Call to order

Approval of the minutes of May 9, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Election of Kass Kovalcheck as Parliamentarian

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos
  • Framing the Conversation about International Programs

Discussion of International Programs involving Vanderbilt
  • Richard McCarty, Provost, on international programs based in University Central
  • Robert Dittus, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Health, on international programs run out of the Medical Center
  • Tim McNamara, Vice Provost, on the Abu Dhabi initiative
  • Open Session for comments and questions

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment to reception (in the Atrium between Frist and Godchaux Halls)


_Voting Members absent_: Aschner (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Bradford, Conway-Welch (regrets), Fogo (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Halpern, Hyman (regrets), Moore, Schwartz (regrets), Skaar (regrets), Tansey, Wait, Wayman, and Wollaeger.
Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Fortune, McCarty, McNamara, Sweet, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard, Miller, Raiford (regrets), Stalcup (regrets), Wcislo, Wente, Williams, and Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of May 9, 2011 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for the minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of Kass Kovalcheck as Parliamentarian

Chair Weintraub put forth a motion to have Kass Kovalcheck serve as Parliamentarian for the 2011-2012 academic year. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub introduced the committees/task forces, and members of the 2011-12 Executive Committee.

Chair Weintraub then gave his report: the Executive Committee is meeting weekly, and they have met with the Chancellor and will meet with the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. He said that they were consulted over the summer about bookstore plans. Also, they were invited to place a member (Senator Tom Schwartz) on the Provostial committee on the Kissam Halls project.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chair Weintraub explained that the usual Q&A will not be done by the Chancellor due to time constraints. He then turned the floor over to the Chancellor. Chancellor Zeppos said that he was happy to frame the discussion on international programs at Vanderbilt. He said the first question he always asks about anything is, “What’s our mission? Why are we doing this?” Universities develop their own policies around international activities. He said that he needs principled advice on international initiatives—our principles should always be at work and they should be tied to our mission.

Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion of International Programs involving Vanderbilt

Chair Weintraub introduced Provost Richard McCarty who gave an overview of Vanderbilt’s international programs in University Central. He said that Vanderbilt currently has a strong presence in Latin America, North America (Canada), Asia/Pacific
Chair Weintraub then introduced Associate Vice Chancellor Robert Dittus who gave a presentation on global health initiatives that originate from the Medical Center.

Chair Weintraub finally introduced Vice Provost Tim McNamara who gave a summary of what is currently happening with the Abu Dhabi initiative (the new school of education in the Emirate). Vice Provost McNamara said that Vanderbilt is currently discussing the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to cover the exploratory phase. He said that Peabody faculty members also have two grant programs that might be put in place over there. He also gave background and history of this initiative.

Vice Provost McNamara outlined the risks: 1) Vanderbilt brand. He said that we won’t be forced to compromise our values over that which we have control over. 2) Focus and capacity: concerned about not wasting faculty effort and administrative bandwidth. 3) Safety of faculty and students. He gave a tentative timeline of activities. He also mentioned other universities and cultural centers that have a presence in Abu Dhabi.

Discussion and Questions:

A question was asked about the distinction we make between Vanderbilt values and American values—odd that we are pushing international programs when we lowered the requirement for foreign languages. Also, a question was asked about Abu Dhabi’s position on Israel.

Vice Provost McNamara: As a research university, we can’t withdraw and we have to engage with people in order to change them. It is true that the UAE doesn’t recognize Israel, but they also have covert relationships that support Israel. It is completely surrounded by Saudi Arabia and it has to be very circumspect about its politics.

Ellen Goldring is a Jewish professor who is actively engaged in this Abu Dhabi initiative. She said that the private work is different from the public policy.

Chair Weintraub: We are thinking about broad policies here.

There was discussion about the foreign language issue, and encouraging the Institute for Second Language Acquisition (Virginia Scott) at the table.

A question was asked: How do you guarantee that Vanderbilt values are maintained if this isn’t a Vanderbilt school?

Chancellor Zeppos: You have to have the right to exit at any time. That’s how you hold onto your values. I want to build slow, trusting relationships so that I can tell that things
are evolving in the right direction. It should grow incrementally. We should always be able to walk away from it.

Vice Provost McNamara: Should this college come into being, we would insist that members of Vanderbilt faculty would serve on the board of this college.

There was a comment about how mission of education is important, but we can’t be held responsible for every action by every person/student.

There was a question about India: what are Vanderbilt’s plans there?

Vice Provost McNamara: Forming the kinds of institutional relationships is difficult in India. I would love to be educated otherwise. We have a new chair of Religious Studies who is keenly interested in forming these relationships. Please give us advice if you have it.

Someone brought up the issue about the Africa land grab story in the Guardian.

Chair Weintraub said that he’d like to defer the question to another time as this is not the focus of the current discussion. Provost McCarty said that he stands solidly behind our chief investment officer who operates with the highest ethical principles. Chancellor Zeppos said that we are having some wonderful discussions about this, and we’re happy to talk about this.

A question was asked about global branding and global initiatives—what are the feedback and the benefits?

Vice Provost McNamara: I believe that to compete for resources, we have to have a global presence. If we don’t have this, we will not be a player on the international scene. Our international rankings are lower than our national rankings. This will not be changed overnight, but extending our mission will help us, and will help us improve recruiting and retaining faculty and students.

Chancellor Zeppos: We have to think about future generations and our future reputation. The whole locus of the world is shifting. How do we serve so that our successors say that we did think of the new world that is in front of us?

