

Minutes for Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate

March 3, 2022, Meeting

Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Brooke Ackerly, Adam Anderson, Brian Bachman, Ryan Belcher, Camilla Benbow, Dietmar Bisch, James Booth, Brett Byram, Andrea Capizzi, Elizabeth Catania, André Christie-Mizell, Nicole Cobb, Idit Dobbs-Weinstein, Philippe Fauchet, Lisa Fazio, Doug Fisher, Brian Fitzpatrick, Phillip Franck, Debra Friedman, Katherine Friedman, Aimi Hamraie, Graham Hemingway, Tamarya Hoyt, Tamika Hudson, Dawn Iacobucci, Pamela Jeffries, Eric Johnson, Christian Ketel, Susie Leming-Lee, Daniel Levin, David Lewis, Christopher Lind, Reid Longmuir, Mark Magnuson, Larry Marnett, Elliott McCarter, Catherine McTamaney, Ingrid Meszoely, Ryan Middagh, Jamie Miller, Julia Phillippi, Cindy Reinhart-King, Sandra Rosenthal, Florence Sanchez, ML Sandoz, Amanda Satterthwaite, Jacob Sauer, Kevin Schey, Berk Sensoy, Marcy Singer-Gabella, Rebecca Swan, Claudine Taaffe, Emilie Townes, Julie Vernon, Jonathan Waters, Saralyn Williams, Yesha Yadav, and Eli Zimmerman.

Voting members absent: Sari Acra, Victor Anderson, Carolyn Audet, Jeff Balser, Karen Bloch, Frank Candelaria, Wonder Drake, John Geer, Chris Guthrie, Katherine Hartmann, Ji Hye Jung, Lutz Koepnick, Robert Miller, Bruce Morrill, Colleen Niswender, Courtney Pitts, and Jan Price.

Ex-officio members in attendance: Vanessa Beasley, G.L. Black, André Churchwell, Daniel Diermeier, Steve Ertel, Tracey George, Kathy Gould, Anders Hall, Ben Harris, Padma Raghavan, David Raiford, Cybele Raver, Cleo Rucker, Alex Sevilla, Ruza Shellaway, and Brett Sweet.

Ex-officio members absent: Gordon Bernard, Donald Brady, Doug Christiansen, Nathan Green, Eric Kopstain, Candice Lee, John Lutz, John Penn, and Jennifer Pietenpol.

Guests in attendance: Holly Algood, Dan Barocas, Jordan Bowen, Celina Callahan-Kapoor, Nancy Carrasco, David Cliffl, Bapsi Chakavarthy, Mary Dietrich, Alissa Hare, Queen Henry-Okafor, Brian Heuser, Jon Hiskey, Timothy Hohman, Mary Jessee, Margaret Kennedy, Ken MacLeish, Stacey McCarty, John McLean, Melanie Moran, Maulik Patel, Bethany Rhoten, Belinda 'Otukolo Saltiban, Mavis Schorn, Eric Spivey, Kosha Tucker, Dawn Turton, Cynthia Wasick, Sheree Wright, and David Zealer.

Call to Order

A meeting of Vanderbilt Faculty Senate was held on March 3, 2022, on Zoom. It began at 4:11pm and was presided over by Chair Mark Magnuson, with Vice Chair Ryan Middagh as secretary.

Quorum as specified in the Faculty Senate Constitution (revised 4/5/2019) Article II.B.1. was met with the recorded attendance of 35 voting members of the Faculty Senate.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Magnuson motioned for approval of the minutes as circulated of the February 3rd, 2022, meeting. Chair Magnuson asked whether there were any corrections to the proposed minutes. Corrections were not made.

Secretary Middagh confirmed that the minutes were approved (32 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions).

