

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 1, 2009, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2009

Report of the Executive Committee
(Cynthia Paschal, Chair of the Faculty Senate)

Delegation Report (Medical Center—Senator Dave Piston)

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Presentation on the State of the Medical Center
(Jeff Balsler, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs)

Presentation on the University Libraries
(Connie V. Dowell, Dean of Libraries)

New business

Good of the Senate

Voting Members present: Aurbach, Armour, Balsler, Beauchamp, Benbow, Bloch, Braxton, Conway-Welch, Dawant, Dever, Floyd-Thomas, Fountain, Galloway, Graham, Hall, Halpern, Hiebert, Hudnut-Beumler, Lukehart, R. Miller, Nanney, Oppenheimer, Paschal, Piston, Ramey, Roberts, Rogers, Rousseau, Saff, Smrekar, Stone, Van Kaer, Walker, Weil, Weintraub, Wollaeger, Yarbrough, Yoder, and Young.

Voting Members absent: Barr (regrets), Barz (regrets), Blackett, Blair, Bodenheimer (regrets), Christie (regrets), Christman (regrets), Collins, Donaldson (regrets), Fogo (regrets), LeBlanc, Peek, Price (regrets), Reschly (regrets), Schorn (regrets), Shields (regrets), and Wait (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Christiansen, Dowell, Fife, Fortune, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, B. Miller, Raiford, Shepherd, Sweet, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets), Retzlaff (regrets), Stalcup, Wcislo (regrets), Wentz (regrets), Williams, and Wright.

.....

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2009

Chair Paschal asked for any changes to the minutes. She then asked for approval of the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Paschal began her report by explaining how to raise new business in the Senate. She said that an item can either be sent to the Executive Committee or it can be raised as New Business during a meeting.

She said that the Opportunity Development Center search is underway for a new director, and also for the best administrative home for the center. Send suggestions for new names to Vice Chair-elect Bobby Bodenheimer who is serving on that search committee. She offered congratulations to Jerry Fife for being named the new Vice Chancellor for Administration, and she thanked Senator Margaret Blair for serving on that search committee.

Chair Paschal said that she is in touch with Christina West to discuss clarifying federal lobbying disclosure requirements. She also said that the Executive Committee has been discussing the smoking issue with many different stakeholders on campus. Chair Paschal said that things are moving forward on a non-smoking campus for the University side of the campus (to follow the Medical Center's lead). She asked senators to send any concerns they have to her and she would pass them along.

Chair Paschal then gave an overview of important issues being dealt with in the Senate standing committees: 1) APS—Graduate Education, 2) Faculty Life—Childcare and payment options for faculty on nine month contracts, 3) PEA—Privacy policy related to communications and the communication of misconduct findings, 4) Senate Affairs—Reapportionment, 5) Student Life—Meeting with Graduate Student Council about graduate student concerns, the Provost has appointed a standing committee on Sexual Assaults and Sexual Assault Workgroup, and Dean Bandas is moving forward on mental health network plans.

Chair Paschal said that at the November Senate meeting, we will discuss the Graduate Education Task Force report, and that in December, we will welcome Martha Ingram and Brett Sweet to the meeting.

Next Item on the Agenda – Delegation Report (Medical Center—Senator Dave Piston)

Chair Paschal asked Senator Piston to give his presentation. He gave an overview about the different kinds of faculty in the Medical Center (M.D., Ph.D., M.D./Ph.Ds). There is a mix of faculty on different tracks with over 2000 total faculty. 388 faculty members have appointments in the Graduate School.

Senator Piston also gave the results of a Faculty Senate Query, and said that there were five faculty concerns. The first two are faculty-wide:

- Continued focus on faculty health (physical and mental)
- Extended hours for childcare

School of Medicine specific issues: (Senator Piston has already sent these to Dean Raiford)

- Impact of the Conflict of Interest policy on Medical faculty
- Lack of continuity in faculty reimbursements and faculty members would like adjustments to be made in writing
- Doctors' lounge needs improvements to increase informal collegiality and cultivate personal connection.

He asked for any questions.

Chancellor Zeppos: How are faculty members feeling about the federal funding issue?

Senator Piston: I think this year everyone is feeling okay, but that will probably come up later. I think that these are mostly issues that faculty thought that the Senate could address.

Hearing no other questions, Chair Paschal thanked Senator Piston for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Chair Paschal then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos. He said that he is reminded every day of the challenges that universities face, and he feels fortunate for the opportunities that we are going to have. There are a lot of universities that are facing tough economic times. The environment is challenging, and while we are not as wealthy as other universities, I think we have weathered these times fairly well. He said that he has “five year questions” in mind at all times, which means: what can we focus on over the next five years that can make Vanderbilt the greatest university in the world? He added that we have all Vice Chancellors in place now, and they are working hard.