Someone raised the issue of mission drift: we want to have the most impact in the communities and countries that we go into. Are we talking about a country like this because of the wealth that will allow us to do it as opposed to a country with less money? We might want to think about redirecting some of the funds that we gain from this initiative into another community with fewer resources (social justice aspect).

Chancellor Zeppos: It doesn’t work that way, so we will have no margins or extra money that we would get from this.
Vice Provost McNamara: We have to stay focused on our mission. That is what will guide us. Principles should apply not only to us going somewhere, but also to people who want to come to us. The principles issue is helped by not making a profit. We are not building a building, hiring people, etc.—we are not investing anything other than our time at this point.

Chair Weintraub then ended the discussion due to time constraints, and the thanked all of the presenters.

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

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.
Call to order

Approval of the minutes of September 15, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Presentation by Vice Chancellor Doug Christiansen on undergraduate admissions

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent: Aschner (regrets), Atack (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Balser (regrets), Benbow, Bradford, Carbone, Conway-Welch, Dawant, Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Hall, Halpern (regrets), Hughes (regrets), Hurder (regrets), Hyman (regrets), Johnston, Kirshner, Miller, Moore (regrets), Ramanujam (regrets), Ramey (regrets), Smith (regrets), Tansey, Tellinghuisen Turner (regrets), Wait (regrets), Winder, Wollaeger, and Yarbrough (regrets).
Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Fife, McCarty, Raiford, Williams, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets), Christman (regrets), Fortune, McNamara, Miller, Stalcup, Sweet, Wcislo (regrets), Wente (regrets), and Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of September 15, 2011 meeting
Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee
Chair Weintraub then gave the report of the Executive Committee:
1. SPAF (Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom task force) generated suggestions for Provost’s Office for how to increase number and diversity of nominations for faculty awards
2. SPAF subcommittee will be meeting this month with Vice Chancellor Matthew Wright and Provost Richard McCarty to discuss certain investments about which some faculty have expressed concerns
3. Investigated question of unequal and perhaps expensive medical benefits for graduate/professional students, as requested by students and faculty at Owen: all have same plan across university; Vanderbilt graduate/professional students have better plans than peer institutions, but pay more for it
4. Held discussions with university leaders about public release of teaching evaluations of faculty: Executive Committee supports doing so, with some limits (e.g., minimum class size, limited release for faculty in first two years). Provost McCarty and Vice Chancellor Balser will next consult with deans and faculties of individual schools and colleges
5. Responded to a multitude of faculty inquiries (athletics, size of administration, benefits, facilities access)
6. Held discussions about forthcoming roll-out of new methods of reimbursement for business-related expenses (issue in hands of Faculty Life committee)
7. Held discussions with university leaders about nondiscrimination policy

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor
Chancellor Zeppos said that there have been a number of articles in The Atlantic Monthly about higher education. He mentioned that one of them had to do with costs of running a university. He said that his philosophy is that money goes to the students and faculty first before administrators. He said that you do need administrative staff to run a university smoothly. He mentioned that the figure that was quoted in the article (1 student for every
62 administrators) needs explanation since they included our medical center staff. He said that these figures are not useful for this reason. Since the university is growing its research enterprise, more administrators are necessary to support this growth. Also clinical enterprise drives it, along with childcare centers, expansion of the police force in 100 Oaks, the Commons, and other necessary staff. He said that he’s not keen on growth in Information Technology—he said that we have a lot of duplication in this area. He said that Human Resources has to grow to support this increase in staff as well.

Chair Weintraub thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his remarks.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation by Vice Chancellor Doug Christiansen on undergraduate admissions**

Chair Weintraub introduced Vice Provost Doug Christiansen. He gave a presentation on undergraduate admissions: Enrollment Data; Holistic Admissions Process; Application Numbers, The Commons and our Competitors; Freshman Class profile, Expanded Aid Impact and Student Indebtedness; Transfer Class Profile; and Student Life Cycle.

He then opened the floor for questions

A question was asked about the PAVE Engineering program: how do they compare to the regular student body?
Vice Provost Christiansen: Whether they are PAVE students or international students, we look at the same issues (TOEFEL scores, course loads, etc.). We also see the same graduation rates.

What is the biggest challenge you will face in the future?

Vice Provost Christiansen: Continuing to think about access and affordability, and helping kids to understand the need-blind loan assistance program. Helping our alumni understand that students admitted ten years ago might not be admitted today. Worry about making too many offers of admission.

A question was asked regarding GPA comparison on the transfer students—are you comparing the first-year experience of regular admits with first-year that a transfer student comes here, and did you take into account that freshmen courses are easier than sophomore and subsequent year courses?

Vice Provost Christiansen: We tried to compare this as much as we could, but we know this isn’t exactly an apples-to-apples comparison.

How do you incorporate faculty input into the admissions process?

Vice Provost Christiansen: Through faculty focus groups, we asked what they wanted in their student body. We would be open to any discussion regarding “are we meeting your needs?” with faculty members.
Chancellor Zeppos: There has been a dramatic shift since Vice Provost Christiansen arrived at Vanderbilt. It has been an amazing transformation.

There was a question about the 8% who don’t graduate—what happens to them?

Vice Provost Christiansen: I would say that at least 5-6% of these students are graduating elsewhere. It is a case-by-case scenario of why they don’t graduate with us. We want to get the graduation rate closer to 95% like our peer institutions.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Weintraub thanked Vice Provost Christiansen for his presentation.

