

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
December 6, 2007, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of November 8, 2007

Report of the Executive Committee

- Bruce Barry, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Motion regarding COIA Reforms in Intercollegiate Athletics

- Sharon Shields, Chair of the Student Life Committee
- Virginia Shepherd, Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate and Vanderbilt's representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)

Presentation on the Finances of the University

- Robert Spencer, Director of Financial Planning in Vanderbilt University's Office of Financial Affairs

Discussion of Vanderbilt Efforts, Initiatives, and Challenges on Sustainability. Panel:

- Mike Vandenberg, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Regulatory Program at Vanderbilt Law School
- James Clarke, Professor of the Practice, Civil and Environmental Engineering and affiliated faculty in the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Judson Newbern, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning, Construction, and Environmental Health and Safety.
- Andrea George, Associate Director of Environmental Health and Safety and VU Sustainability Coordinator.

New Business

Good of the Senate

Adjourn

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barry, Blair, Bloch, Braxton, Breyer, Calico, DeHart, Eisenberg, Emeson, Gabbe, Hiebert, McCarty, McLendon, Medina, Moore, Neely, Oliver, Paschal, Rousseau, Sandler, Shepherd, Stone, Weller, and Wood.

Voting Members absent: Armour (regrets), Benbow, Bernard, Bradford (regrets), Carter, Christie, Conway-Welch, Dowdy, Ernst (regrets), Fogo (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Jennings (regrets), Kirshner, Lindquist, Norden (regrets), Piston (regrets), Reisenberg, Reschly (regrets), Retzlaff, Roberts, Rubin, Sharpley-Whiting, Shiavi, Shields, Slovis, Steinberg, Wait, Wasserstein (regrets), Wcislo (regrets), and Yarbrough.

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Christianson, Gherman, Outlaw, Sandler, Schoenfeld, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balser (regrets), Bandas, Barge, Chalkley, Damon, Fuchs, Gotterer (regrets), Hall, Jacobson, McNamara, Tolk, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Bruce Barry.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the November 2007 minutes

Minutes from the 11/8/07 meeting were reviewed and Chair Barry asked for any corrections or adjustments. Hearing none, he stated that the minutes stand approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Barry said that the standing committees continue to do their work. One specific issue he mentioned was Behavioral Health. Last spring, the Senate sent recommendations to the administration. Some of these have been adopted and some are still in progress.

He mentioned that there were an unprecedented number of faculty award nominations this year. The Consultative Committee met and will be sending those nominations along to the iChancellor soon.

After asking for questions, and hearing none, he recognized Interim Chancellor Nick Zeppos.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Interim Chancellor

Interim Chancellor Zeppos agreed that Behavioral Health is an important issue. He said that he has increased the staffing to meet these needs at a leadership level and counseling level. He added that they have moved to a matrix organization to address these issues as they involve family members, financial issues, academic issues, legal issues. He said that we are putting together a team approach that looks at big issues, but also focuses on individual students. He said that we are working on 24 hour services, and we have a 24 hour hotline, but it is not staffed full-time by Vanderbilt. He said that training is a critical issue, and his hope and dream is that every faculty member would take time to do an

online module on this important issue. He said that we will be putting these up soon. He finished by saying that we are working on undergraduate students first, but then Medical Center students and faculty will come next.

He said that our financials are stronger than ever, and that we have an outstanding financial team. We got through the first quarter very strong. Our biggest business is healthcare and it looks good. Philanthropy is moving along very well. He predicts that there will be 15,000 applications for 1500 spots in next year's freshman class. He said that among undergraduate applications, diversity is way up and SAT scores are up 14 points.

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Motion regarding COIA Reforms in Intercollegiate Athletics

Chair Barry then introduced Student Life Committee Chair Sharon Shields to introduce the motion regarding COIA Reforms in Intercollegiate Athletics. Senator Shields said that the Student Life committee supports this motion. She introduced Senator and Chair-Elect Ginny Shepherd as the Vanderbilt COIA representative to the floor in order to answer any questions. Senator Shields asked for a second for the motion and it was seconded. Chair Barry then limited the discussion of the motion to 5 minutes.

