

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 14, 2006, 4:15 p.m.
140 Frist Hall, School of Nursing

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2006

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

Report of the Executive Committee

D. Catherine Fuchs, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Chancellor E. Gordon Gee

Presentation of committee charges for 2006-2007

Committee charges can be found online at:

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

SACS reaccreditation process

Tim McNamara, Associate Provost for Faculty

Health benefits presentation

Kevin Myatt and Jane Bruce, Human Resources

Mental Health presentation

Craig Anne Heflinger, Mental Health subcommittee of Student Life committee

Note: Presentation and supporting materials can be found online at:

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

New business

Good of the Senate

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

Voting Members present: Ahner, Breyer, Burk, Campbell, Carter, Chen, DeHart, Dickerson, Dowdy, Emeson, Fuchs, Galloway, George, Jennings, Kirshner, Levine, Link, Lybrand, McLendon, Medina, Moore, Neely, Norden, Pettepher, Reisenberg, Retzlaff, Rousseau, Shiavi, Shields, Smrekar, Slovis, Tarpley, Weller, and Wood.

Voting Members absent: Barnett (regrets), Barry (regrets), Benbow, Bradford, Conway-Welch (regrets), Cooil (regrets), Fogo, Gabbe (regrets), Hetcher, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Lachs (regrets), McCarty (regrets), Porter (regrets), Rubin, Sandler, Schmidt, Sharpley-Whiting, Shepherd (regrets), Shyr (regrets), Tolk (regrets), Wait, Wasserstein (regrets), and Wright.

Ex Officio Members present: Brisky, Gee, Heflinger, McCarthy, McNamara, Schoenfeld, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley (regrets), Gherman (regrets), Gotterer, Hall (regrets), Jacobson (regrets), Kovalcheck, Outlaw, Perfetto, Sandler, Spitz, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Catherine Fuchs.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the May 8, 2006 minutes

Minutes from the 5/8/06 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Fuchs explained that since the Chancellor needed to speak first, there would be a change in the order of the agenda. She then turned the floor over to the Chancellor.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chancellor Gee focused on the Vanderbilt Visions program as an example of faculty and students working together. He also mentioned progress with the Freshman Commons as the first new freshman commons dorms have opened. He added that Frank Weislo has been appointed as Dean of the Commons, and Mark Bandas has been appointed Dean of Students. The Chancellor then mentioned that he met today with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trust and told them that Vanderbilt has had the best financial performance of the university in its history. He added that Vanderbilt has also experienced its best year in terms of faculty recruitment and retention, external funding, and annual giving.

He then opened the floor for questions. Senator John McCarthy asked “how do you do it?” Chancellor Gee mentioned the integrated financial model at Vanderbilt. He said that Vanderbilt operates as one university. He added that the Freshman Commons has made an enormous difference and that our recruiting strategy has changed. He said that we have now moved into a completely different tier of universities (Duke, Washington University, Emory, Yale, Harvard, etc.) that we are competing with for students.

He asked for more questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate and turned the floor over to Chair Fuchs.

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

Chair Fuchs then introduced the new Executive Committee, committee chairs, and new senators. She also mentioned the Senate notebook with her welcome letter inside. She explained that all senators need to sign in at each meeting, and if they are absent, they should send their regrets to the Program Coordinator. Chair Fuchs then moved to the report of the Executive Committee.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of Executive Committee

Chair Fuchs then gave the report of the Executive Committee. She explained that the Executive Committee communicates through the standing committees. They also meet often with the Chancellor, Provost, VCHA, staff groups, and student groups.

She said that senators have a role in communicating back to the faculty in their school. Continuity and integration are issues that she considers in determining her goals as chair. One of her goals is to maintain momentum on initiatives. She gave the Behavioral Health subcommittee as an example. She said that it is important to integrate Mental Health issues with Vanderbilt Visions, Common Ground, etc. She said that this will be discussed at an upcoming Senate meeting soon. Also, the Executive Committee will think about how best to use the task forces this year to get the work of the Senate done.

She also let the Senate know that there was a recent decision by the Provost to update the Faculty Manual with the university's mission statement. Normally, she explained that the Senate weighs in on this process, but this was an example where the Provost needed to act immediately due to SACS accreditation issues. She asked for any questions. Hearing none, she continued to the next agenda item.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation of committee charges for 2006-2007

Chair Fuchs outlined the new charges to the Senate standing committees. She asked for any questions or comments.

Provost Zeppos asked that graduate student housing be added to the Student Life charge on graduate education.

Senator Stan Link asked how to bring together the charges of mental health initiatives—would it be integrated between Student Life and Faculty Life? Chair Fuchs responded that the Executive Committee is still talking about how best to address this issue.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Fuchs then introduced Tim McNamara, Associate Provost for Faculty.

Next Item on the Agenda – SACS reaccreditation process

Associate Provost McNamara gave a presentation regarding the SACS reaccreditation process. He then asked for questions.

Senator Ann Neely asked if Vanderbilt Visions participants will meet with SACS during their on-site visit. He said yes, but it will most likely be a random sample.

Hearing no further questions, he thanked Chair Fuchs for the opportunity to speak and turned the floor back over to her.

Next Item on the Agenda – Health benefits presentation

Chair Fuchs introduced Jane Bruce from Human Resources (see presentation at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/Benefits07.ppt>). She gave an overview of the benefit changes that will be taking place this year.

Next Item on the Agenda –Mental Health subcommittee presentation

Chair Fuchs introduced Immediate Past Vice Chair Craig Anne Heflinger to give a presentation on the Mental Health subcommittee's report on resources for undergraduate behavioral health (see presentation at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/BehavioralHealth.pdf>). After her presentation Chair Fuchs thanked Immediate Past Vice Chair Heflinger and her subcommittee for all of their hard work. Chair Fuchs mentioned that the Executive Committee will be addressing the issue of next steps to take with this report.

Provost Zeppos said that we've already taken some steps in implementing these recommendations. Chair Fuchs added that the administration should be commended for these steps.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business & Good of the Senate

Chair Fuchs then called for any new business. Hearing none, she asked if there were any items under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, she invited everyone to attend the reception immediately following the meeting outside the room in the Atrium. She called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Tolk,
Vice Chair