

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 20, 2006, 4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2006

Report of the Executive Committee

John A. McCarthy, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Senate Committee Reports

APS, Karen Campbell, chair

Motion to approve Master's degree in Deaf Education

Faculty Life, Joey Barnett, chair

Motion on Child Care

Motion on Compensation

Motion on Funding

PEAF, A.-J. Levine, chair

Senate Affairs, Cathy Pettepher, chair

Motion to establish Senate Affairs as a liaison with the Staff Councils

Motion to amend the Senate Rules of Order (**this motion will not be voted on until the May meeting, in accordance with the Rules of Order)

Student Life, Stokes Peebles, chair

New business

Motion to amend the Senate Rules of Order and the Senate Constitution (**this motion will not be voted on until the May meeting, in accordance with the Rules of Order)

Bob Thompson, past Senate chair

Good of the Senate

Motion to Adjourn

Voting Members present: Barnett, Barry, Barz, Burk, Campbell, Dowdy, Ellingham, Emeson, Fogo, Foster, Galloway, Griffin, Heflinger, Hodges, Hudnut-Beumler, Jennings,

Lachs, LeBoeuf, Levine, Link, McCarthy, Peebles, Pettepher, Porter, Reisenberg, Steinberg, Tarpley, Tolk, and Washington.

Voting Members absent: Adams (regrets), Ahner (regrets), Benbow, Bradford, Carter (regrets), Casagrande (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Cummings (regrets), Ernst (regrets), Flake, Friedman (regrets), Fuchs (regrets), Gabbe (regrets), George, Hearn (regrets), Hetcher, Hoffman, McCarty (regrets), Neely (regrets), Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Schmidt, Shyr (regrets), Smith, Smrekar, Wait (regrets), and Wasserstein (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Gotterer, Hall, Kovalcheck, McNamara, Schoenfeld, and Thompson.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley, Gee (regrets), Gherman (regrets), Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Perfetto, Sandler, Spitz, Summar, Williams, and Zeppos (regrets).

.....
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair John A. McCarthy. Minutes from the 3/2/06 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair McCarthy opened with the report of the Senate Executive Committee. He noted that Associate Provost Tim McNamara's report on SACS accreditation has been rescheduled for the first Senate meeting in the fall. He said that the Senate Consultative Committee met to discuss the recent faculty awards, and also nominated faculty members for the University Standing Committees. He reminded senators that the call for the Jefferson Award has gone out, and that the deadline for nominations is Monday, April 24. He added that the Nominating Committee has also met to put together the slate of nominees for chair and secretary-elect.

Chair McCarthy reported that at the Spring meeting of the Faculty Assembly, Professor Vivien Fryd gave the faculty presentation. He reminded everyone that the art project that was the topic of Professor Fryd's presentation (the project with the Chancellor's Artist-in-Residence, Judy Chicago) will be opening tomorrow night.

He mentioned that the Board of Trust will be meeting next week, and he will be giving a presentation to the Academic Committee on the Senate's activities.

Chair McCarthy stated that senators should have received an email about the Sloan Foundation faculty survey, and he urged them to complete this survey. He added that this does not take the place of the survey planned by the Senate; that survey will take place in the fall.


Finally, Chair McCarthy encouraged senators to let him know about the issues that are important to them. He said that the new Executive Committee will take these topics under advisement for the August retreat.

He opened the floor for any questions. Hearing none, he turned to the next agenda item.

Next Item on the Agenda – Senate Committee Reports

Chair McCarthy turned the floor over to Senator Karen Campbell, chair of APS committee. Senator Campbell reported that her committee has attempted to get a handle on Academic Mission Design/strategic planning. One idea her committee had was to communicate better what the Faculty Senate does. They have contacted the *Register*, and they are looking to get contacts for the Reporter. Mike Schoenfeld said that he will take care of this, and let us know that Doug Campbell is the editor of the Reporter.

Senator Campbell said that she has scheduled a meeting with Chancellor Gee about other initiatives to better inform the faculty about what is going on with Strategic Planning (i.e. creating websites for information, etc.).

She stated that looking into the continuation of the Library Committee was a part of her charge. She reported that Provost Zeppos doesn't want to abolish this standing committee at this time, even though the committee itself recommended that this happen last year. 

She further reported that her committee has established the task force on Interdisciplinary Collaborations.

She then presented the motion for approving a Master's degree in Deaf Education. She explained that the APS committee agreed to put this forward for the Senate's consideration and approval.

She added that they have external funding for this program and that most of the faculty needed to teach this program are already in place. She opened the floor for questions.

Senator Joey Barnett asked if it had a thesis component. Senator Campbell answered that it did not.

Senator John Lachs asked how many students will be served by this degree program. Chair McCarthy said he thought 15-23 students would be served.

Senator Cathy Fuchs asked if there are other universities that will be offering this kind of degree program. Senator Campbell said that she thought there were, but that Vanderbilt's would be among the top programs due to Bill Wilkerson/DHSS and Peabody's reputations.