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

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.
Call to order

Approval of the minutes of October 13, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Presentation on Athletics—Vice Chancellor David Williams

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


**Voting Members absent:** Bachorowski (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Dever (regrets), Gervais (regrets), Gokhale (regrets), Hall (regrets), Moore (regrets), Mulvaney (regrets), Nanney (regrets), Niswender (regrets), Ramey (regrets), Rogers (regrets), Schwartz (regrets), Tellinghuisen (regrets), Tsinakis (regrets), and Wait (regrets).

**Ex Officio Members present:** Bandas, Bernard, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Fortune, Miller, Raiford, Stalcup, Williams, and Zeppos.
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of October 13, 2011 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub then gave the report of the Executive Committee:

1. Planning for December meeting: presentation on the College Halls/Kissam project (Tom Schwartz, Cynthia Cyrus)
2. Planning for January elected-senators-only meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
3. Planning for February meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
4. Met with Committee Chairs: lots of good work being done
5. SPAF subcommittee met with Vice Chancellor Matthew Wright and Provost Richard McCarty to discuss certain African investments; we expect a report to the full Senate, based on the SPAF report from that meeting, in December
6. Participated in further discussions with administrative leaders regarding nondiscrimination policy issues; will continue to monitor the situation. For now, we believe the Faculty Senate does not need to be involved beyond what we are already doing.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chair Weintraub then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos. He said that he spent time in Washington, D.C. with AAU presidents and chancellors recently. The budget picture that the country is facing is bad, but there is hope for easing the regulations that impose huge costs for the university. He said that he thinks we will get away from effort reporting and more towards results reporting. They are talking about big changes in human subject research towards less regulation as well. He said that both sides of the aisle are talking about preserving research funding, which is a good sign. You can’t cut away at education and research budgets and expect the country to stay innovative.

Regarding the nondiscrimination policy, we have been working on this issue for a while. The outside commentators aren’t interested in the nuances of this issue. He said that he
has a lot of faith in our students and they don’t see the same divisions that we do. He also said that he will not compromise on core principles.

He added that applications are up, giving is up, and alumni contributions are up. His biggest worry is federal funding. He also commented that the search for a new engineering dean is coming along nicely.

Chair Weintraub thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his remarks.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation by Vice Chancellor David Williams**

Chair Weintraub then welcomed Vice Chancellor David Williams to give his presentation on athletics.

Vice Chancellor Williams gave his presentation including: Academic Topics, Compliance and Reform, Conference Realignment, Our Graduates, Women’s Cross Country.

He then asked for any questions.

Do you have any comments on the recent Atlantic Monthly article?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I’m not in favor of paying athletes. I don’t believe in that. We are giving them an education. I read the article—our athletes are scholar-athletes. It’s not true for Vanderbilt.

What can be done about injuries and time lost to travel?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I don’t know what you can do to reduce the travel time unless we do away with some of the off-season competition. I think the second thing we can do is to vigorously enforce the 20-hour rule (supervised practice per week). I think the third thing we can do is to be deliberate about keeping the students to these rules. We work hard to reduce the travel, but it is an issue we constantly work at.

Athletic spending is going up at a much greater rate than general university spending. Can you talk about our budget?

Vice Chancellor Williams: Our budget is stable and much of that is returned to the university via tuition and room & board. We get some money from the NCAA. We have to generate money from ticket sales, etc. We don’t get any more money from the university due to tuition going up. We agree with that—we think more money should come from our performance. We have to manage our budget because coaches want more money.

Chancellor Zeppos: The economics of college sports is that there are the haves and have nots—there are very few universities that make money through athletics (U of Texas is
one). There are also proposals to cut football scholarships—I never thought I’d see that. These are real pressures.

Tutoring for upper division classes?

Vice Chancellor Williams: We use graduate students for tutors usually. We have used people in the community for foreign languages. We have a tuition coordinator that works on this.

Presumably some scholar-athletes are academically at-risk. Are we willing to redshirt the freshman for the first year to help them?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I am all for that. I wish they would make all freshmen ineligible. But since that isn’t the standard, we would lose the recruit to another university if we did this. We are using our summer school as a way to do this in a sense.

Is there anything from preventing need–based athletic scholarships only?

Vice Chancellor Williams: It is a recruiting disadvantage, unfortunately. That’s the other side of it. I wish we could do this so that we could spend that money elsewhere.

Concern that as the average SAT score in the general population increases, the average SAT scores of student athletes is not keeping up with that increase.

Vice Chancellor Williams: This is an issue. We try to address the gap and get the student to the next level.

Integrating the athletes into the student body—how is this going?

Vice Chancellor Williams: We tell them this is the expectation, and we are doing many things to support this.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Weintraub thanked Vice Chancellor Williams for his presentation.

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

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.
Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 1, 2011, 4:10 p.m.  
140 Frist Hall

Call to order

Approval of the minutes of November 3, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Presentation on College Halls—Associate Provost Cynthia Cyrus and Senator Thomas Schwartz

Report from Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom Task Force—Senator Dan Beauchamp

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Aschner, Atack, Barth, Barz, Beauchamp, Brady, Cannon, Carlton, Dawant, Dever, Donaldson, Gigante, Gokhale, Hall, Hughes, Hurder, Johnston, Kirshner, March, Moore, Mulvaney, Nanney, Niswender, Ramey, Rogers, Schwartz, Tellinghuisen, Tsinakis, Van Kaer, Weintraub, Wikswo, Winder, Yoder, and Zamora

Voting Members absent: Andrews (regrets), Aurbach (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Balser, Beasley (regrets), Benbow, Bradford (regrets), Braxton (regrets), Calico (regrets), Carbone, Clark, Conway-Welch (regrets), Does (regrets), Fogo (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Gervais, Guthrie, Halpern (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Hyman
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of November 3, 2011 meeting**

Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

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

Chair Weintraub gave the report of the Executive Committee:

- Planning for January elected-senators-only meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
- Planning for February meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
- Monthly meeting with Chancellor
- Monthly meeting with Provost and VCHA
- Negotiated plans for renewed access to Student Rec Center Track
- Follow-up to November meeting: EC proposal to Athletics for need-based ‘full cost of attendance’ athletic scholarships
- EC participated in the Academic Programs-Student Affairs Joint Committee Meeting of the Board of Trust on November 10
- Dec 14 meeting to review on-line implementation of Faculty Manual: [http://vanderbilt.edu/faculty-manual/](http://vanderbilt.edu/faculty-manual/)
- Very close to completion of standardization of e-discovery documents (SPAF, VC for Administration Jerry Fife)

**Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor**

Chair Weintraub turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos who took questions.

Question about possible protests

Chancellor Zeppos: Protest and free speech is part of living in a democracy. I think it’s an important part of what a university is.

Question about the armed robbery on campus recently
Chancellor Zeppos: Public dissemination of information is crucial. We have legal obligations to inform the campus community. One Vanderbilt student was arrested. The safety of the community is always top priority—it bothers me that any incident on campus puts people in jeopardy. Appropriate action will be taken against any wrongdoers.

Provost McCarty: Installation of security cameras on campus is one good thing that has been done. They are invaluable in solving crimes.

Question about negotiations with new engineering dean
Provost McCarty: We do not have a new dean yet, but we have a very enthusiastic candidate for dean. We are moving as quickly as we can, and we are finalizing the deal.

Question about avoiding improprieties like what happened at Penn State
Chancellor Zeppos: We are always looking at what happens at other schools, and trying to learn from their mistakes. We want to make sure we have the best processes here.

Chair Weintraub thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his time.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation on College Halls—Associate Provost Cynthia Cyrus and Senator Thomas Schwartz

Chair Weintraub introduced Associate Provost Cynthia Cyrus. She gave a presentation regarding plans for College Halls at Vanderbilt.

She also gave an overview of the College Halls Task Force and their meetings over the fall semester 2011.

Senator Tom Schwartz also spoke as the representative from the Senate to the Task Force. He gave an overview of his experience and views. He said that he learned that students coming out of the Commons want to live with all 3 years of classes (sophomores, juniors, and seniors). He said that we also need to take the lessons learned from the Commons into this new project. He said that hopes this becomes an attractive option for our students.

They opened the floor for questions.

Question: Can you give an example of a student contribution to the halls?
Associate Provost Cyrus: Things like participating in governance process, running the Ultimate Frisbee Challenge, providing service opportunities, etc. We also talked about “bringing a faculty member” program to connect the faculty with students.
Senator Schwartz: It became clear that we couldn’t dictate these contributions, and that the students are part of this process.

Question: When will the halls open?
Associate Provost Cyrus: Fall 2014
Question: Are you making guidelines specifically about Kissam? Or are they about how the College Halls program will work in general?
Associate Provost Cyrus: Both/and. We are looking specifically at Kissam and also about the college halls program in general.

Question: Why did you decide to form intentional communities other than letting things form organically?
Associate Provost Cyrus: We have living/learning communities and more independent living situations. So, we are trying to create something in between.
Senator Schwartz: I felt very strongly that we needed to have student apply to come to the Kissam College Halls.
Chancellor Zeppos: The key question will be: as it grows, does it really need an application process?

Chair Weintraub: I actually think that this is a big mistake. I am very strongly against most of this. If this is to be a model for the future of residential colleges at Vanderbilt, this will fail.
Senator Schwartz: I think you are misreading this totally.
Dean Mark Bandas: The structure here reflects our living/learning environments that currently exist.
Past Chair Brian Christman: I read it the same way as David Weintraub.
Senator Schwartz: We don’t think this will be a big problem. We don’t anticipate doing much of this at all.
Dean Mark Bandas: In the living/learning communities, we have a 1% “kickout” rate. So, it’s not very big.
Associate Provost Cyrus: We worried about students gaming the system and applying for these dorms and not doing anything. We need an “out” clause.

Question: I don’t think that any one of us here can state with certainty how the college halls will be organized. We can try and see what works.
Senator Schwartz: We agree and this is how we are looking at this, too.

Question: If we are afraid of a 2-page application process, then we are in trouble. I don’t think it’s too much to ask of them.

Question: I don’t think it’s a question of being afraid to ask them to write an application of 2 pages, it is more about who you are asking to do this application and the application pool.
Senator Schwartz: I think we’ll have a huge demand.

Question: Another way to enforce diversity is to have 100% turnover rate each year. Did you consider that?
Associate Provost Cyrus: Yes, we did consider that. We decided that we wanted some carryover with students.
Hearing no further questions, Chair Weintraub thanked the presenters and told everyone that the report is out until the last day of fall class, and they welcome comments.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report from Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom Task Force—Senator Dan Beauchamp

Senator Dan Beauchamp gave a presentation about his subcommittee that met with Vice Chancellor Matthew Wright regarding Emergent Asset Management (investments in Africa). He mentioned that a copy of the subcommittee report is available to the members at the meeting.

He asked for any questions.

Question: Do we have any reason to think that the middle class will develop there to buy the food?
Senator Beauchamp: According to the Vice Chancellor, the goal is for local sale and not for export. This is based on first-person interaction with Vanderbilt and Emergent.

Question: Any numbers of how many people through these investments have been displaced?
Senator Beauchamp: I got the impression that no one has been displaced.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Weintraub thanked Senator Beauchamp for his presentation.

