

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 8, 2005, 4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall, School of Nursing

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2005

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

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/050905facsen.pdf>

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

Remarks by Chancellor E. Gordon Gee

Report of the Executive Committee

John A. McCarthy, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Presentation of committee charges for 2005-2006

Committee charges can be found at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm>

Senate response to Hurricane Katrina

COIA

Discussion concerning Special Executive Session in October

New business

Good of the Senate

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

Voting Members present: Adams, Ahner, Barnett, Barry, Barz, Bradford, Campbell, Carter, Casagrande, Conway-Welch, Cummings, Dowdy, Ellingham, Emeson, Ernst, Flake, Fuchs, Gabbe, Galloway, George, Hearn, Heflinger, Hetcher, Hodges, Hudnut-Beumler, Jennings, Lachs, LeBoeuf, Levine, Link, McCarthy, McCarty, Neely, Peebles, Pettepher, Porter, Reisenberg, Rubin, Sandler, Schmidt, Shyr, Smith, Smrekar, Steinberg, Tarpley, Tolk, and Washington.

Voting Members absent: Benbow (regrets), Burk (regrets), Eigen, Fogo (regrets), Foster (regrets), Griffin (regrets), Hoffman (regrets), Wait, and Wasserstein (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Balsler, Brisky, Chalkley, Gee, Gherman, Gotterer, Hall, Jacobson, Kovalcheck, McNamara, Schoenfeld, Summar, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Barge, Outlaw, Perfetto, Spitz, Thompson (regrets), and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair John A. McCarthy. Minutes from 5/9/05 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair McCarthy introduced the Executive Committee, standing Committee Chairs, and new Senators. He then turned the floor over to Chancellor Gee.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Gee

Chancellor Gee thanked Chair McCarthy for his leadership. He welcomed the new and returning senators, and said that he looked forward to working with the Senate this year.

Chancellor Gee reviewed the Senate’s accomplishments last year. He highlighted the Senate’s work on the new classified research policy and on the standards of conduct and conflict of interest policy. He mentioned improvements to the grievance process, and thanked the Senate for their work on the process to amend the Faculty Manual.

He said that he appreciated the Senate’s work on athletics, and mentioned that, with the Senate’s help, a faculty survey is being designed that will serve as a baseline for years to come.

Chancellor Gee said that the administration is focusing on the residential colleges program. He said that there is now a search for the dean of the Commons, and also for residential faculty. He also mentioned that the administration is focused on childcare, and are fully committed to this issue.

Chancellor Gee added that one of the major challenges facing the university is faculty life. He asked how should the university best recruit and reward faculty? He said that he is committed to developing an approach that will let us recognize each member of the faculty, and he has asked Dennis Hall, Jeff Balsler, and Tim McNamara to work on this. He reiterated that this is currently the number one issue at the university.

Chancellor Gee also noted Vanderbilt’s efforts at being among the first responders to Hurricane Katrina’s displaced students and faculty. He congratulated everyone on helping with this effort. We have had the best year financially in many years. He closed by mentioning that while he very rarely talks about money in this forum, he is pleased to report that the money management of this institution is going well.

He then opened the floor for questions. Senator Ronnie Steinberg stated that she applauded the university’s response to Katrina, yet she is worried about the evacuees in shelters. She asked if there was anything that the university can do for these displaced workers. Chancellor Gee

suggested that she get in touch with Mike Schoenfeld, as he is heading up Vanderbilt's Crisis Management team. Senator Susie Adams added that both Medicine and Nursing are staffing the shelters with mental health professionals and other health care professionals. Associate Provost Lauren Brisky stated that the Red Cross has put out call for different skill sets. She added that the administration has put out a policy for staff to get paid administrative leave if possible.

Senator Bruce Barry asked about displacing affordable housing for graduate students with families by the residential colleges project. Chancellor Gee replied that this was substandard housing and it was planned to be torn down anyway. Associate Provost Brisky stated that a fair amount of time was spent working with the students to find them alternative housing. She added that the administration is looking at what it would take to put new graduate student housing on campus (in the Mayfield area), and that this is the long term plan. Chancellor Gee stated that the university gave them an 18 month lead time, as well.

