

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
March 13, 2008, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2007

Report of the Executive Committee

- Bruce Barry, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Panel: A Discussion of the Changing Role of Faculty with Inception of The Commons

Featuring four Faculty Heads of Houses in The Commons:

- Gregory Barz, Associate Professor of Musicology, Anthropology, and Religion (*North House*)
- Tony Brown, Associate Professor of Sociology (*Hank Ingram House*)
- Tiffany Patterson, Associate Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies (*Stambaugh House*)
- Sharon Shields, Professor of the Practice of Health Promotion and Education (*Murray House*)
- *Moderator*: Larry Dowdy, Professor of Computer Science and Computer Engineering

Standing Committee Report: Academic Policies and Services Committee

Motion for Senate approval of the degree of M.A. in Medicine, Health and Society

- Michael McLendon, Chair of the Academic Policies and Services Committee

New Business

Good of the Senate

Adjourn

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barry, Braxton, Breyer, Burk, Calico, Carter, Christie, Conway-Welch, DeHart, Dowdy, Emeson, Ernst, Fogo, Hiebert, McCarty, McLendon, Neely, Norden, Oliver, Paschal, Reisenberg, Retzlaff, Rousseau, Sharpley-Whiting, Shields, Slovis, Trigo, Wcislo and Wood.

Voting Members absent: Armour, Benbow, Bernard, Blair (regrets), Bloch (regrets), Bradford, Eisenberg (regrets), Gabbe (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Jennings (regrets), Kirshner (regrets), Lindquist (regrets), Medina (regrets), Moore (regrets), Piston (regrets), Reschly, Roberts, Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Shepherd (regrets), Shiavi (regrets), Steinberg, Stone (regrets), Wait, Wasserstein, Weller (regrets), and Yarbrough.

Ex Officio Members present: Barge, Damon, Fuchs, Gherman, McNamara, Sandler, Schoenfeld, Tolk, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balser, Bandas, Brisky (regrets), Chalkley (regrets), Christianson, Gotterer, Hall, Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, and Williams.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Bruce Barry.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the February 2008 minutes

Minutes from the 2/7/08 meeting were reviewed and Chair Barry asked for any corrections or adjustments. Hearing none, he stated that the minutes stand approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Barry gave the Report of the Executive Committee. He first reported that Interim Chancellor Nick Zeppos has been named Vanderbilt's new chancellor. Chair Barry said that the Executive Committee met with him early this week. He mentioned that the topic of effort reporting has been discussed recently—faculty members who are on the university side and who have a nine months contract have recently been informed that the summer vacation policy will be changing. Chair Barry said that the Executive Committee has heard from some faculty members about this issue, and they are alarmed. Associate Provosts Tim McNamara and Dennis Hall have been working on this issue, and have made several presentations across campus. Chair Barry will be attending one of the information sessions on this issue, and the Executive Committee will wait and see what sort of action might be helpful for the Senate to take.

Chair Barry then turned to the Faculty Survey, which was completed in the fall of 2006. He said that preliminary results are being shared with the deans, and the Executive Committee. He said that we hope to present some of the findings from the survey during one of the last two meetings of the Senate this year.

Chair Barry gave an update on the COIA (Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics) representative. He said that the Executive Committee has received many nominations, and will propose a nominee for the Senate to confirm at the April meeting. He mentioned that the Executive Committee has invited Matthew Wright, Vice Chancellor for Investments to come and speak at the May Senate meeting. He also mentioned that the Consultative Committee has been asked to help generate nominees for the University Standing Committees; he said that he will send out a reminder for those nominations soon.

Chair Barry reminded senators that the yearly election for chair-elect and vice chair-elect will be coming up at the May meeting. He discussed the constitutional process for nominations, and said that the Nominating Committee needs a senator from Nursing and Engineering in order to be representative of all schools. Cynthia Paschal and Cathy Reisenberg volunteered to serve on the committee from their respective schools.

Finally, Chair Barry reminded senators of upcoming events: April 3 Senate luncheon, April 10 Senate meeting, and the Spring Faculty Assembly on April 17. He then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Chancellor Zeppos said that it was with great pleasure that he accepted this position. He said that he is proud that “one of us” will be leading the university. He looks forward to working with the Senate and faculty colleagues.

He then gave an update on various issues. First, he mentioned that the second round of the Academic Venture Capital Fund is coming up soon, and will use a model of investing in transinstitutional centers. He said that his primary goal is to make sure that this is funded well. He stated that we are going to come up with a new financial aid policy for students. He mentioned that we are searching for a new librarian, and once we get that person on board, we can start the process of thinking about a new library. He said that we are going to have to look at the whole library system and not just Main Library. There are three searches that will need to happen soon: a search for Provost, one for the Vice Chancellor for Development, and, finally one for the Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs. He said that the Provost search will happen first, and that this search will be mainly internal. He will appoint a faculty advisory committee, and they should have a nominee by the end of the semester. He said that the search for the Vice Chancellor for Development should also happen soon. The search for Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs will be launched in the fall. Beth Fortune will serve as interim until then, as he doesn't want to have three simultaneous searches.

