

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
May 5, 2008, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2008

Report of the Executive Committee (Bruce Barry, Chair of the Faculty Senate)

Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Remarks by Vice Chancellor for Investments Matthew Wright

Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice-Chair-elect

Report of the Academic Policies and Services Committee (Michael McLendon, Chair)

- Motion on the creation of a task force on scheduling and university calendars.

Report of the Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom Committee (Paul DeHart, Chair)

- Motion for Senate approval of change to grievance procedure in *Faculty Manual*.

New Business

- Motion to approve a resolution regarding gender identity at Vanderbilt.

Good of the Senate

Adjourn (reception to follow)

Voting Members present: Armour, Barry, Blair, Bradford, Breyer, Burk, Calico, Christie, DeHart, Dowdy, Emeson, Ernst, Galloway, Hudnut-Beumler, Jennings,

McCarty, McLendon, Medina, Moore, Neely, Norden Oliver, Piston, Retzlaff, Roberts, Rousseau, Sandler, Shepherd, Shields, Slovis, Steinberg, Trigo, Weller, Wood.

Voting Members absent: Ahner (regrets), Benbow, Bernard (regrets), Bloch (regrets), Braxton (regrets), Carter (regrets), Conway-Welch, Eisenberg, Fogo, Gabbe (regrets), Hiebert (regrets), Kirshner, Lindquist, Paschal (regrets), Reisenberg, Reschly (regrets), Rubin, Sharpley-Whiting (regrets), Shiavi, Stone, Wait, Wasserstein, Wcislo (regrets), and Yarbrough (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Brisky, Damon, Gherman, McNamara, Schoenfeld, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley, Christianson, Fuchs (regrets), Gotterer, Hall, Jacobson (regrets), Outlaw, Sandler, Tolk, 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 April 2008 minutes

Minutes from the 4/10/08 meeting were reviewed and Chair Barry asked for any corrections or adjustments. Senator Joy Calico noted that the date was wrong (2007). Chair Barry then asked for any other changes. Hearing none, he said that the minutes stand approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Barry thanked the Executive Committee and the Standing Committee chairs for their service this year. Chair Barry asked for any questions about the year-end committee reports. Chair Barry also noted and thanked Michael Schoenfeld for his service to Vanderbilt (he is leaving to go to Duke University).

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Chancellor Zeppos thanked Mike Schoenfeld for his service to the university as well. He also said that they have been discussing the mental health initiative, and this is a priority for him (the faculty education and training component).

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Vice Chancellor for Investments Matthew Wright

Chair Barry turned the floor over to Vice Chancellor Wright. He said that Vanderbilt's endowment was \$3.758 billion at the end of calendar year 2007. The true endowment is

59% of total assets, and the quasi-endowment represents 41% of total assets. The mission of the endowment is a balancing act. Current spending rate is 4.5% based upon trailing three calendar year market values. He then gave an overview of his office. He said that Vanderbilt's investment philosophy is based on three tenets: 1) institutionalized framework, 2) global focus, and 3) risk management. He then asked for any questions.

Senator David Wood: Can you tell us about the monitoring of any social investing at Vanderbilt?

Vice Chancellor Wright: We don't have a current social investing policy. Many of the funds are commingled, and they can't be separated out. Also, there is no formal policy of the investment committee of the Board of Trust.

Chair Barry: What about at our peer institutions?

Vice Chancellor Wright: Some do and some don't have social investing policies.

Senator Dave Piston: What about investing in internal opportunities at Vanderbilt?

Vice Chancellor Wright: We are not in a position to accept internal investing.

Senator Ronnie Steinberg: We might investigate the types of investments that Vanderbilt can make to its community in the greater Nashville area or in Tennessee with regard to the issue of sustainability.

Vice Chancellor Wright: Our goal is to maximize our return on our investment. This provides more funding for programs and initiatives in the university.

Chair Barry thanked Vice Chancellor Wright for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice-Chair-elect

Senator Cynthia Paschal was elected Chair-elect and Senator Jack Roberts was elected Vice Chair-elect.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Academic Policies and Services Committee (motion)

Senator Michael McLendon, chair of the APS committee, presented the following motion:

“The Faculty Senate requests that the Provost appoint a task force co-chaired by a Faculty member and the new University Registrar to address all aspects of scheduling including course meeting times and times between classes, academic calendars, and class room utilization.”

He said that the motion today does not call for any specific changes, but just that the administration look into this issue. He opened the floor for questions and comments.

Senator Ann Neely: I want to make sure that classes meet Monday-Friday to deal with the incidents of binge drinking.

Chancellor Zeppos: I wasn't aware that some schools don't have many classes on Fridays.

Hearing no other questions, Chair Barry then asked for a vote. With a show of hands, the motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom Committee (motion)

Senator Paul DeHart, chair of the PEAFF committee, presented the following motion:

“The PEAFF Committee seeks the approval of the Faculty Senate for the addition of a provision to the ‘Section B’ grievance procedures that govern PEAFF’s handling of faculty grievances. The relevant passage of the Faculty Manual (Part IV, Chapter 2, Section B, p. 117) currently reads:

‘The University representative whose actions form the basis of the complaint shall be asked to respond to the grievance in writing, briefly explaining his or her position on each major element of the complaint. In addition, the University representative shall be asked to supply in a timely manner any supporting documents not previously filed by the grievant.’

The proposed change would add, immediately after this passage, the following sentence: ‘The PEAFF Committee chair shall provide a copy of the response(s) to the grievant.’”

Senator DeHart gave an overview of the issue, and said that this procedure already exists in Section A grievance, and this change simply makes Section B grievance parallel with Section A. He asked for any questions.

Associate Provost Tim McNamara: Does the response refer to the written responses or to the supporting documents?

Senator DeHart: Not sure. It doesn't specify in Section A.

Chair Barry: I don't think so.

Associate Provost McNamara: Why is “response” plural?

Senator DeHart: There may be more than one administrator involved.

Senator Martin Sandler: It seems to me unfair that the grievant does not have access to all of the information.

Chair Barry: The grievance procedure was designed to not be a trial-like environment.

Chancellor Zeppos: As a lawyer, I would like to say that there are many things that are privileged and confidential.

Dean Jim Hudnut-Beumler: I am sympathetic to a grievant hearing what a university official has to say about tenure and promotion cases. I would like additional language to specify the limits of the response.

Hearing no other questions or discussion, Chair Barry asked for a show of hands. The motion passed.

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

Chair Barry then introduced a motion to approve a resolution regarding gender identity at Vanderbilt that was presented to the Senate earlier:

“The Senate Executive Committee recommends to the Senate passage of the resolution regarding gender identity policies at Vanderbilt.”

Chair Barry said that Vice Chancellor Lauren Brisky’s office has signed off on a new policy to put this issue to the university’s human resource office. Chair Barry then opened the floor for discussion.

Chancellor Zeppos: I thank those who served on the committee about this issue. The policy has already been implemented. I have signed off on this policy, and it has been sent on to the Board of Trust. The easy thing is to adopt this motion, but we have to live this every day as one of our core values.

Chair Barry asked for any further discussion or questions. Hearing none, he asked for a show of hands. The motion passed.

Chair Barry then called for any other items under 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 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Emeson,
Vice Chair