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Magnuson:

- Discussed activities that the executive committee has partaken in this past month, which included the monthly meeting with the Chancellor and Provost, follow-up conversations with the Chancellor, presenting at the February Board of Trust meeting, conversation regarding Type A grievance language in the faculty manual, conversation regarding staffing of the senate office, conversation related to research computing, and discussions with the Task Force Administrative Effectiveness Committee co-chairs, chairs/co-chairs of Senate committees, and Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center officials.
- Chair Magnuson then brought forth a resolution regarding attacks on Ukraine and read the following resolution.

Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate Resolution on Ukraine

WHEREAS on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin led the Russian Federation in an unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine that continues to this day,

WHEREAS Vanderbilt University values the many contributions by Ukrainian students, staff, and faculty to our community,

WHEREAS Vanderbilt University respects the rights of all people to govern themselves without undue external influence, and

WHEREAS the ongoing aggression against Ukraine by Russia poses a threat to the liberty and freedom of other people,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of Vanderbilt University condemns the ongoing war by Russia, stands with our cherished Ukrainian colleagues, and supports worldwide efforts to bring about a peaceful end to Russian aggression.

- He said the senate would like to adopt this resolution, and asked for any objections before doing so and opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion:

- Voting senator:
 - Asked if something similar could be developed regarding the support of Russian staff and students. They also stated how they wish that this were not as academic, and how it would be nice to put some of the endowment money towards supporting these Russian and Ukrainian individuals at the university.
- Voting Senator:
 - Asked if the words 'students and staff' could be added to the last paragraph, after 'colleagues.'
- Chancellor:
 - Wanted to highlight that the administration has already received various concerns raised by Russian students/faculty of being associated with Putin. He said that when making comments on foreign policy, we all should continue to be mindful of our colleagues and community that is on the other side of this issue. He encouraged thinking whether the Faculty Senate should make an institutional statement on this.
- Voting Senator:
 - Echoed the first senator's commentary that if we are standing in solidarity of Ukrainian colleagues, then should also stand in solidarity with Russian colleagues.
- Voting Senator:

- Echoed the Chancellor's second point that he is not sure if it is our place to comment on every foreign policy trend that is occurring in the world.

Chair Magnuson asked if there was a motion to amend the last paragraph of the resolution to include 'students, staff, and faculty.' There was a move to amend the motion on the floor. The motion to amend was seconded. A vote was taken. The motion to amend was approved by a majority show of hands.

Chair Magnuson moved this resolution to a vote. A motion was made to move the resolution to a vote. It received a second. Voting members were sent to breakout rooms to vote. Secretary Middagh announced that the resolution passed with a tally of (36 ayes, 7 nays, 5 abstain).

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Chancellor Remarks

Chair Magnuson turned the floor over to Chancellor Diermeier.

Chancellor Diermeier:

- The Chancellor pointed out that he has had the chance to meet with university alumni across the country, helping him gain a sense of kindness and loyalty amongst the alumni. He says that this is the overall reaction that the university is getting from alumni, but mentioned how it was particularly striking to see these reactions in-person.

Chancellor Diermeier turned the floor over to Provost Raver.

Provost Raver:

- Mentioned with regards to the Task Force Administrative Effectiveness Committee (TFAE), how administration is moving forward with major investments to upgrade research computing and to stabilize the Advanced Computing Center for Research & Education (ACCRES). After extensive input from multiple users, including Provost Raghavan's research council, ACCRES itself, and the research IT advisory board, administration has decided to move forward with the decision.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Standing Committee Reports

Chair Magnuson called for reports from the standing committees.

Chair Magnuson turned the floor over to the Academic Policies & Services Committee.

Adam Anderson, Academic Policies & Services Committee Co-Chair:

- Co-Chair Anderson mentioned how the committee is bringing forth a proposal for a new professional degree program in the School of Nursing. He said how this program would be a 'Master of Nursing' program, specifically for students that have a bachelor's degree in another field, but would like to enter the workforce as registered nurses in around 16 months.
- Co-Chair Anderson then mentioned how the School of Nursing already has a Master of Science in Nursing program, but this new program would differ in the way that it is meant to produce registered nurses in a shorter period, of four semesters. He also said how there has been quite a bit of demand for this program, especially due to the shortage of nurses in Nashville, in Tennessee, and across the country.
- Co-Chair Anderson then reported that School of Nursing faculty have approved this new program proposal. The APS committee met with nursing to review the proposal and questions regarding details

of the proposal were answered in detail by the program leadership. He lastly expressed that the APS committee gives this proposal their full support.

