

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 11, 2008, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 5, 2008

Introduction of Executive Committee, Standing Committee Chairs, and New Senators

Report of the Executive Committee (Virginia Shepherd, Chair of the Faculty Senate)

Remarks by Provost Richard McCarty

Presentation of committee charges for 2008-2009

New business

Good of the Senate

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

Voting Members present: Bell, Blair, Bloch, Bodenheimer, Bradford, Braxton, Calico, Christman, Conway-Welch, DeHart, Dever, Kirshner, LeBlanc, Lukehart, Moore, Nanney, Norden, Oliver, Oppenheimer, Paschal, Peek, Piston, Price, Retzlaff, Roberts, Rogers, Sasson, Schorn, Sharpley-Whiting, Shepherd, Shields, Slovis, Smrekar, Stone, Walker, Weil and Yarbrough.

Voting Members absent: Balsler, Benbow, Bernard, Blackett (regrets), Christie, Collins (regrets), Eisenberg (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Getz (regrets), Hiebert (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler, McLendon, Medina (regrets), Porter, Reschly (regrets), Rubin, Saff (regrets), Trigo (regrets), Wait, Wcislo, and Weller.

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Barge, Barry, Brisky, Christianson, Damon, Emeson, Fortune, McCarty, and Wilson.

Ex Officio Members absent: Chalkley, Hall (regrets), Jacobson, McNamara (regrets), Outlaw, Sandler, Williams, Wright, and Zeppos (regrets).

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Virginia Shepherd.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the May 2008 minutes

Minutes from the 5/5/08 meeting were reviewed and Chair Shepherd asked for any corrections or adjustments. Senator Michael Stone asked that the minutes be amended to show that he was present. Chair Shepherd then asked for any other changes. Hearing none, she asked for a show of hands and the minutes were approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Shepherd announced that for the October Senate meeting, the standing committees will meet instead. She also reminded everyone to sign in to have a complete record of attendance.

Chair Shepherd then introduced the new Executive Committee, Standing Committee chairs, and new senators. She also gave an overview of the Senate's composition, its work over the last year, and the traits of an effective senate.

Chair Shepherd then introduced Provost Richard McCarty.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Provost Richard McCarty

Provost McCarty thanked Chair Shepherd. He then gave his presentation with the major points presented below:

1. AVCF: This program opened up boundaries across campus. In all, eleven initiatives have been funded. This program has also broken down some of the ETOB structures. \$100 million was invested in the program, overall, and this program reflects a tremendous level of confidence in our faculty.
2. IDEAS (or AVCF II): Innovation and Discovery in Engineering and Science (IDEAS). There will be three funding streams for grant-based fields: University Central channel, VUMC channel, and Joint UC-VUMC channel. There will be six annual calls for pre-proposals—starting in September 2008. There is a two-step process: first, pre-proposals, and then full proposals by invitation only. Funding will be received by end of spring semester. Funding levels will be announced later, and \$50 million will be invested.
3. Research Scholar Grant Program in University Central: Dennis Hall will be in charge of this program of interdisciplinary research grants to seed humanity projects. This is above and beyond the \$50 million for IDEAS.

4. Vanderbilt Institute on Energy and the Environment: George Hornberger is in charge of this program.
5. VIAS: Vanderbilt Institute for Advanced Study. It is in the planning stages, and being chaired by Gary Gerstle. Planning report to be submitted by May 2009. This will include Vanderbilt faculty and external fellows.
6. Graduate Education: Provost McCarty said that we are moving in the right direction in terms of playing on the national field with regard to graduate students.
7. Graduate Student mental health continues to be an important issue.
8. No Loan Debt Reduction Strategy: Based on two important principles: 1) admission to Vanderbilt is need blind, and 2) Vanderbilt will pay 100% of tuition for family's demonstrated need.
 - a. Total student indebtedness has decreased by 17% despite average annual tuition increases of 5%.
 - b. At full implementation, there will be no loans needed for a student to matriculate at Vanderbilt.
 - c. Funding will come from 3 sources: Existing quasi endowment funds, new gifts to the endowment, and management of overall endowment spending (endowment spending out).
 - d. Will be implemented in fall 2009. We are deciding how to phase this in and will update you.
9. College Halls: Phase II
 - a. The Commons will continue as a foundation
 - b. Current focus is on the freshman experience
 - c. College Halls as next step
 - d. Timeline: tentative groundbreaking May 2011/tentative opening Aug 2013.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Bruce Oppenheimer: Will the admission of transfer students be need blind as well?

Doug Christianson: Yes, all of them are already need blind.

Senator Oppenheimer: Will we get reports on the academic quality of transfer students?

Provost McCarty: We are happy to make that information public.

Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal: Will Kissam Hall be a LEED certified building?

Susan Barge: Yes.

Chair-elect Paschal: I still am concerned with what our quantitative social scientists will do with respect to AVCF II.

Provost McCarty: Any grant-based discipline can apply for AVCF II (IDEAS).

Dean Jeff Balsler: We had a big discussion about this. The Health Services areas are big for us, and we need to include this. We see this as very important.

Past Chair Bruce Barry: What about the social sciences that are not research funded?

Provost McCarty: They can submit for the Research Scholars program.

Chair Shepherd: Can you clarify the amount per grant?

Provost McCarty: The boundaries will be around \$200K/year for 3 years. If it is an instrumentation request, it can be \$600K-\$1 million. We plan to do one of these per year in each of the 3 streams.

Dean Balser: In different disciplines, different amounts of money make sense. In the Medical Center, faculty members need to cover their time and effort for NIH grants, and these grants will need to do that also. Dennis Hall and I are trying to be flexible and balance the amounts by spreading the money around.

Provost McCarty: No deans will be funding this program, it will all be coming from the Chancellor/Vice Chancellor level.

Chair Shepherd: How soon will you get the word out?

Provost McCarty: We should have something up on the website within two weeks.

Dean Balser: We will give six weeks from when the RFA goes out until the deadline. We know that last time the turnaround response time was too quick and we responded to this concern.

Senator Bobby Bodenheimer: Does Vanderbilt track how many PhDs go into academia, especially if they go to institutions that are rated higher than Vanderbilt?

Provost McCarty: That is tracked at the school/college/dept. level. We know that we need to do a better job of tracking this centrally. This is a critical missing piece of our data.

Senator Bridget Rogers: Are you saying that the No Loan program is not going to impact the budgets of the schools?

Provost McCarty: The Chancellor and the Board of Trust have decided that this is the most compelling need for that money. No money will come out of operating budgets. We are looking at how we implement it—it will be \$14-15 million for the freshman starting next year.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of committee charges for 2008-2009

Chair Shepherd presented the new committee charges and asked each committee chair to give a brief introduction.

Chair Shepherd then asked for any questions.

Senator Jack Sasson: He asked about students who live in the area and how they interact with the nearby neighborhood of Vanderbilt. He asked if this issue could be looked at by the Student Life committee.

Chair Shepherd said that graduate student life will be looked at next year after the Graduate Student Task Force's report.

Chair Shepherd asked for further questions. Hearing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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

Chair Shepherd then called for any other items under 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 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Retzlaff,
Vice Chair