

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 16, 2004
4:10 p.m.
Alumni Room 144, Vanderbilt Law School

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2004

Note: Minutes can be found on the Senate website at:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/51004facsen2.pdf>

Introduction of Executive Committee and New Senators

Report of the Executive Committee

Robert Thompson, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Chancellor E. Gordon Gee

Committee on Academic Programs and Services (Senator Jason Morrow, Chair)

Report and recommendation on proposed new Master's of Science degree in finance
(Owen Graduate School of Management)

Presentation of committee charges for 2004-2005

Committee charges can be found at:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm>

Academic Policies and Services (Jason Morrow, chair)

Classified Research Task Force

Faculty Life (Dieter Sevin, chair)

Faculty Manual Task Force

Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom (Marie Griffin, chair)

Senate Affairs (Mark Ellingham, chair)

Student Life (Greg Barz, chair)

Recommendation to reappoint Professor Kassian Kovalcheck as Senate Parliamentarian

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Reception

Voting Members present: Adams, Anderson, Barnett, Barz, Benbow, Booth, Campbell, Conklin, Ellingham, Flake, Fleetwood, Foster, Fuchs, Gabbe, Griffin, Haglund, Hawiger, Heflinger, Hetcher, Heyneman, LeBoeuf, Link, Masulis, McCarty, Morrow, Neff, Peebles, Pettepher, Sevin, Shyr, Smrekar, Summar, Syverud, Tarpley, Tellinghuisen, Thompson, and Washington.

Voting Members absent: Bradford, Conway-Welch (regrets), Cummings, Eigen (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Goldfarb (regrets), Greene, Hodges (regrets), Hoffman, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Lachs (regrets), Levine (regrets), McCarthy (regrets), McGill (regrets), Perkins (regrets), Porter (regrets), Schmidt, Tolk (regrets), and Wait.

Ex Officio Members present: Farran, Gee, Gherman, Hall, Kovalcheck, Ramsey, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Brisky (regrets), Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Perfetto, Schoenfeld (regrets), Spitz, Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Robert Thompson. Minutes from 5/10/04 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Introduction of Executive Committee and New Senators

Chair Thompson then recognized the new Executive Committee members and the new senators. He commented on the makeup of the new class of senators in terms of length of time at Vanderbilt and other factors.

Next Item on the Agenda - Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Thompson began his remarks noting that there were three main issues he wanted to address: 1) the composition of the new Senate class, 2) the constituents that the Faculty Senate serves, and 3) the work of the Senate. He noted that the median time at Vanderbilt for new senators is eleven years (starting a career at Vanderbilt in 1993). He also mentioned that 50% of new senators received their degrees from public institutions, which adds to the diversity of the body. Also, one-third of the new senators began their careers at Vanderbilt and chose to stay, while the other two-thirds came from other institutions. He said that this spoke to the diversity of experience within the Faculty Senate.

Chair Thompson then mentioned how the faculty has changed at Vanderbilt since 1993. He pointed out that there has been a change in the make-up of faculty over the last ten years, with the Medical Center growing in terms of non-tenure track faculty members. He said that this changes the constituency that senators represent in substantial ways.

Chair Thompson went on to talk about the work of the Senate and used sections of the Faculty Senate Constitution to illustrate his points. He explained that while the Senate is a deliberative, legislative body, there is not much that the Senate is actually able to legislate. He stated that he saw three main limitations on the powers of the Senate: 1) For every issue that is raised, there is at least one administrator who oversees this area, 2) There is an issue of separation of powers (every issue could potentially be stepping on the power of a school/college, for example), and 3) There is a problem of incentives (first and foremost, he said, senators are teachers and researchers, with Senate work coming after service to school/college). He encouraged new senators to take on the task of engaging in the work of the Senate.

The Chair then introduced Chancellor Gordon Gee who presented his official response to the 2003-2004 Senate motions.

Next Item on the Agenda - Report from Chancellor Gee

Chancellor Gee thanked immediate past Chair Matt Ramsey for his leadership last year. He then gave his response to the two pending resolutions he received from the Senate. In regards to the resolution on the Conflict of Interest and Commitment forms, he stated that new forms are being drafted with the Senate's help. He said that the Conflict of Commitment issue has been resolved, and the Conflict of Interest issue is still being vetted.