Chair Magnuson turned the floor over to the Strategic Planning & Academic Freedom Committee.

Saralyn Williams, Strategic Planning & Academic Freedom Committee Chair:

- SPAF Chair Williams recognized the work of committee members and other faculty that have helped contribute to this process and then introduced a motion to amend the standing charges of the SPAF committee.

Proposed: A motion to change the standing charges for the Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom (SPAF) Committee of the Faculty Senate.

- > Whereas the Faculty Senate Constitution and the Rules of Order govern the process by which the Faculty Senate conducts business,
- > Whereas the current Faculty Senate Rules of Order both define the Standing Committees of the Faculty Senate and set forth the rule for the charges of each committee,
- > Whereas the Rules of Order section IV. A. 2. h states that the standing charges for the SPAF committee are as follows,

“To be concerned with long-term strategic planning and governance issues of the university. To be concerned with policy regarding professional ethics, conscience, and academic freedom under Article II, Section C. 5. of the Senate Constitution.”
- > Whereas the SPAF committee does not have direct oversight of the strategic planning for Vanderbilt University as this is in the purview of the senior leadership of Vanderbilt University,
- > Whereas SPAF envisions the committee’s role as a conduit for faculty concerns about the impact of strategic planning and governance on the faculty’s ability to perform their duties as faculty of Vanderbilt University,

In accordance with notice given of this motion:

Be it resolved, consistent with the Faculty Senate’s role in shared governance, that the Faculty Senate express its acceptance, by vote, of the following proposed revisions to the Rules of Order section IV. A. 2. h to modify the standing charges of SPAF.

Be it resolved that the Rules of Order section IV. A. 2. h be modified to change the standing charges for the SPAF committee. Therefore, the language in that paragraph shall be deleted, the language in the paragraph below will be substituted for the current paragraph, and it shall now read:

“To be concerned with the impact of university-wide strategic planning on faculty self-governance and on the ability of faculty to perform their teaching, research and creative expression, service, and other professional responsibilities effectively. To be

concerned with the policies regarding professional ethics, conscience, and academic freedom under Article II, Section C. 5 of the Senate Constitution.”

Be it resolved that consistent with the Rules of Order sections X and XI, upon passage of this Motion by the Faculty Senate, these changes to the Rules shall enter into force on the day they are passed by the Faculty Senate.

Submitted to Faculty Senate on February 9, 2022

Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom

Saralyn Williams, Committee Chair

Ryan Middagh, Executive Committee Liaison

Brooke Ackerly

James Booth

David Lewis

Lutz Koepnick

Paul Miller

Courtney Pitts

Jan Price

Jacob Sauer

Chair Magnuson opened the floor for discussion of the motion, and hearing none, closed the floor for discussion. Chair Magnuson notified senators that the motion will be voted on in the April 7th senate meeting.

Chair Magnuson turned the floor over to the Student Life Committee.

Alissa Hare, Student Life Committee Co-Chair:

