

Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
May 4, 2009, 4:10 p.m.  
Frist 140

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Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2009

Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Report of the Executive Committee  
Chair Virginia Shepherd

Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice-Chair-elect

Year-end reports from standing committees

Motion from APS committee (degree program)

Motion from Student Life committee

New Business/Good of the Senate

Adjourn (reception to follow)

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Voting Members present: Armour, Bell, Benbow, Berk-Seligson, Blair, Bodenheimer, Christman, Dever, Galloway, Getz, Hall, Hiebert, Hudnut-Beumler, Moore, Newbern,

Paschal, Piston, Price, Retzlaff, Roberts, Rogers, Sasson, Schorn, Shepherd, Slovis, Smrekar, Stone, Walker, Weil, Weller, and Yarbrough.

Voting Members absent: Balsler, Bernard, Blackett, Bradford, Braxton, Calico (regrets), Christie, Collins, Conway-Welch, Eisenberg, Kirshner, LeBlanc (regrets), Lukeheart (regrets), McLendon, Nanney, Norden, Oliver (regrets), Oppenheimer, Peek (regrets), Price (regrets), Porter, Reschly (regrets), Rubin, Saff (regrets), Sharpley-Whiting, Shields, Wait, and Wood (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Barry, Christiansen, Damon, Emeson, Fortune, McCarty, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Barge, Chalkley, Dowell, Fife, Jacobson (regrets), McNamara, Outlaw, Price, Sandler, Stalcup, Wcislo (regrets), Williams, and Wright.

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

**Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the April 2009 minutes**

Chair Shepherd asked for a show of hands to approve the April minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Recognition of Third-Year Senators and Committee Chairs**

Chair Shepherd thanked the third-year senators and Chancellor Zeppos gave out certificates of recognition. There was also recognition for outgoing committee chairs and the executive committee members.

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

Chair Shepherd gave the report of the Executive Committee that included a summary of the recent presentation at the spring Faculty Assembly meeting, and highlights from the recent Board of Trust presentation by Chair-elect Paschal. She has also invited the chair of the Board of Trust, Martha Ingram, to address the Senate. Chair Shepherd said that it is very important to maintain dialogue between the Board of Trust and Senate.

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

Chair Shepherd then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos who began by answering questions.

Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal: What’s going to be our financial burden with the Student No Loan program? And how are we doing with undergraduate student admissions?

Chancellor Zeppos: The program costs between \$5-8 million per year. Our fundraising is up about 15% from last year. I think we are going to see expansion in other areas with this type of program.

Vice Provost Doug Christiansen: We are running very healthy with our undergraduate admissions (May 1 is the deadline), and our admit rate is 18.9%. We are in the top 15% selective colleges. We have a 40% yield—we took a few more early decisions this year, since we didn't know what the economy would do.

Senator Claire Smrekar: How would you describe efforts to centralize functions in the university?

Chancellor Zeppos: I'd give us a D minus. I think we have a fair amount of duplication in the university. I think there are certain areas where we have more duplication than others. We can give a little more effort (grants and accounting, for example) to pare down. As for libraries—we should have more of a synthesis. I don't see much value in centralizing academic units. We need to start thinking about what things that we are going to raise money for in bold, transinstitutional ways. I would see that as something that necessarily involves the schools in strategic planning. I believe that most governance is local.

Senator Dave Piston: How do you view the future of the administration and its relationship to the faculty?

Chancellor Zeppos: I think the relationship between the chancellor and the schools is largely a function of the deans. I think the relationship between the Medical Center and the University should have a more nuanced approach. I think you are going to see increased collaboration across the university.

Senator Lillian Nanney: What about the relationship between faculty members and the Board of Trust? I'm curious as to why faculty don't have a seat on the board, but the students do (young alumni)?

Chancellor Zeppos: The difference is that the young alumni do not work at the university. I have been inviting the faculty to attend the meetings and to help plan the meetings. I think that is a good first step. The Board does not operate the university, and that should be clear to everyone. The Board is not an operational part of the university and we shouldn't take steps to make it that way. We need to keep that in mind. The Board operates at a very high level of fiduciary duty, and they are very proud that they do not manage Vanderbilt.

Past Chair Bruce Barry: The Board has one key responsibility that the faculty is not involved in and that is hiring the chancellor.

To what extent does the way we do financial aid actually change the socioeconomic profile of students who will come here?

Chancellor Zeppos: We have already gone through a seismic shift over the past ten years in our student body. The reason these policies were put in place was to produce this change. And we expect to see this continue with the No Loan program.

Senator Jack Sasson: We don't have a forum at Vanderbilt to have these discussions—why can't we have more of these?

Chancellor Zeppos: I am happy to be available for questions and we will explore our options with holding forums. I learn more from smaller gatherings than larger speeches.

Senior Associate Dean Roger Chalkley: Is the tuition benefit going to continue?

Chancellor Zeppos: I would never want to cut back benefits for people who are already getting them. We pay \$9 million per year for this benefit.

Chair Shepherd then thanked Chancellor Zeppos.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice-Chair-elect**

After the elections were held, Senator Brian Christman was elected chair-elect and Senator Bobby Bodenheimer was elected vice-chair elect. Chair Shepherd congratulated both of them, and said that she looked forward to working with them next year.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Year-end reports from standing committees**

Chair Shepherd mentioned that the year-end committee reports are all available on the Senate website.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Motion from APS committee (degree program)**

Senator Mike Stone, chair of the APS committee, presented the following motion: “The Faculty Senate recommends approval of the Master’s Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics (Vanderbilt School of Nursing).” Chair Shepherd then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Dave Piston: What is the proposed size of the program?

Linda Norman (Nursing): We plan an initial class of 10 and plan to admit up to 30.

Chair Shepherd asked for any other question. Hearing none, she asked for a voice vote. The motion was approved.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Motion from Student Life committee**

Senator John Braxton presented the following motion: “The Faculty Senate endorses the recommendation to establish a standing committee charged with coordinating various issues associated with sexual assaults put forth by the Student Life Committee.”

Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal: I propose a friendly amendment to add to the end of the motion these words, “and furthermore recommends inclusion of student representatives to that committee.”

Chair Shepherd asked for a second. Senator Margaret Blair seconded the amendment.

Senator Bridget Rogers: Could it be an issue for a student to be on the committee when talking about sensitive issues?

Senator Blair: I worry about confidentiality, too.

Chair-elect Paschal: I see the committee as coordinating data, etc. and not sharing specific information. That being said, I think that the benefits of having student representation outweigh the problems.

Senator Mary Yarbrough: I think that anyone who is on the committee should be aware of confidentiality.

Chair Shepherd asked for a vote on including the friendly amendment. The motion to add the friendly amendment passed with a show of hands.

Senator Jack Sasson: I propose a friendly amendment to add the word “harassment” after the term “sexual assault.”

Chair Shepherd: I think that would open it up in a completely different direction.

There was no second of this amendment.

Chair Shepherd asked for a vote with a show of hands on the motion with the first friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Shepherd asked for any new business. Hearing none, she turned to good of the senate.

Chair Shepherd asked for any business under good of the senate. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn, which was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Retzlaff,  
Vice Chair