Chancellor Gee then asked for further questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate, and turned the floor over to Chair McCarthy.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of Executive Committee

Chair McCarthy thanked Chancellor Gee for his remarks. He then turned to the report of the Executive Committee. He began by telling the senators that the purpose of this meeting is to set the year's agenda and to stimulate thinking on certain issues. He stated that while good governance is important, we cannot always expect quick action. He added that accountability is important, and the Senate's accountability is to the Vanderbilt faculty, as well as the university itself.

Chair McCarthy said that efforts to enhance communication will be a priority this year. To achieve this, the Senate Executive Committee meets with the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice-Chancellor of Health Affairs monthly. This committee will also meet with the deans this year, in addition to staff and student leaders. He said that officers of the administration will also be making presentations to the full Senate.

Chair McCarthy said that senators will be charged to take back to their departments and institutes the information they receive here. He added that we have to have active involvement in order to deal with the important issues that the Senate will tackle this year.

He said that there is a risk of generating more work than the Senate can deal with, effectively. But, he added, the information generated and the actions taken can help steer a course for the Senate in the coming year.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of committee charges for 2005-2006

Chair McCarthy then gave a general overview of the committee charges for 2005-2006 (see full list of charges here: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm>). He pointed out that some of the topics listed are: mental health for students, strategic planning, student

demographics, job satisfaction/faculty survey, transinstitutional centers, phased-in retirement, and the living wage resolution.

Chair McCarthy asked for any questions concerning the committee charges. Hearing none, he cited graduate education as an example of a major issue that the Senate could take up this year, and might possibly be the focus for the special executive session in October. He asked for responses from senators to his remarks on issues of graduate education.

Associate Provost Dennis Hall mentioned the EGE (Enhancing Graduate Education) program. He said that they are able to fund 5 awards per year, depending on the amount of the award, and that the program is designed to run like the Discovery Grants program. He stated that the Senate may want to look into this program.

Dean McCarty stated that applications have gone up dramatically in the College of Arts and Sciences. Senator Helmut Smith asked for a copy of the Strategic Planning report.

Senator John Lachs asked exactly what do we want to achieve by talking about graduate education at the special executive session. Chair McCarthy responded that the purpose for this would be to get information disseminated to see what sort of position the Senate may be able to take. The Senate might have an opportunity to gather information on what is happening in graduate education at Vanderbilt and beyond.

Senator Michael Hodges said that Dean McCarty has already made available to the chairs in Arts and Sciences this information about graduate education. Chair McCarthy replied that he is looking for other kinds of information.

Senator Karen Campbell said that if the topic of the special executive session might be to talk about the strategic planning retreat, we need to make the Osborne report available to all senators. Chair McCarthy agreed that this would be a good idea.

Dean Jim Hudnut-Beumler gave two observations. First, he expressed concern that Chair McCarthy said that he was not interested in the sort of information that Senator Hodges mentioned and that this was disturbing to him. He said that he thinks the Senate should be looking at that sort of information, and that he would urge the Senate to review this information. He said that he thinks that this inquiry should be more data-driven, and that the Senate needs to look at the fullness of the information. His second observation is in regard to the centralizing of graduate recruiting. Instead, he believes that it is good that this effort is decentralized, and he thinks that it should be decentralized even further. Chair McCarthy said that he appreciates these comments, explaining that his intent is not to dismiss any kind of data but to animate the Senate to be proactive. He added that he thinks that the Senate should look at all information given, but should also look at the big picture.

Chair McCarthy asked for more questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for agreement that the special executive session would be held. A voice vote was taken, and it was agreed to hold the special session.

Next Item on the Agenda – Senate response to Hurricane Katrina

Chair McCarthy reported that the Senate Executive Committee has recommended that there be faculty involvement in responding to help faculty members displaced by Hurricane Katrina. He said that the Executive Committee submitted this idea to the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs. He reported that they are very pleased with the Senate's offer of help and that they would coordinate overall efforts.

Next Item on the Agenda – COIA

Chair McCarthy gave a brief overview of the Senate's involvement with COIA.

Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion concerning Special Executive Session in October

This item was previously discussed.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Chair McCarthy then called for any new business. Hearing none, he moved to the next agenda item.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair McCarthy reminded senators that Father Edward "Monk" Malloy will be the Faculty Senate speaker on Thursday, October 27. He added that he is in the process of arranging an open forum on that day which would address some aspects of religion and science in higher education.

Chair McCarthy then called for business under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he invited everyone to attend the reception immediately following the meeting outside the room in the Atrium. He called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Anne Heflinger,
Secretary