- Co-Chair Hare thanked committee ex officio members Vice Provost Vanessa Beasley and Dean of Students G.L. Black for their support through this year and thanked committee members for the ideas brought forth.
- Co-Chair discussed the committee’s standing charges from this past year which were grouped into two categories: networking with student groups to hear initiatives and needs, as well as promote student wellness; and providing relevant updates to the Senate regarding student programs that could use their support.
- Co-Chair Hare then mentioned updates for the committee which included two new programs, first from the Dean of the Commons, Melissa Gresalfi, the Dean’s Dinners with Undergraduate Students, and second, the Professional Clothing Drive. The purpose of Dean’s Dinners are to promote the development of communication between students and their faculty members, as well as give them the chance to get to know faculty members. The purpose of the Professional Clothing Drive is to offer equitable access to low-income students on campus in regard to professional clothing for the spring interviewing season.
- Lastly, Co-Chair Hare discussed the proposal of a new ad hoc committee, which would provide recommendations relating to the divestiture from investments related to fossil fuels. This ad hoc committee will aim to answer the following two questions:
 - (1) Is it the role of the Senate to weigh in on the investments of Vanderbilt University?
 - (2) If so, what recommendations should be made regarding investments in fossil fuels?

She then mentioned if anyone is interested, they can contact either [Andrea Capizzi](#) or [Tamarya Hoyt](#), or reach out to any member of the EC.

Sandra Rosenthal, Student Life Committee Co-Chair:

- Co-Chair Rosenthal expressed her reasoning for wanting to be a co-chair of this committee, that being her interest in helping with student mental health issues. She said how stress exacerbates mental illness, and one of these huge stressors has been and continues to be the pandemic. Suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst college-aged students, as several common mental illnesses tend to have

their onset during college years, and the amygdala which generates impulses (I.e., suicide) is not fully developed in college-aged students.

- Co-Chair Rosenthal then states how important it is for students to know that one can have a successful career and life even with a mental disorder. She then went on to mention the initiative of the committee to attempt to combat this issue, being the Gate Keeper Training Pilot Program.
- She described the idea behind the Gate Keeper Training Pilot Program that teaching assistants (TA's) are gatekeepers, as they interact with students for long periods of time. She said if the TAs are trained on what to do if mental health issues are recognized amongst students or themselves, and know when they should report the issue to staff, this can be a step in the right direction.
 - G.L. Black and the student life committee have worked together to develop the presentation 'Supporting Student Mental Health with the Student Care Network'. In the presentation, they discussed all the available resources to support student mental health, the signs that someone is contemplating suicide, how to ask someone if they are considering suicide, a mental health flowchart of what to do in these situations, and a block diagram of who to reach out to (email addresses, web addresses, and phone numbers).
 - To participate in this program initiative, please email [GL Black](#).

Chair Magnuson opened the floor to discussion.

Chancellor:

- Said how the Student Life Committee presentation was impressive. He expressed the urgency towards this issue and its initiatives, as this is a very challenging topic. He was glad to see the work that was put into this initiative.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

No reports were made.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Old Business

Chair Magnuson called for a motion from Senate Affairs Committee.

Cynthia Reinhart-King, Co-Chair:

- Presented the motion to vote on amending the Rules of Order regarding clerical errors.

Motion — Senate Affairs Committee Motion to Amend Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate Rules of Order Re: Clerical Errors

PROPOSED: Motion to Amend Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate Rules of Order Re: Clerical Errors

WHEREAS insubstantial human clerical errors at times occur in the process of maintaining, updating, and formatting the Faculty Senate's Rules of Order, and

WHEREAS such errors are specifically addressed in Robert's Rules of Order 12 Edition, p's. 566-567; 57:18-19, and

WHEREAS it is not expedient to occupy the full Faculty Senate with such matters, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate Rules of Order as last revised October 11, 2019, do not currently address this matter, but state in **Section X. Amendments**

- A. These rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Senate except as otherwise indicated herein.
- B. Amendments to these rules shall be submitted to the Senate at a regular meeting at least three calendar weeks before they are brought to a vote. Amendments may be voted upon at a specially called Senate meeting if the intention to take such action is included in the call for that meeting.

