

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 6, 2008, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2008

Report of the Executive Committee
Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal

Remarks by Chancellor Zeppos

Motion to change Faculty Tuition Benefits
Dave Piston, chair of Faculty Life committee

Motion to approve new degree program in Medical Physics
Michael Stone, chair of Academic Policies and Services committee

Summary of the State of University Athletics:
David Williams, Vice Chancellor for University Affairs

Report on Technology
Chris McKinney, Director, Office of Technology Transfer
and Enterprise Development

New business

Good of the Senate

Voting Members present: Bell, Blackett, Bloch, Bodenheimer, Christie, DeHart, Dever, Eisenberg, Galloway, Getz, Hiebert, Kirshner, Knight, Lukehart, Medina, Paschal, Peek, Piston, Price, Roberts, Saff, Sasson, Schorn, Slovis, Smrekar, Stone, Walker, Weil, and Yarbrough.

Voting Members absent: Balsler, Benbow, Bernard, Blair, Bradford, Braxton (regrets), Calico, Christman, Collins, Conway-Welch, LeBlanc (regrets), McLendon, Moore, Nanney (regrets), Norden (regrets), Oliver (regrets), Oppenheimer, Porter, Reschly,

Retzlaff (regrets), Rogers (regrets), Rubin, Sharpley-Whiting, Shepherd (regrets), Shields (regrets), Trigo, Wait, Wcislo (regrets), and Weller (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Brisky, Damon, Emeson, Fortune, Hall, McNamara, Williams, Wilson, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Barge, Barry (regrets), Chalkley (regrets), Christianson, Jacobson (regrets), McCarty (regrets), Outlaw, Sandler, and Wright.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal.

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

Chair-elect Paschal asked for a show of hands to approve the September minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair-elect Paschal conveyed Chair Shepherd’s regrets at not being able to attend the meeting due to a last-minute emergency. Chair-elect Paschal gave a brief summary of the Executive Committee’s work since the last meeting and mentioned that they continue to work on the smoking situation. She then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Zeppos

Chancellor Zeppos thanked Chair-elect Paschal for the chance to speak. He said that he wanted to talk about the economic situation and how it has impacted Vanderbilt. He said that he tends to be very prudent as a chancellor. Growth for growth’s sake is not what he thinks a great university is about. He thinks we should be growing in the right way. And we have a very strong financial team, and he has a lot of confidence in them.

He spoke about the revenue situation at Vanderbilt. He gave an overview of various revenue streams at the university. He said that the endowment is calculated on a three-year “lookback.” He stated that we calculate spending based on this formula. He said that while there will be belt-tightening, he doesn’t think that there will be cuts like at other universities.

He said that he believes in “the tone at the top,” and his tone is “be prudent.”

He also briefly addressed environmental issues at Vanderbilt, and said that there is more synergy between the academic side of environmental issues as well as more recycling, etc. He said that we want to always model best practice in terms of environmental issues.

He opened the floor for questions.

Hearing none, Chair-elect Paschal thanked him.

Next Item on the Agenda – Motion to change Faculty Tuition Benefits

Chair-elect Paschal then recognized Senator Dave Piston from the Faculty Life committee. He presented a motion to change the wording in the Faculty Manual regarding faculty tuition benefits. This motion was presented to the Faculty Life committee from Associate Provost Tim McNamara. The motion reads:

“Motion: The Faculty Senate approves changes to the Faculty Manual regarding faculty tuition discounts as outlined below:

Faculty Manual (Part VI, Section E, TUITION DISCOUNTS, Faculty, p. 137)

Currently reads:

Full-status faculty may themselves audit or enroll in courses under the same conditions provided for spouses. Before doing so, however, they should consult with their department chair or division director (or their Dean in schools without departments).

Recommendation:

Full-status faculty may audit or enroll in courses at Vanderbilt and are eligible for a discount of 47 percent of Vanderbilt’s advertised tuition and fees on one course per semester when enrolled in any of the schools or colleges of the University. For these purposes the entire summer session is considered one semester. The discount applies to no more than three credit hours per semester, except for four-hour courses with a required laboratory. In the case of a Vanderbilt program consisting of modules rather than semesters, the discount applies to the modules and the benefit will apply to one 2-credit course per module, up to six modules per year for a maximum of 12 credits per year. Before enrolling the faculty member should consult with his or her department chair or division director (or dean in schools without departments). Similarly, full-status faculty may make use of the faculty tuition benefit for courses taken at another accredited university when the coursework relates to and either enhances or maintains current skills needed by the faculty member to render employment services to Vanderbilt in accordance with applicable federal income tax exclusion criteria in Internal Revenue Code Section 132. The benefit is 47 percent of tuition for courses taken, limited to one three-credit course per semester (or four-credit course in the case of labs), including summers, for a total of 3 courses per year, provided that the amount of the benefit in any case cannot exceed 47 percent of the comparable tuition charged at Vanderbilt. Use of the benefit for courses taken at universities other than Vanderbilt will require approval of the faculty member's dean and the provost.”

The floor was opened for questions. Hearing none, Chair-elect Paschal called for a vote. She asked for a show of hands, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve new degree program in Medical Physics

Next, Chair-elect Paschal recognized Senator Michael Stone (Academic Policies and Services committee). He presented a motion from his committee to approve the new degree program in Medical Physics. He then opened the floor for questions.

Chancellor Zeppos: Will all of the students be self-funded?

Charles Coffey (faculty member): Yes, they will be self-funded.

Senator Piston: Will there still be a master's degree for anyone who doesn't complete this degree?

Coffey: Professionally, the field is changing. We will continue to offer the master's until 2014, and depending on the field at that time, we will look into continuing to offer it.

Hearing no further questions, Chair-elect Paschal called for a vote. She asked for a show of hands, and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of the State of University Athletics

Chair-elect Paschal introduced Vice Chancellor David Williams. He thanked the Senate for inviting him back to speak.

He began his presentation by stating his Four Benchmarks to Success for the athletic program: 1) Competitive Success, 2) Academic Excellence, 3) Financial Health, and 4) Quality Student Athlete Experience. He added that Vanderbilt is doing well on all of these benchmarks. His presentation can be found here:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/DavidWilliams110608.ppt>

Chair-elect Paschal thanked Vice Chancellor Williams for his presentation, and opened the floor for questions.

Senator Jack Sasson: Are the student athletes prepared to go to graduate school?

Vice Chancellor Williams: He said that we focus on GPA so that they can choose graduate school if they want to. He said that he thinks that the numbers are higher now than ever before.

Report on Technology

Chair-elect Paschal then introduced Chris McKinney, Director of Technology Transfer and Enterprise Development. His presentation can be found here:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/ChrisMcKinneyslides.ppt>

The floor was opened for questions. Hearing none, Chair-elect Paschal thanked him for his presentation to the Senate.

New business

Chair-elect Paschal asked for any new business. Hearing none, she turned to Good of the Senate.

Good of the Senate

Chair-elect Paschal asked for any business under good of the senate. She said that Chair Shepherd will be addressing the Board of Trust on November 19. She also noted that we will be back in Frist 140 for the next Senate meeting in December. Hearing no other business, she called for a motion to adjourn which was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Retzlaff,
Vice Chair