Chancellor Zeppos mentioned that the university is strong financially, and that we are appropriately ambitious for the future. He said that the next phase of the College Halls project will be a knockdown of Kissam, and we have received a \$25 million naming gift for that recently. He added that we are in an election year, so we will probably see very little increase in federal funding. He said that this is, in part, what we are working to address with AVCF.

He said that faculty recruiting this year is stupendous, and hiring is going very well. It is time to revisit graduate education at Vanderbilt, and to discuss the question: “what is the next stage of investment for graduate education for Vanderbilt?”

He asked for questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate for its time.

Chair Barry thanked the Chancellor. He then asked if there were any objections to reordering the agenda to have the motion from the standing committee come before the panel. There was no objection to reordering the agenda. Chair Barry then introduced Senator Michael McLendon.

Next Item on the Agenda – Standing Committee Report: Academic Policies and Services Committee--Motion for Senate approval of the degree of M.A. in Medicine, Health and Society

Senator McLendon, chair of the Academic Policies and Services Committee, presented a motion to approve the degree of M.A. in Medicine, Health, and Society. Chair Barry asked for questions or discussions. Chancellor Zeppos asked if one of the aims of the program was to offer a PhD. Arleen Tuchman, director of the program, said that there was not a market for PhDs in this field at present, but they might revisit it later. Hearing no other questions, Chair Barry put the motion to a vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Panel: A Discussion of the Changing Role of Faculty with Inception of The Commons

Featuring four Faculty Heads of Houses in The Commons:

- Gregory Barz, Associate Professor of Musicology, Anthropology, and Religion (*North House*)
- Tony Brown, Associate Professor of Sociology (*Hank Ingram House*)
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- Sharon Shields, Professor of the Practice of Health Promotion and Education (*Murray House*)
- *Moderator*: Larry Dowdy, Professor of Computer Science and Computer Engineering

Senator Larry Dowdy moderated the panel. He asked the panel members to give a brief introduction.

Tony Brown: He said that there will be 276 students in Hank Ingram House. He is excited to take on this opportunity. He is enthusiastic to work with undergraduates. He said that is daunting and there is pressure to succeed. He said that he enjoys the back and forth with the other 9 FHOHs. He has had difficulty managing research, teaching, and service before, and he is worried about balancing his private and professional lives.

Greg Barz: He will be the Head of House for North House. He has two children who will move with him and his wife into the house. He said that the Heads of House have had many opportunities to help invent and create this system. He is developing a soundscape for the Commons—there will be music in the Commons almost every night drawing on Nashville’s music scene. He said that he has to constantly remind himself to be patient with the progress on the vision. He’s also trying not to overprescribe opportunities for these students.

Sharon Shields: She will be the Head of House for Murray House with 120 students. This is something that she has wanted to do for a long time, because she wanted to have a better picture of student life and how students today are living life outside of the classroom. She said that what has become difficult is that this is an exciting time, and navigating the excitement is something that she has spent time thinking about—how will everyone be engaged? (ex. Staff, other faculty, Chancellor, etc.) How do we make all of this happen? She said that she is hoping that the Senate will help us to engage other faculty and to think long term about the experiences in the Commons. She said that we have to think beyond the freshman year. It is good to know that the renovations to Kissam will be a commitment to that vision. Courtney

Williams will be her head RE and he is going to be great as she has known him for 4 years, and already has a great working relationship with him.

Tiffany Patterson: She will be the Head of House for 165 students in Stambaugh House. She is a historian, and she came to Vanderbilt for three reasons: 1) Tracy Sharpley-Whiting brought her here, 2) she was at Hamilton College before and starting hearing then about the changes at Vanderbilt, 3) she talked to Frank Wcislo and heard about the opportunity to make a real difference for the next generation of leaders. She also mentioned that she loved working with the other Heads of House. She sees three challenges: 1) to challenge the students intellectually, 2) the challenge to create a new type of undergraduate, 3) the challenge of parental expectations about what the students will learn in this kind of environment.

Senator Dowdy opened the floor for questions.

Past Vice Chair Norman Tolk: How will the Visions classes help to support the Commons efforts? Will they be only from one house?

Professor Shields: Vision groups will be across houses for more opportunities to network. It's going to be important to see if it strengthens what we do, or if it would be better to have these groups within one house.

Past Vice Chair Tolk: I am surprised by this, as I thought that every Vision group would be affiliated within one house only.

Professor Shields: This is one of the issues that we will have to look at the Commons evolves.

Professor Barz: Another way to look at it is: this is a Commons experience as well as being a house experience, and Visions is a part of the larger Commons experience.

Chair Barry: Understanding the need for balance of research, teaching, and service—is the university giving you what you need to manage that balance?

Professor Patterson: One of the challenges is that students need to see us as researchers. It would be a mistake to give it up. But I won't know the answer until we have finished a year in the houses.

Chancellor Zeppos: There is a two course release for Heads of House.

Professor Brown: The creative themes I've chosen work with the graduate courses I'm teaching, so I hope that will help me balance my professional life.

Hearing no further questions, Senator Dowdy thanked everyone on the panel for sharing their experience and viewpoints.

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

Chair Barry then called for any other items under New Business or Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Emeson,
Vice Chair