Be it resolved that the Rules of Order of the Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate, as last revised, October 11, 2019, Section III. (Rules of Procedure, F. Vice Chair), be amended by inclusion to read:

Section III, Rules of Procedure

F. Vice Chair

The Secretary of the Senate shall also serve as Vice Chair of the Senate. All references to "secretary" and "secretary-elect" shall change to the "vice chair and secretary" and "vice chair and secretary-elect." [2006]. The Vice Chair and Secretary of the Senate is authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Faculty Senate in connection with its Rules of Order, and

Be it further resolved that upon passage of this amendment by the Faculty Senate, its Rules of Order, Section III. F. shall be immediately revised and the Vice Chair and Secretary may take immediate action to correct any clerical errors discovered in the existing (October 11, 2019) Rules of Order as well as those that may be discovered in future revisions of the Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate's Rules of Order.

Senate Affairs Committee:

Debra Friedman
Cindy Reinhart-King
Rebecca Swan
Karen Bloch
Nicole Cobb
Eric Grogan
Elliott McCarter
Robert Miller
Julia Phillippi
Marcy Singer-Gabella

Chair Magnuson opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Hearing none, he moved the motion to a vote. A motion to vote on the motion was made. It received a second. Voting members were sent to breakout rooms to vote.

Secretary Middagh reported the results of the motion. The motion carried (with 47 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention).

It was noted that the committee members in the constitutional motion for clerical errors reflect last year's committee members and that those names will need to be updated before circulating the motion to the assembly. Secretary Middagh confirmed that those changes will be made. There was no further discussion.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Scheduled Remarks

Chair Magnuson turned the floor over to Provost Raver.

Provost Raver:

- Said how she could not have done a more effective job than Sandra Rosenthal just did in introducing G.L. Black (Vice Provost for Student Affairs & Dean of Students) and his part in the Pilot Initiative. Provost Raver stated how Vice Provost Black is a deeply impactful university leader not only for Vanderbilt but also developing renowned and recognized models for student affairs, particularly on student mental health. She mentioned how Vice Provost Black's research on student mental health addresses faculty's concerns about this matter that were raised in several different reports, including the 2017 report. She thanked all faculty involved in this 2017 report, as well as Vice Provost Black for his most recent innovations that followed Sandra Rosenthal's stellar presentation earlier.

Provost Raver turned the floor over to G.L. Black, Vice Provost for Student Affairs & Dean of Students.

Vice Provost Black:

- Started with discussing data collected by the Student Care Network (SCN) which shows there has been a 15% increase in University Counseling Center appointments, as well as increases in depression, anxiety, and suicidality; increases in help seeking; and decreases in the stigma of mental health. 24% of students reported engaging with the SCN (around 60% of those being undergraduate students and 40% being graduate students).
- Vice Provost Black described the revamp of the SCN in 2018, which combined resources into one holistic network of services for students. This network consists of online navigable resources for community members to use when helping others. He mentioned the Office of Student Care Coordination specifically, as this serves as a basis for students to be assessed and then referred with a warm handoff to campus resources/services that they may need (I.e., Student Health Center, Center for Wellbeing, University Counseling Center, and Additional Student Services).
- He then provided updates from the SCN, which included staffing expansions, expansion of the Student Care Assistance Program, reduction of in-clinic costs, liaison programs with specific services, care for students with disabilities, increased virtual offerings, and enhanced satellite and drop-in services. Among the virtual offerings, Vice Provost Black mentions a few resources that provide comprehensive telehealth, physical and behavioral health services, and lactation and nutrition consulting. There is also one virtual offering for international students, as this is able to provide services in more than 100 languages. Unscheduled drop-in satellite services have also been expanded, up to 40 hours a week in addition to urgent care drop-in time, and can include things like mindfulness and meditation workshops/practices.
- Lastly, Vice Provost Black provided additional SCN updates, including the Healthy Minds Study Working Group, and the Faculty Partnership Program. The SCN administered the healthy mind study survey to all students the spring of 2021. This working group now comprised of faculty, staff, and students, representing all schools at VU, works to analyze and review the data from this administration, as well as

prior administration of the study on campus, and making recommendations for programs, services, or any data that they feel is missing from the survey. The Faculty Partnership Program entails the collaboration with the SLC in working on developing the gatekeeper training and launch of the pilot program in the spring of 2022. The initiatives of this program from the perspective of the SCN are to exist as partners so that faculty can remain focused on primary role of teaching, equipping faculty with knowledge and tools to feel more comfortable knowing where to go when a need arises, and emphasizing the university's Community of Care.