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

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. He shared that Vice Chair Greg Barz’s book was published in Sept. 2011. Hearing no other business, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.
Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
February 2, 2012, 4:10 p.m.
140 Frist Hall

Call to order

Approval of the minutes of December 1, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Honor System discussion—Senators Vanessa Beasley and Joy Calico, co-chairs, Student Life committee and Past Vice Chair Bobby Bodenheimer

Request for change in non-discrimination policy language—Provost Richard McCarty

Changes to committee descriptions in Senate Rules of Order—Senator Agnes Fogo, Senate Affairs committee

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Andrews, Aurbach, Barth, Barz, Beasley, Brady, Braxton, Calico, Cannon, Carlton, Clark, Conway-Welch, Dawant, Dever, Does, Donaldson, Fogo, Gigante, Gokhale, Hughes, Hyman, Johnston, March, Miller, Moore, Morrill, Nanney, Niswender, Ramey, Rogers, Schwartz, Skaar, Tellinghuisen, Tsinakis, Weintraub, Wikswo, Winder, Wollaeger, Yarbrough, Yoder, and Zamora.

Voting Members absent: Aschner (regrets), Atack (regrets), Bachorowski, Balser (regrets), Benbow, Bond (regrets), Beauchamp, Bradford, Carbone, Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Hall (regrets), Halpern, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Hurder (regrets), Kirshner,
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of December 1, 2011 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee
Chair Weintraub gave the report of the Executive Committee:

• Regular monthly meetings with Chancellor, with Provost/VCHA, with Senate Committee Chairs
• Planning for Senate Office space during/after Alumni Hall remodel
• Planning for Abby Stewart (guest of Senate) visit in April
• Consultative Committee met (nominees for awards, university standing committees)
• Smoke Free Campus: end of cigarette sales in Munchie Marts, 2012
• On-line implementation of Faculty Manual

Next Item on the Agenda – Honor System discussion—Senators Vanessa Beasley and Joy Calico, co-chairs, Student Life committee and Past Vice Chair Bobby Bodenheimer

Chair Weintraub then turned the floor over to Senators Vanessa Beasley, Joy Calico and Past Vice Chair Bobby Bodenheimer who gave their presentation from the Student Life committee on the Honor System report. They first gave a history of the charge. They listed questions that they asked about the Honor System. They said that the purpose of today’s meeting is to promote an open discussion of the Honor System, and we are also focused on the implementation of the report (how will the recommendations be carried out? Who is responsible for each one?), and the assessment of the outcome of the report (How will we know things are better?). They reviewed the nomenclature concerning the Honor System, and they went over their methods. The recommendations fall into three areas: 1) information: raising awareness of the Honor System, 2) engagement: addressing faculty concerns, 3) process improvements: fixes and tweaks. They also mentioned opportunities for engagement for faculty members (task forces, committees).
Then, they opened the floor for discussion and comments.

Question: Why there are separate task forces?
Senator Beasley: We tried to be thoughtful regarding the stakeholders in these different issues, and we saw a separation between programmatic issues and faculty autonomy issues, for example.
Past Vice Chair Bodenheimer: We are open to the criticism that we “kicked the can down the road,” but we didn’t want to be prescriptive about the solutions without input from the students.

Senator Beasley: You will have more time to look at this report, and there will be a vote at the March meeting to accept the report. There will be a second vote to make this report public, also at the March meeting.

Provost McCarty: You have done a great service to the Faculty Senate and the university. You have tackled a very tough issue with compassion and thoughtfulness. The role that the Senate plays in this cannot be understated. We need the support and active involvement of faculty. If we don’t get this, we will have an honor system in name only. We have to try to get to a point where we have a clean slate and start to have a system that we can be proud of. You have provided a wonderful roadmap for us to follow. I promise you that I and my colleagues in the Provost’s office will work on this carefully and collaboratively with the Senate.

Chair Weintraub: The Senate does expect the various tasked people to follow up on these recommendations.
Past Vice Chair Bodenheimer: The Senate is also tasked with following up on these recommendations in two years.

Question: If faculty are not using the honor system and part of it has to do with believing that they have little say in the outcome, then how is this going to encourage the faculty to use the honor system?

Professor Charlie Brau: The faculty do have voting rights in some cases. So, we have broken through that barrier in some small ways.

Question: So is my assumption wrong?
Senator Beasley: There are multiple assumptions and multiple answers to this. There are ways for the faculty to be involved (i.e. faculty observer role). But there is also difficulty in finding faculty to fulfill these roles. We would like to echo the clean slate approach that the Provost mentioned.

Chair Weintraub: What we’re asking is to negotiate the level that the faculty is involved since they are already involved in it to some degree.

Provost McCarty: There are also other levels of faculty involvement—such as closing the loop for communication with faculty who participate in the honor council and also having
the undergraduate honor council report to the Associate Provost. I think this is a better way to go, in my mind.

Question: Is there an inequality to the degree that the faculty has access to the Honor System versus the student’s access to the Honor System? For example, the way a faculty member can’t provide a rebuttal.

Past Vice Chair Bodenheimer: Outside of the law school, the system is designed to be non-adversarial. What happens is that a faculty member presents their evidence and then the student can respond. Then the council makes their decision.

Comment: Instead of “rebuttal,” I should have used a less adversarial word.

Question: Can you speak to issues about Appellate Review Board and lack of communication with faculty members.

Senator Beasley: In recommendation #1, we said that we need guidance for faculty going through this process as well as the students (who already have guidance/advisors during this process).