As for the PEAFF grievance process resolution, he reported concerns from the offices of the General Counsel, the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, and the Provost. He said that he is turning his attention to getting this matter resolved soon.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Jacek Hawiger asked if he could elaborate on his allusion to "two universities" in regards to the staff survey. Chancellor Gee responded that, with regards to the staff survey, Vanderbilt has very high morale. But the one thing that could be done better is faculty recognition of staff. There are 18,000 faculty and staff at Vanderbilt, and only 2500 of these are faculty members. Staff members are the engine of this university and they need to be recognized.

Senator Stephen Heyneman asked if the Chancellor could explain more about the Chief Information Architect and his role. Chancellor Gee responded that Bill Stead is the CIA of Health Affairs. He added that Bill has a persuasive relationship rather than a reporting relationship with regard to his role in the administration. Senator Heyneman followed up with a question about the library. Chancellor Gee responded that the facility is not up to par, but the library system itself is. He added that he has asked Paul Gherman, University Librarian, to come up with a proposal to improve the library and that it is an important priority even if it is not listed as part of the capital campaign.

Senator Dieter Sevin asked about an announcement a few years ago that all students would study abroad. Chancellor Gee replied that this is still one of his goals. He added that he has appointed Joel Harrington to look at the international programs, and that the administration is working on this possibility.

Hearing no further questions, Chancellor Gee concluded his remarks.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report and Recommendation on proposed new Master of Science degree in finance

Chair Thompson introduced Senator Jason Morrow, chair of the Academic Policies and Services Committee, to present the report and recommendation on the proposed new Master of Science degree in finance.

Senator Morrow then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Hawiger asked if the degree would include a thesis or not. Senator Masulis, who was involved in the design of the degree, answered that it would not include a thesis. He explained that this is viewed as a professional degree that will include a lot of research required in the courses themselves. He added that this degree will be competitive with other programs that do not have a thesis requirement. Senator Hawiger replied by asking if Vanderbilt should raise its standards above the other schools offering similar degrees.

Senator Vivien Casagrande commented that perhaps one of the problems is the name of the program, and that a change from Master of Finance to Master of Science in Finance might be considered. Senator Masulis replied that this would be fine. He added that there is already a precedent for calling the degree a Master of Finance. Past Secretary Dale Farran commented that it is not true that all other Master of Science degrees require a thesis. Dean Camilla Benbow added that research is not the only culminating experience for graduate work.

Past Secretary Farran asked what distinguishes a Master of Science in Finance from a Master of Finance. Senator Masulis said that the major reason the degree was called a Master of Finance was that the school wants to impose more quantitative requirements and would be teaching at a more quantitative level than the MBA program.

Senator Morrow asked for more questions or comments from the floor. Hearing none, he turned the floor back over to Chair Thompson who called for a vote to amend the proposed recommendation. Hearing none, he then called for a vote on the recommendation as presented to the Senate. At the suggestion of Senator Beth Conklin, Chair Thompson stated that there would be a secret ballot vote. The motion to approve the recommendation was carried with 35 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of 2004-2005 Committee Charges

Chair Thompson presented the 2004-2005 Committee Charges, and noted that all charges were available on the Faculty Senate website (charges can be found here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit04.htm>). He asked for any discussion regarding the charges. Hearing none, he moved to the next order of business.

Next Item on the Agenda – Recommendation to reappoint Professor Kassian Kovalcheck as Senate Parliamentarian

Chair Thompson presented this motion to recommend reappointment of Professor Kassian Kovalcheck as Senate Parliamentarian for the 2004-2005 Faculty Senate. The motion was approved unanimously by acclamation.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Chair Thompson called for new business, but there was none reported.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Thompson then called for business under Good of the Senate. Senator Hawiger noted the passing of Professor Roscoe Robinson. He asked that the chair of Faculty Senate note the names of faculty members who have passed away at the annual Faculty Assembly meeting.

Chair Thompson invited all Faculty Senate members to the reception directly after the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall Summar,
Secretary