He said that the Graduate Education Task Force report is now out, and this was a faculty-led committee. He said that he knows that graduate education is a slow, long process of recruiting the best faculty and supporting the best students. He said that your ideas, leadership, and counsel will help us decide what to prioritize over the next five years. He said that he can tell you that large resources will be invested in graduate education over the next five years.

Chancellor Zeppos said that we need to think transinstitutionally about our libraries, and we need to think collaboratively about this. He said that you will see investments in the library in the next five years.

Chancellor Zeppos said that we are also looking at capital projects and prioritizing which will go forward. There is a strong need for a new science and research building. There is a need for more space for the humanists and humanities. There is a need for another need for research area for Children's Hospital. There is a lot of discussion about what to do for undergraduates after The Commons, and our philanthropy efforts to plan for knocking down Kissam are going well.

He opened the floor for any questions.

Senator Ellen Armour: I've heard some concerns about moving Nora Spencer as director for both the KC Potter Center and the Women's Center.

Chancellor Zeppos: This question always arises when one person takes on two areas—can they do a good enough job? Also, if these two centers are historically marginalized, there are more concerns. I think Provost McCarty can talk more about this. One thing we've done is increase the staffing, so there are Associate Directors over each of the centers. I believe that she deserves a chance, and it's not fair to say it's not optimal. I strongly encourage you to go over there and see for yourself. There are plans to expand the Women's Center building. We'll evaluate this and see how it works. I have a lot of confidence in her, and her staff is working very hard.

Provost Richard McCarty: I think this issue of reporting is a “straw person.” The Dean of Students has always had a reporting line to the KC Potter Center. The Women's Center has been isolated from the university community. Neither the Provost's office nor the Chancellor's office has the same resources as the Dean of Students. I want the center to serve the needs of the larger Vanderbilt community. It was a poorly-performing Women's Center, and there were not a lot of candidates who were willing to come in and take on that challenge. Let's give Nora a chance.

Chair Paschal thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his report.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on the State of the Medical Center

Chair Paschal then introduced Vice Chancellor Jeff Balser. Vice Chancellor Balser thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak. He said that there is a longer State of the

Medical Center address on the web, and that this presentation is just an overview of that larger presentation (link: <https://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/statevumc/index.html>)

Vice Chancellor Balsler went over his priority initiatives for the Medical Center, and also presented his new organizational chart. He also discussed the university-wide themes that the Medical Center will be focused on in the coming year.

He introduced the new ex officio members of the Senate from the Medical Center: Susan Wentz, Gordon Bernard, David Raiford, and Bonnie Miller.

In the interest of time, Chair Paschal asked if anyone had questions to send them directly to Vice Chancellor Balsler. She thanked him for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on the University Libraries

Chair Paschal then introduced Dean Connie Dowell. Dean Dowell said that there is a campus-wide conversation about libraries right now. She said that she is available to talk to groups across campus about the libraries. She said that we are already looking at ways to create efficiencies by cutting out duplications, and also we are looking at how we can consolidate services. We are looking at similar institutions and how they are structured.

She thanked the faculty for filling out the survey that was given this year (LibQUAL). She said that it is an international survey and allows us to compare ourselves with other universities. This was the third time we did the survey, so we can also look at other years. Our response rate was second only to Columbia University—we had a great response rate especially among graduate students. The main faculty concern was to increase collections. For undergraduate students, the main concerns were facilities and hours. And for the graduate students, their concerns were all of the above.

We are looking at areas where we were rated lower than desired, and we are improving them. We are learning more about user needs.

She opened the floor for questions.

Senator David Weintraub: How is the library going to deal with the next step in digital information?

Dean Dowell: We are looking at where we have print duplications. We also are going to look at how we are spending our money. We will also look at redesigning our website so that faculty and students can find the resources that we have.

Senator Weintraub: Graduate students want digital materials only—they aren't interested in stepping into an actual library.

Dean Dowell: I understand.

Senator Stacy Floyd-Thomas: Our collections and archives are slim (especially for the rich history of Nashville and the civil rights area). Any plans to expand?

Dean Dowell: We have slimmer facilities, and I would like to see more resources invested in this area. One of our challenges is hiring the staff to take care of the collections. We are very interested in this area, and I am hoping that in the next few years that we can announce some new special collections.

Hearing no further questions, Dean Dowell thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak.

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

Chair Paschal asked for any new business. Hearing none, she turned to good of the senate.

Chair Paschal asked for any business under good of the senate. She shared information about Open Enrollment for benefits and reminded senators to respond to the invitation for the Chancellor's Reception if they had not already done so. Hearing no other business, Chair Paschal called for a motion to adjourn. It was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Roberts,
Vice Chair

