

Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 4, 2008, 4:10 p.m.  
140 Frist Hall

---

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2008

Report of the Executive Committee  
Chair Virginia Shepherd

Remarks by Chancellor Zeppos

State of the Medical Center  
Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Report on Changes in Faculty Benefits  
Jane Bruce, Director of Human Resources Benefits Administration

Motion from Faculty Life Committee  
Dave Piston, Committee Chair

New business

Good of the Senate

---

Voting Members present: Balsler, Bell, Blackett, Bloch, Bodenheimer, Braxton, Calico, Christie, Christman, Dever, Eisenberg, Galloway, Getz, Hiebert, Kirshner, LeBlanc, Lukeheart, Medina, Moore, Nanney, Oliver, Oppenheimer, Paschal, Piston, Price, Porter, Reschly, Roberts, Rogers, Saff, Sasson, Sharpley-Whiting, Shepherd, Shields, Slovis, Smrekar, Stone, Trigo, Walker, and Weil.

Voting Members absent: Benbow, Bernard, Blair, Bradford, Collins, DeHart, Knight (regrets), McLendon, Norden (regrets), Peek, Retzlaff (regrets), Rubin, Schorn, Wait (regrets), Wcislo, Weller (regrets), and Yarbrough.

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Barry, Brisky, Christianson, Damon, Emeson, Fife, Fortune, Hall, Jacobson, McCarty, McNamara, Wilson, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Barge, Chalkley (regrets), Outlaw, Sandler, Williams, and Wright.

---

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Virginia Shepherd.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the November 2008 minutes**

Chair Shepherd asked for a show of hands to approve the November minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Shepherd gave an update on the standing Senate committees and their work so far this year. She also said that she had given a presentation to the combined Student and Academic Affairs Committees at the Board of Trust recently. She added that she and Senate Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal attended open sessions on Wednesday and Friday, and a reception and dinner on Wednesday of the meeting week.

Chair Shepherd shared that a senator has been recommended to serve on the ODC director search committee, and also another senator has been recommended to serve on the search committee for the new Women's Center director. She also shared a chart showing a variety of levels of faculty involvement in the Boards of Trust at various comparable universities around the country.

Chair Shepherd then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Zeppos**

Chancellor Zeppos said that last time, he talked about the economic environment, but now he will give an update on the sustainability environment. He said that we are making great progress. We have a group of faculty, students and staff working on an environmental mission statement. We need to get this done by end of the academic year. We are making progress in changing our own behavior. We are reaching out to all faculty, staff, and students to lead by example and change the way we behave. We have provided recycling education and have distributed more recycling containers around campus. We have increased our recycling of computers dramatically. We also saved \$30,000 with this recycling. We are composting our clippings and we are doing more water conservation. There was a 39% increase in free rides for MTA this year. Zip Cars are on now campus. He said that these are challenging economic times, and he worries that we won't do what we need to do for long-term investments for sustainability.

He mentioned that there are two new vice-chancellor appointments: Beth Fortune is the new Vice-Chancellor for Public Affairs. Also, as of Jan. 1, we will have a new Vice-Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations, Susie Stalcup.

He said that these are very challenging times, and he is working tirelessly with the management team to really look at the cost structure of the university, and our priorities in what is an unprecedented environment. We are seeing a seismic shift in American economy and global economy. He said that he thinks the best thing to do is to remain cautious and be prudent.

Chancellor Zeppos then asked for any questions.

Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal: When are we going to do an inventory of our carbon footprint and set goals for reduction?

Andrea George: We have been working on this for a few months. It is very complicated to gather the data for this survey.

Chair-elect Cynthia Paschal: Are we committing to completing the inventory and making the results public?

Chancellor Zeppos: Yes, but it has to be a collective effort. We have to say that this is something that we will embrace.

Senator Bobby Bodenheimer: What about our electrical energy usage?

Chancellor Zeppos: This is a huge issue regarding our utility and usage costs. One thing that we have to think about is: what should our utilities policies be overall? While I'm in favor of being more efficient with the infrastructure, I think we need to also look at making a collective effort to adopt some goals to have more uniformity in utility policies.

Vice-Chancellor Lauren Brisky: One thing we are looking at is "server virtualization"—there are ways to make this more efficient. We are assessing user acceptance, and we'll see if we can also use that in the academic areas as well as administrative areas.