Interim Chancellor Zeppos asked how this motion would work with the NCAA regulations. Chair-elect Shepherd responded that the NCAA regulation book is thick, and that the intention is not to add to that thick book. They will take our recommendations and see where they will fit. COIA has met with Myles Brand of the NCAA, and he is working with his staff on these issues.

Interim Chancellor Zeppos also asked if this motion takes into consideration and allows Lou Outlaw (as Vanderbilt's Faculty Athletic Representative) to be the point person in collating and working in an integrated way. Chair-elect Shepherd said that these recommendations are focused on having each university working together, including the FAR, the Faculty Senate, NCAA, etc.

Senator Joy Calico brought up a concern of the student who has baseball games on the weekdays. Does finding a solution to this problem fall into this coalition's goals? Chair-elect Shepherd responded that, yes, these issues are in our goals.

Interim Chancellor Zeppos said that we also look into these issues at our level, too. We have a Student Wellness Committee that looks into this. If you have a student who has a concern, please send him to this committee.

Senator Ann Neely asked Chair-elect Shepherd if she could see only one of these reforms adopted, which one would it be? Chair-elect Shepherd responded that the COIA is really interested in the student welfare aspect, so the scheduling of events is important. The other one is merging academic and athletic advising.

Chair Barry then called for a vote on the motion. Motion passes without objection.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on the Finances of the University

Chair Barry then introduced Robert Spencer, Director of Financial Planning in Vanderbilt University's Office of Financial Affairs to give a presentation to the Senate about the Finances of the University. He said that this is an abbreviated version of the presentation that is given to the Board of Trust each year.

Robert Spencer said that this report is available on the web (link: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divadm/finrprt2007/FY2007_VU_Financial_Report.pdf). He said that credit rating agencies are the prime audience for this report, along with current and potential donors and the Board of Trust.

Highlights:

Total net assets increased \$692 million. Endowment net assets increased to \$3.5 billion. Positive operating results totaled \$81 million. Health care services remained strong.

He asked for any questions. Senator Robert Weller asked about the asset allocation of the endowment. Associate Vice Chancellor Betty Price said that 60% is in venture capital, real estate, and hedge funds. More information is online in the financial report.

Senator David Wood asked if there are any ethical restraints on the endowment. Vice Chancellor Lauren Brisky responded that the Board of Trust has not put any restrictions on investments on the endowment.

Chair Barry thanked Robert Spencer for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion of Vanderbilt Efforts, Initiatives, and Challenges on Sustainability

Chair Barry then introduced the panel to discuss Vanderbilt's Efforts, Initiatives, and Challenges on Sustainability—James Clarke, Professor of the Practice, Civil and Environmental Engineering and affiliated faculty in the Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Mike Vandenberg, Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Regulatory Program at Vanderbilt Law School; Andrea George, Associate Director of Environmental Health and Safety and VU Sustainability Coordinator; and Judson Newbern, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Planning, Construction, and Environmental Health and Safety.

James Clarke mentioned that the Senate passed a motion last year on sustainability. He said that the committee welcomes suggestions for new and different potential committee members.

Mike Vandenberg said that research and teaching is important. His suggestions are to fill the gaps with extramural funding and faculty appointments in these critical areas. Also, he is interested in possibly forming an energy and environmental institute

Andrea George said that she is going to give the piece that has to do with what Vanderbilt is doing in this area. Sustain VU (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu/>) is the main website that pulls all of these initiatives together. She mentioned that many of the sustainability programs are cost-effective. She has identified 10 different student groups and 8 faculty groups that deal with environmental and sustainability issues. She mentioned the Think One campaign, which is an energy conservation awareness campaign that her office will be rolling out soon. There will also be a research study around this awareness campaign.

Judson Newbern said that LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) has become an industry standard for buildings. He said that the students were the tipping point; they were the impetus to get the LEED certification for the new Commons buildings. If you get this certification, you have to have a LEED certified planner in on the process from the beginning. Our goal is to do as much as we can towards this certification for more buildings.

As time was short, Chair Barry thanked the panel for sharing this important information with the Senate.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Emeson,
Vice Chair