- He also noted that SCN is looking to have an outward symbol for people that participate in this training, to show students that they are invested in student mental health and well-being, and that they are partnering with the SCN to be an active part of our Community of Care. To access additional information regarding these initiatives, Vice Provost Black suggested going to the [SCN's website](#).

Chair Magnuson opened the floor to questions.

- Comment by voting senator:
 - It would be interesting to investigate international students specifically, that may come from a background where it is difficult to talk about mental health, or even frowned upon to show outward emotions.
 - Answer:
 - This is something the SCN has been working on. We did focus groups with international students to dig into some of the stigma data that we were seeing in that administration of the study, and to get feedback about this. This is an area for the SCN to continue working on in terms of the best support for our international students.
 - Comment by voting senator:
 - It could be worthwhile to contact faculty for their input in terms of piecing together the specific focus groups, rather than putting them together randomly.
 - Answer:
 - Yes, can definitely do that.
- Comment by voting senator:
 - Pointed out how incredible this work is that you and your team have put together. I don't know how you do it when there are dozens of crises to wake up to every day. Your staff is exceptional, and all the faculty owe you gratitude for doing all that's humanely possible to prepare the students for their academic lives.
- Comment/question by voting senator:
 - Have there been pre-admission discussions in thinking about students' readiness for college more broadly? When reviewing applications, have noticed certain red flags can be seen about students who may be coming in with extra needs or may not be in the correct headspace to be admitted to the university.
 - Answer:
 - Pre-admissions has not yet been explored but would definitely consider looking into.
 - SCN has tried to focus on early outreach to these admitted students to establish their care prior to arrival.
- Question from voting senator:
 - Please tell more about the Student Care Assistance Program and how that works for graduate students in particular?
 - Answer: With the Student Care Assistance Program, there is a form for students to complete. Then, they work with the Office of Student Care Coordination round the services they are seeking and gather a cost estimate for this. This works the same for both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Comment by voting senator:

- Wanted to point out that some faculty teach large classes (180-200 students) and have noticed rapidly increasing anxiety because of this. When it comes to test taking and exams, having to act on multiple accommodations for students has been difficult. Some kind of additional training for faculty on how to navigate these issues.
- Answer:
 - With the gatekeeper training, it has been discussed to build out sort of a suite of trainings to be available, so we can certainly think about that.
- Comment by Provost Raver:
 - We can coordinate with Tracey George and Derek Bruff's office on teaching excellence to think through some innovative practices and supporting students' resilience in the face of stress.

Chair Magnuson proceeded to the next item of business.

Good of the Senate

Chair Magnuson opened the floor to comments.

- Question from voting senator for Vice Provost Black:
 - For students coming into the Aspirnaut program (by Billy and Julie Hudson), they have students complete a screening background of around ten questions. These questions ultimately give them an 'A' score, which then determines students that are at-risk or have special needs. Is there anything similar that Vanderbilt does to identify these students that might need special accommodations?
 - Answer:
 - There is a health questionnaire that goes to all incoming students, where they can indicate particular needs or accommodations. However, this is voluntary to complete in detail. Not sure if this assessment is one targeted towards specific diagnoses.

Chair Magnuson then proceeded with a short update on what to expect moving forward.

Chair Magnuson:

- Said how there are two more meetings coming up, one in April and one in May. Ideas for the April meeting have not yet been consolidated, and the EC is open to ideas or suggestions. He mentioned how he may be in contact with some of the senators.

Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting should be adjourned. There was a second and the meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.



Ryan Middagh, Secretary
Faculty Senate Vice Chair

April 7, 2022

Date of Approval