Judson Newbern: In general, we have the flexibility in natural gas and coal in steam production. But we also need to look at human behavior and we are trying to raise individual accountability. We also need some capital investments in order to receive some of the benefits.

Chair Shepherd thanked Chancellor Zeppos, and then introduced Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs Harry Jacobson.

### **Next Item on the Agenda – State of Medical Center**

Vice-Chancellor Jacobson gave his presentation on the state of the Medical Center. He said that we have a program called "ELEVATE," and that the goal-setting includes those

that are long-term goals, and also annual goals. The 2009 goals correspond to these five pillars: People, Service, Quality, Growth, and Finance.

People: We set goals for employee retention and satisfaction. He went through some new personnel changes (such as the new Dean of the Medical School, Jeff Balser, etc.).

Service: Patient satisfaction/quality of care

Quality: Mortality rates/Evidence-based medicine/other indicators of quality

Growth: Meet or exceed budgets/medical students

Highlights: There is a new Doctor of Nursing Practice program that started in Fall 08. We are now 10<sup>th</sup> in NIH funding. 100 Oaks will open soon, and will have research labs and educational activities, along with patient care. Critical Care Tower will be finished in November 2009.

Finance: Increase net revenue/increase net income. \$35 million impact from uncompensated care

He also remarked on the impact of the economic downturn and how VUMC will feel the downturn. He also discussed ways that Vanderbilt will deal with these issues.

Chair Shepherd thanked Vice-Chancellor Jacobson for his presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Chancellor Zeppos: How do you take into account any national changes?

Vice-Chancellor Jacobson: There are 3 national issues: NIH/NSF funding, especially with new administration. 2) Medicaid/Medicare program, 3) Will there be any new initiatives that will increase the number of insured? If you analyse what people are saying, the administration will be putting an additional \$65 billion in the health care industry.

Senator Malcolm Getz: How do we control the growth of expenditure?

Vice-Chancellor Jacobson: Value is the name of the game. Health care reform is about more than insurance, it is about behavior, as well.

Past Chair Bruce Barry: Is there a point where there is a diminishing return for growth?

Vice-Chancellor Jacobson: There is a limit to how much of that can occur, and we can't continue to depend on volume growth, we have to find ways to be more productive. I think we can use our people more productively. We are not going to keep expanding our hospital space.

Senator Claire Smrekar: How do you think we are expanding public health impact of Vanderbilt?

Vice-Chancellor Jacobson: We are starting a new program called Vision 2020—challenges medical center to impact the community in demonstrable areas. We are in the planning stages, and we will have some initiatives to roll out soon.

Chair Shepherd thanked Vice-Chancellor Jacobson, and then turned the floor over to Jane Bruce from Human Resources.

#### **Next Item on the Agenda – Report on Changes in Faculty Benefits**

Jane Bruce presented some changes in the retirement benefits for faculty/staff. She said that these are technical changes due to regulations released in 2007. Basically, they have moved the 403b regulations closer to 401k regulations. There is also a revised definition of salary, and this will impact everyone. She said that new forms are available on the we, and that the Roth 403b is also available now. She then asked for any questions.

Chair-elect Paschal: Any calculation tools available with these forms?

Jane Bruce: We do have a calculator on our website to help people do that. There will be a link on our website for more information.

Chair Shepherd thanked Jane Bruce, and then turned the floor over to Senator Dave Piston.

#### **Next Item on the Agenda – Motion from Faculty Life committee**

Senator Dave Piston introduced a motion from the Faculty Life committee:

“The Senate recommends that a survey be conducted of both faculty and students regarding the possibility of moving Vanderbilt’s undergraduate spring break to correspond with the spring break of Davidson County Schools. The administration should work with the University Calendar Committee and VIRG to complete this survey during the current academic year.”

Chair Shepherd then asked for any discussion.

Provost Richard McCarty: These surveys have some costs. And also we should wait until we have stability in Metro Schools with the new director. I am worried about VIRG’s resources for this, as well.

There was a motion to table. The motion was seconded, and then was passed.

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

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

Chair Shepherd asked for any business under good of the senate. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn, which was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Retzlaff,  
Vice Chair