Provost McCarty: I think that this is one of the shortcomings that they have addressed in this report.

Question: Who would implement the database for faculty reporting violations that don’t go to the Honor Council? I think that’s a great idea and will get more faculty members involved.

Past Vice Chair Bodenheimer: The Provost is responsible for that. Coming up with some best practices for that will be very helpful.

Chair Weintraub thanked all of them for their hard work.

Next Item on the Agenda – Request for change in non-discrimination policy language—Provost Richard McCarty

Chair Weintraub turned the floor over to Provost Richard McCarty who is asking the Senate to approve a change in the Faculty Manual. This change will be voted on at the next Senate meeting in March.

Provost McCarty gave a presentation on the issue of changing the Faculty Manual to reflect the correct version of the nondiscrimination policy. He said that this is necessary to have all the university documents match (Student Handbook, Faculty Manual, and Human Resources policy).

Chancellor Zeppos: It is clear that there is confusion about this policy the way that it’s written in the Faculty Manual. I feel strongly about the principle of nondiscrimination.
Q: Question about fraternities and sororities discriminating?
Chancellor Zeppos: There is a statutory exception that deals with the Greek system.

Chair Weintraub said that he is forming an ad hoc committee to discuss the proposed change so that we can hear from all faculty voices. The committee will be chaired by Chair-elect Sal March. Chair Weintraub thanked Provost McCarty for his presentation.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Changes to committee descriptions in Senate Rules of Order—Senator Agnes Fogo, Senate Affairs committee**

Chair Weintraub turned the floor over to Senator Agnes Fogo, chair of the Senate Affairs committee. Senator Fogo gave the background for this motion to change the committee descriptions in the Senate Rules of Order. She then asked for any questions.

Question: Which staff councils would be contacted by Senate Affairs on a yearly basis?
Senator Fogo: We are thinking of the University Staff Council, but we are willing to meet with other staff councils if they want to reach out to us.

Hearing no other questions, Chair Weintraub thanked her for her presentation and reminded everyone that the vote on this change would take place at the next Senate meeting in March.

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

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. Hearing no other business, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.
Call to order

Approval of the minutes of February 2, 2012 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

New business

  Motion to accept the Honor System report from the Student Life committee—Senators Vanessa Beasley and Joy Calico, Student Life committee

  Motion to approve the changes to committee descriptions in Senate Rules of Order—Senator Agnes Fogo, Senate Affairs committee

  Motion to approve changes to the Faculty Manual regarding disciplinary action section—Senator Agnes Fogo, Senate Affairs committee

  Motion to approve changes to non-discrimination policy in Faculty Manual—Executive Committee

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Andrews, Atack, Aurbach, Balser, Beasley, Beauchamp, Benbow, Bradford, Cannon, Carbone, Carlton, Clark, Dawant, Dever, Does, Donaldson, Fogo, Gokhale, Guthrie, Hall, Hudnut-Beumler, Hughes, Hurder, March, Moore, Morrill, Nanney, Powers, Ramanujam, Ramey, Rogers, Schwartz, Skaar, Tellinghuisen, Turner,
Van Kaer, Wait, Wayman, Weintraub, Winder, Wollaeger, Yarbrough, Yoder, and Zamora.

Voting Members absent: Aschner (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Barth (regrets), Bond, Barz (regrets), Brady, Braxton (regrets), Calico (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Gigante, Halpern, Hyman (regrets), Johnston (regrets), Kirshner, Miller, Mulvaney (regrets), Niswender, Tansey, Tsinakis (regrets), and Wikswo (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Fortune, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, Raiford, Sweet, Williams, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard, Miller, Stalcup (regrets), Wcislo, Wente (regrets), and Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of February 2, 2012 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub gave the report of the Executive Committee:

- Regular monthly meetings with Chancellor, with Provost/VCHA, with Senate Committee Chairs
- Planning for Abby Stewart (guest of Senate) visit April 12-13, 2012

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Chancellor Zeppos said that he continues to be impressed by the faculty here, and by our environment of collegiality and civility. Our general feeling in the community has an impact on our recruitment and retention. He told two stories about faculty recruiting that went well—everyone was welcoming to them on their visit. He commends the faculty for all their great work. He asked for any questions. Hearing none, he thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Motion to accept the Honor System report from the Student Life committee

Chair Weintraub asked for any further discussion on the motion that was presented at the February Senate meeting. He said that the Student Life committee chairs are scheduling a meeting with student leaders to discuss this report and its recommendations. Hearing no other discussion, he asked for a vote on the motion.
Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Motion to approve the changes to committee descriptions in Senate Rules of Order**

Chair Weintraub asked for any further discussion on the motion that was presented at the February Senate meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a vote on the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Motion to approve changes to the Faculty Manual regarding disciplinary action section**

Chair Weintraub asked for any discussion on this motion. Hearing none, he asked for a vote on the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Motion to approve changes to non-discrimination policy in Faculty Manual**

Chair Weintraub turned the floor over to Chair-elect Sal March who gave a history of his ad hoc task force’s work in looking into the non-discrimination policy changes to the Faculty Manual. Chair Weintraub said that a Senate committee will be charged next year to talk about the issues of academic freedom that this task force raised. He then opened the floor for questions.

Question: Why is the wording, “In addition..” included in this policy?
Answer: Federal law governs the first half of the policy, and the second half is what Vanderbilt does to go above and beyond the federal guidelines.

Chair Weintraub then called for a motion to approve these changes to the Faculty Manual presented by Provost Richard McCarty at the February Senate Meeting.

Motion approved.