Senator Michael Hodges asked what students would do with this degree. Senator Campbell answered that the emphasis is on K-12 teaching.

Chair McCarthy asked for other questions. There were none. Chair McCarthy then called for a voice vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair McCarthy then turned the floor over to Senator Joey Barnett, chair of Faculty Life committee.

Senator Barnett mentioned that there are efforts underway to discuss interdisciplinary centers and other related issues. The Senate task force is one avenue for discussion and Senator Ron Emeson on the Faculty Life committee is the point person on the task force to report back to the committee.

Senator Barnett then presented the motion on funding.

Senator Lachs asked if this isn't something we are doing already. Senator Barnett said that while we are, there is no reason why we can't show our support in the current funding climate.

Senator Agnes Fogo commented that she thinks that this is a very worthwhile motion to put forward. There are barriers in handling grants and contracts that need to be removed. It may not be specific enough. She stated that the infrastructure to deal with this on the medical side of the university is inadequate.

Senator Norman Tolk made a friendly amendment to the motion: "Vanderbilt will work to develop mechanisms for faculty development in the successful pursuit of funding." This amendment was accepted by Senator Barnett. Senator Lachs made a friendly amendment to change the word "resolved" to "recommended." This amendment was accepted by Senator Barnett.

Chair McCarthy called for a voice vote on the motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Barnett then turned to the issue of the living wage. He gave a history of his talks this year with student groups, administrators, staff members and others. He then presented the motion on compensation. He added that some of the wording came from Medical School's initiative to become the "preferred employer" in this area.

Senator Ronnie Steinberg said that she objects to saying that this motion has anything to do with the living wage issue. Senator Bruce Barry asked about the phrase "combined total value of its minimum compensation for all Vanderbilt University employees." He wanted to know what that means. He also asked about comparing different universities—he said that this wording is problematically vague.

Senator Peebles asked about the college tuition benefit, and said that if we factor that in, it can be problematic in terms of deciding which benefits count in the overall equation. Senator Andy Porter said that tying this to a statistic that depends on other regional universities is not a good idea.

Senator Stan Link brought up another point of clarification: “all Vanderbilt employees” was used to exclude all contract workers.

There was a motion brought to table this motion at this time, and send it back to the committee for further deliberation. Chair McCarthy asked for a voice vote on this motion. This motion to table was passed unanimously.

Senator Barnett then brought forth the motion on child care. He asked for any questions. Senator Peebles asked about numbers of children served; he thinks that the number in the text of the motion is a low number. Senator Barnett explained that this is an estimate. Kevin Myatt, chief Human Resources officer, was present, and he explained how this number was arrived at. Vice Chancellor Lauren Brisky said that because of the cost factor, there is no way to provide 100% of Vanderbilt’s child care needs. She said that we are trying to look at an intermediate solution at this time.

Senator Lachs offered a friendly amendment to change “resolve” to “recommend” and to take the figures “70%” and “30%” out of the motion’s wording. The amendment was accepted by Senator Barnett.

Chair McCarthy called for a voice vote on the motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Senator Barnett said that his committee is still looking at the phased-in retirement issues and issues of diversity. He expects that these concerns may be carried over into next year.

Chair McCarthy then turned the floor over to Senator Cathy Pettepher, chair of Senate Affairs committee.

She first presented the motion to amend the Senate Rules of Order to include the term “student grievances” in the general charge to the Student Life committee. She explained that this motion will not be voted on until the May meeting of the Senate, as outlined in the Rules of Order.

She brought forth her committee’s motion to establish Senate Affairs as a liaison with the Staff Councils.

Senator Lachs asked about changing the motion to “we seek meetings between representatives of the staff councils.” Senator Pettepher accepted this as a friendly amendment.

Chair McCarthy called for a voice vote on the motion as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair McCarthy then asked Senator A.-J. Levine, chair of PEAFF, if we might delay her report until the following meeting in the interest of time. She agreed.

Chair McCarthy then turned the floor over to Senator Stokes Peebles, chair of Student Life committee. Senator Peebles gave a brief overview of the activities of his committee over the past year, including the establishment of the Freshman Commons task force chaired by David Wasserstein. He also mentioned that Senator Craig Anne Heflinger is chairing a subcommittee on Mental Health, and that they will give an interim report at the next Senate meeting.

Chair McCarthy thanked all of the committee chairs for their reports and for their hard work this year.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Chair McCarthy then recognized Past Senate Chair Bob Thompson who presented a motion to amend the Senate Rules of Order and the Constitution. This motion would replace all references to “Secretary” and “Secretary-Elect” with “Vice Chair” and “Vice Chair-elect.” He asked for any questions. Senator Lachs asked if the chair became disabled, would the vice chair automatically assume his role? Past Chair Thompson said that the constitution specifies that there would be an election for a new chair. Hearing no other questions, Chair McCarthy thanked Past Chair Thompson for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair McCarthy then called for any business under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Anne Heflinger,
Secretary