

Academic Policies and Services  
Vanderbilt University Senate  
Report for Academic Year 2008-09  
Chair: Michael P. Stone (*Arts and Science*; 2010)

The Academic Policies and Services Committee included the following Senators: Gordon Bernard (*Medicine*; 2010), Margaret Blair (*Law*; 2010), Bill Christie (*Owen*; 2010), Esther Eisenberg (*Medicine*; 2009), Ronald Emeson (*Medicine*; 2009), Michael McLendon (*Peabody*; 2009), Lillian Nanney (*Medicine*; 2011), Edward Saff (*Arts and Science*, 2011), and Greg Walker (*Engineering*, 2011). The executive committee liaison was Michael P. Stone (*Arts and Science*; 2010)

APS has the charge to be concerned with new schools, new programs, and new degrees; to consider academic honors, leaves, grants, promotions, departmental and divisional chairmanships, programs abroad, the academic calendar, career planning and placement, Vanderbilt University Library, Information Services, the bookstore and the University Press; and to examine university strategic plans and initiatives.

In 2008-2009, APS reviewed three proposals for new academic degree programs.

### **New Degrees**

APS carefully reviewed proposals for new degrees in the following areas:

Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics; VUMC

Doctoral Program in Epidemiology (VUMC)

Master's Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics (VSN)

The first two proposals were recommended for approval to, and ultimately approved by, the Senate. The third proposal was recommended for approval to the Senate, which had not yet voted.

In the course of its program reviews, APS determined that guidelines may be needed for consideration of degree programs. The 2009-10 APS committee, however, should undertake a broader review of the merits of establishing guidelines that could assist sponsors of new programs in the development of the proposed curriculum.

## Charges

In addition to its standing duties in the review of new academic programs, APS began the year with four charges. Limited progress was made on each of these charges, and presently the APS committee does not have specific findings regarding these charges.

1. Monitor the progress of the Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education, intended to update what the previous committee did around 2002.

The APS recommends that this charge be carried over to AY 2009-2010.

2. Monitor the second round of the Provost's Academic Capital Venture Fund (ACVF) funding to be announced this year. Specifically, the committee seeks to clarify how Institutes and Centers are formed, how they are evaluated and how decisions are made to sustain and disband specific Institutes/Centers. The committee also will look into the organization and governance of the University's centers for interdisciplinary research and teaching. The committee will focus attention on the development and planning of two new Institutes/Centers: the Institute for Energy and the Environment, and the Center for Applied Behavioral Science. The committee will review the decision to disband of the Center for Studies of Religion and Culture.

The APS recommends that this charge be carried over to AY 2009-2010, specifically with regard to the new centers, Institute for Energy and Environment, and the Center for Applied Behavioral Science. The APS recommends that the role of external peer review in the decision process be evaluated.

3. To provide input into planning on the future of the University Library, including monitoring the Senate's representation and role on the Library Task Force.

The APS recommends that this charge be carried over to AY 2009-2010.

4. To continue monitoring the Senate's role in any ongoing and future strategic planning initiatives of the University, ensuring the visibility and transparency of such initiatives.

The APS recommends that this charge be carried over to AY 2009-2010.