Chancellor Zeppos: One concern I have about this issue—I really cherish academic freedom. Our current academic freedom statement recognizes this. I get nervous about carve-out areas. I think you might send negative signals out about the university if we do something like this.

This is an important issue, and I’m fine with looking at it. Let’s recognize more broadly the scope of our freedoms.
Chair Weintraub also said that the Senate Executive Committee is concerned with future changes to the Faculty Manual to reflect current policy. He suggests that instead of having policy in the document itself, we should have a pointer to the current policy on the Human Resources website.

Provost McCarty: We should also wait until we know the outcome of our affirmation process for the student group; we should know the outcome in April of this year.

Chancellor Zeppos: Let’s see how it plays out; jumping into studying it immediately could be problematic. Giving us a chance to go through the affirmation process this year might be helpful. There could be a reasonable case made that the Senate should wait a year at least to see how the policy affects our culture before studying the issue.

Comment: I would be concerned not only with implications for outside issues, but also for setting a precedent for these student groups. I would feel strongly that we should all abide by this statement.

Dean James Hudnut-Beumler: I hope we won’t change this statement, but instead we should look at the academic freedom section. I think it looks like a loophole where it is currently proposed. I would hope that the effort to look at academic freedom will help make us more robust in our upholding of this policy in face of the off-campus pressure.

Vice Chancellor David Williams: There can be no exception to the nondiscrimination policy since it is federal law. Academic freedom cannot trump nondiscrimination policy.

Chancellor Zeppos: Let’s have the best section in the Faculty Manual on academic freedom in the country.

Question: Is it in the Senate’s purview to have this conversation about student groups? Chair Weintraub: We felt for most of the year that it was mostly a student issue until the issue of changing the Faculty Manual came up—then it became our issue. You all can decide as a Senate how we can take this up from here on out. There has been an issue of faculty members signing the affirmation statement. The concern was that, in signing this form, the faculty member was saying that s/he believe all of this. But the faculty member’s role is to abide by these rules, not to believe them.

Chancellor Zeppos: When I look at other issues questioning the core value of what we do, there are more pressing issues than this one.

Chair Weintraub thanked everyone for their comments and discussion on this issue.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate
Chair Weintraub asked for any news under good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for an adjournment.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.
Call to order

Approval of the minutes of March 1, 2012 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Brief presentation by Professor Abigail Stewart, Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies and Director of University of Michigan’s ADVANCE Program at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender

New business

Report and motion from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force—Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair

Report and motion from the Academic Programs and Services Committee—Senator Eric Skaar, chair

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent: Andrews, Aurbach, Bachorowski, Barth (regrets), Benbow, Braxton (regrets), Clark, Conway-Welch (regrets), Donaldson (regrets), Galloway
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Vice Chair Greg Barz.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of March 1, 2012 meeting

Vice Chair Barz asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Vice Chair Barz gave the report of the Executive Committee, which was that the committee is meeting monthly with senior administrators, and also working on a variety of ongoing issues.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos and presentation by Vice Chancellor Jeff Balser

Vice Chair Barz then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos. Chancellor Zeppos said that commencement is just around the corner. He added that while we may disagree about issues, he encourages open and productive dialogue. He mentioned the Leadership Academy for faculty members. He said that we have invested a fair amount in talent development. Our university will stand or fall on the quality of our leaders. He said that there will be a very low tuition increase this year. He then asked for any questions.

Question: Outside pressures on faculty
Chancellor Zeppos: We always get outside pressure, but I think we’re doing fine. I think there is an effort by small groups of people to pressure universities in general. We treasure our independence as a private university.

Vice Chancellor Balser then gave a presentation on tuition benefits for dependents of Vanderbilt faculty and staff. He talked about the history of the issue. The option to do nothing wasn’t an option—we had to think about what would be the best way to handle this without hurting ourselves and keeping our ability to recruit and retain the best.
He said that this change is only for the faculty and staff that we will hire after 9/1/12. He said that we feel that we still have one of the strongest tuition benefit plans in the country.

Comment: Need to clarify this information with staff, especially in Medical Center

Vice Chancellor Balser: We will continue to work on communication on this issue.

Human Resources Chief Traci Nordberg: There has been a change for nursing staff tuition, but not for the dependent tuition benefit.

Question: Proportion of the operating budget?

Vice Chancellor Balser: It will take a larger percentage of the budget as we go along, and it will be nonsustainable.

Chancellor Zeppos: Also, we can’t put this in our indirect costs or fringe rate.

Human Resources Chief Nordberg: We won’t see a reduction of costs for about 10-15 years since we are allowing everyone who currently works here to stay at the same level.

Next Item on the Agenda – Brief presentation by Professor Abigail Stewart, Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies and Director of University of Michigan’s ADVANCE Program at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender

Vice Chair Barz introduced Professor Stewart. She gave an overview of her speech on Friday, April 13. She spoke about the ADVANCE program and its impact on universities with regards to diversity issues. She gave examples of what her program has accomplished over the past few years.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Report and motion from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force, Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair

Vice Chair Barz then introduced Senator Mary Yarbrough who gave an overview of the report from her task force.

Vice Chair Barz explained that the motion to accept the report from the task force will be voted on at the May meeting.

Question: Assessment question—it’s a big problem, but how do we assess this?

Senator Yarbrough: We tried to find out what the best practices are. We won’t solve the problem overnight, but we have to start somewhere.

Question about the disciplinary actions regarding drinking alcohol.

Senator Yarbrough: We have a process in place to deal with these issues. But these are the small tip of the iceberg.

