, Neely, Norden, Pettepher, Retzlaff, Rousseau, Rubin, Shepherd, Shields, Tolk, Wasserstein, and Wood.

Voting Members absent: Ahner (regrets), Benbow, Bradford, Burk (regrets), Campbell (regrets), Carter, Chen (regrets), Cooil, Fogo (regrets), Gabbe (regrets), George, Hetcher, Kirshner, Levine, McCarty (regrets), McLendon (regrets), Moore (regrets), Porter, Reisenberg, Sandler, Schmidt, Sharpley-Whiting (regrets), Shiavi, Shyr, Smrekar (regrets), Slovis (regrets), Tarpley (regrets), Wait, Weller, and Wright (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Balsler, Brisky, Gee, Gherman, Hall, Kovalcheck, McCarthy, McNamara, and Schoenfeld.

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

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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 March 1, 2007 minutes**

Minutes from the 3/1/07 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 gave the report of the Executive Committee and the standing committees. She said that APS will make a motion today about the proposed degree in Law/Economics. Faculty Life will continue looking at the Roth 403b issue. Student Life has been working on many different issues, including athletics. She said that the Senate has communicated to Vice Chancellor David Williams that it desires to have the Student Life chair as a standing member of the University Athletics Committee and he has agreed. PEAf continues to work on tenure and promotion issues, and will include this information in its year-end report. She asked for questions. Hearing none, she asked the Chancellor to give his report.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Chancellor’s Report**

Chancellor Gee thanked Chair Fuchs for her leadership in the Senate, and especially for her focus on mental health issues this year. He congratulated those who received awards at the Spring Faculty Assembly. He mentioned the retention of faculty as a top priority. He asked for any questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Motion from Academic Policies and Services Committee on degree program in Law/Economics**

Chair Fuchs then recognized Ann Neely, chair of the APS committee. Senator Neely presented the motion on the new degree program in Law/Economics. Chair Fuchs thanked her and then opened the floor for questions. Hearing none, she then asked for a voice vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion on Graduate Education**

Chair Fuchs then turned the floor over to Senator Larry Dowdy to introduce Associate Provost Dennis Hall. Associate Provost Hall said that he has a good story to tell about graduate education, and he emphasized that this is a collaborative effort. From 2001-2006, the number of graduate applications have doubled. External funding has almost

doubled. Since two-thirds of graduate students are in grant-based fields, this is an important figure, he added.

He explained that Peabody students have increased their GRE scores while also increasing their enrollment. He also mentioned the addition of new associate deans in colleges/schools that have graduate programs (to focus on the issue of graduate education). He also mentioned the addition of Dr. Richard Pitt in the Graduate School to focus on diversity issues.

He stated that there have been the following changes: a change in the way that tuition is handled, a change in the on-line application system, the graduate school application fee has been abolished, GSPPD (Graduate Student Professional and Personal Development Collaborative) has been formed, and there is an annual dissertation clinic run through the graduate school.

He discussed new tools that are being used to provide data to the schools/colleges (Dr. Roberta Bell works on these).

He concluded by saying that there are remaining challenges, but we are making progress on those issues. He then turned to the questions that were given to him by the Senate. He said that he handed the list of questions to Associate Dean Holly McCannon and she gave the answers that were presented on his Powerpoint slide. He added that all of the questions that he received were all about things that happen at the school level (and they all seemed to come from A&S). So, the answers were mostly the same, which was that these issues should be dealt with at the college/school level.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Bruce Barry: Could you talk about the current thinking about the range of current graduate programs that we offer?

Associate Provost Hall: There aren't any active discussions going on about that at this point. These decisions will usually take place at the school/college level, if they are made.

Senator Barry: What about the culture of graduate education on campus? Could you speak to that issue?

Associate Provost Hall: I think this perception is very different across the fields. In some programs, graduate students are seen as the lifeblood of the department. I see the culture as good and getting better.

Senator Joey Barnett: Is the university thinking in a coordinated way about changes in NIH funding for graduate students?

Associate Provost Hall: I only learned about this a day ago; I had not heard about this before.

Associate Vice Chancellor Balser: I think the way to deal with this is to push for more NIH funding.

Past Chair John McCarthy: Do you think that there is a situation in A&S that should be looked at more closely if all of the questions seem to be coming from the same college?

Associate Provost Hall: There is a role for the Graduate School to play in the A&S situation, and I am in that conversation.

### **Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on Effort Reporting**

Chair Fuchs thanked Associate Provost Hall for his presentation. She then introduced Gordon Bernard, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research in Medical Center who gave a presentation on effort reporting in the Medical Center.

Vice Chair Norman Talk: If you are writing a grant, how do you record your time?

Assistant Vice Chancellor Bernard: The work you do for a bid, you can't be paid for the time. You have to be sure not to put your time down as 100%, so that you have some wiggle room to do administrative work.

Vice Chair Talk: Are you expected to use graduate students and post docs to help write a grant?

Assistant Vice Chancellor Bernard: If they are 100% on another grant, then that is their problem, not yours.

Vice Chair Talk: What have been some fines that have been given to people who break the rules at other universities?

Assistant Vice Chancellor Bernard: They don't give the fine to all faculty members, just a portion of them. But they will then put in some onerous controls for everyone, and we don't want that to happen.

Associate Provost Hall: One issue we have that is a different issue on the university side is that we have the 9 mos./3 mos. issue, and people will charge 100% of their time over the summer on one grant. Tim McNamara and I are working on this issue.

Senator Barry: You said that part of outside consulting is being an editor of a journal, for example. Did I get that right?

Associate Vice Chancellor Balser: You have a choice to exclude it or not. If you choose to exclude it, you can't use Vanderbilt resources.

Senator Ron Emeson: How do you count excluded activities needed for tenure and promotion?

Assistant Vice Chancellor Barnard: There are two sets of books: tenure book and effort reporting book. They are not the same.

Chancellor Gee: One of the ways we dealt with graduate education was to use the “carrot” method with the AVCF program. We didn’t go through the traditional method of bludgeoning departments, but we offered money to those initiatives that were able to be funded.

Chair Fuchs thanked Assistant Vice Chancellor Bernard 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 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Tolk,  
Vice Chair