Chancellor Zeppos: We are trying to change culture and norms. I think this is one of the most important issues that we will ever address—students’ health and wellness, especially mental health.
Question: The Commons—has that had an effect on drinking?
Senator Yarbrough: I’m not sure—it should. I don’t think there has been a study. The reason that students say that they drink is because they need the social lubrication for their anxiety.

Comment: The issue of normal drinking being illegal (21 drinking age)
Senator Yarbrough: We’re not approaching this by saying what should be legal, we approached this as “what can we do within the legal limits that we have?”

Dean Mark Bandas: Conduct incidents have gone down since the opening of The Commons. Extreme drinking has not declined. I think we have had more students in the ED this year than ever before.
Vice Chair Barz thanked Senator Yarbrough for her task force’s very thorough report.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Report and motion from the Academic Programs and Services Committee, Senator Eric Skaar, chair

Vice Chair Barz tabled this report and motion until the next meeting due to lack of time for presentation and discussion.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Vice Chair Barz asked for any news under good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for an adjournment.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm.
Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2012

Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Report of the Executive Committee
  Chair David Weintraub

Remarks from Provost Richard McCarty

Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect (Links to candidates’ statements and CVs here: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/cvs.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/cvs.htm))

Year-end reports from standing committees (Please read in advance of the meeting–link to final reports here: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm))

New Business
  Motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force—Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair

  Report from the Academic Programs and Services Committee—Senator Eric Skaar, chair

Good of the Senate

Adjourn (reception to follow)
Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, Raiford, and Wente.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets), Fortune (regrets), Miller (regrets), Stalcup (regrets), Sweet, Wcislo (regrets), Williams, Wright, and Zeppos (regrets).

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2012

Minutes of April 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Chair Weintraub and Provost Richard McCarty recognized all third-year senators with certificates and thanked them for their terms on the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub thanked the outgoing committee and task force chairs. He mentioned highlights of the Senate’s work over the past year including Professor Abby Stewart’s visit; ongoing dialogue with the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs; new Senate office space in Sarratt Student Center; new non-discrimination policy in the Faculty Manual; the Honor System report; and the new process for archiving the Faculty Manual annually.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Provost Richard McCarty

Provost McCarty gave a report on the Board of Trust meeting in April. They approved the tuition increase (1.9%) for undergraduate education. This will require a focus on costs. This is the lowest increase among our sister universities. Some buildings were also approved—the Medical Center plaza project will start soon.

He also spoke about the nondiscrimination issue and said that there was a major effort to review the applications for all student groups for next academic year. 424 organizations have been approved, which is more than we had last year. This has created a lot of media coverage, but we will continue to reach out to all student organizations. We have not kicked anyone off campus. Mark Bandas and Pat Helland have done an incredible job working through this issue. Gov. Haslam vetoed a bill that was passed by the Assembly that would have singled out Vanderbilt for some harsh measures next year. We are very fortunate that the governor vetoed this misguided legislation. We hope to continue engaging the members of the General Assembly and educate them about our nondiscrimination policy.
He said that we are in receipt of a second letter from the Prayer Caucus of the US House of Representatives. They are concerned about the harsh treatment of Christians on our campus. We are drafting a response and hope to invite them to visit us.

He said that two of our colleagues have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences—Randolph Blake and Larry Bartels. He also announced that he has decided to make a change in the leadership of the Psychological and Counseling Center. He said that Cathy Fuchs will be the new director of the PCC. She will take over on August 1, 2012. He hopes that the Senate will invite Cathy to give an update on her initiatives at the PCC sometime next year. He said that we are moving to put in competitive salaries for our professional staff, and to have them working for Vanderbilt full-time. We want to support the work that they do with our students. He said that he is also proud of the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug task force.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Question: Question about all-comers policy. I think we should emphasize the term “nondiscrimination” and not the term “all-comers.”
Provost McCarty: That is language taken from a 2010 Supreme Court case. What we have been doing is saying that if you are a student in good-standing at Vanderbilt, you should be able to join any group. And if you are a member of the group, you should be able to run for office.

Question: Salary raise—low tuition raise=flat salaries?
Provost McCarty: They will not be flat—the average salary increase will be 2% for faculty and staff. We won’t make enough to cover this, but we will dig into the piggy bank for it.

Chair Weintraub thanked Provost McCarty for his time.

Next Item on the Agenda – Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect

Elections were carried out and Donald Brady was elected Chair-elect while Jeffrey Johnston was elected Vice Chair-elect.

Next Item on the Agenda – Year-end reports from standing committees

Chair Weintraub noted that the committees’ year-end reports were available on the Senate website at: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/committees/index.php.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force—Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair
Chair Weintraub presented a motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force that was presented by Senator Mary Yarbrough at the April Senate meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report from the Academic Programs and Services Committee—Senator Eric Skaar, chair

Chair Weintraub then recognized Senator Eric Skaar who presented recommendations from APS regarding follow-up on the Graduate Education Task Force report, which his committee had been charged to do. After meeting with many administrators across campus, here is their list of recommendations for the Executive Committee to follow-up on:

1. The selection process for recipients of “topping off awards” should be reconsidered. Specifically, more control should be given to the individual schools to select the recipients of these awards.

2. Support should be provided for the submission of training grants and fellowships. In light of the increasing demands on faculty time, and the decreased funding rate associated with training grant and fellowship applications, faculty should be given incentives and support to apply for these types of awards.

3. Career development support should be increased across campus including the creation of handbooks with sample job hunt materials and the addition of one FTE focused on career development to the BRET office.

Chair Weintraub thanked APS for all their work on this important issue.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Weintraub asked for any news under good of the Senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.