

Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom Committee (SPAF)

Committee Members:

Robert Carnahan, Chair, Medicine (2019)

Leslie Hopkins, Nursing (2018) [Executive Committee Liaison]

Sam Chang, Medicine (2018)

Jennifer Green, Medicine (2018)

Michael Miga, Engineering (2018)

Kevin Murphy, A&S (2018)

Tedra Walden, Peabody (2019)

Christopher Wright, Medicine (2019)

Committee:	Strategic Planning and Academic Affairs (SPAF)
Chair:	Rob Carnahan
EC Liaison:	Leslie Hopkins

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 3e of the Senate Constitution.

Item	Charges	Due Dates
1.	<p>Continued: Generate guidelines to improve communication between senate and faculty</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slide deck from Executive committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successes, challenges, current issues • Update on interactions with Board of Trust • 3-4 slides • Load onto Senate Portal 2. SPAF committee to define strategy for senator engagement with home departments/schools 3. Solicit approval of full senate 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. November 2017 2. January 2018 3. February 2018
4.	New: SPAF recommends that next year's SPAF committee consider whether faculty have concerns about TIPS funding and if concerns exist take appropriate steps to consider these concerns.	April 2018
5.	New: "Keep our finger on the pulse of the burgeoning online education initiatives happening across campus." Andy Finch, of Peabody, is willing to come to a SPAF meeting to speak to us about his experience. We might also consider inviting John Sloop, Associate Provost for Digital Learning, to speak with us.	
6.	<p>New: Consider the creation of a "bias reporting system" that is independent of the EAD-based process."</p> <p>In AY 16-17, the committee reviewed the current process for resolving allegations of violation of faculty academic freedom of expression which involves the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services (EAD.) We also met with Vice Chancellor Dr. Hill and Assistant Vice Chancellor Dr. Barnes about the role of the Chief Diversity Officer/Office in circumstances involving allegations of violation of faculty academic freedom of expression. Based on these</p>	October 2107

	<p>discussions, there is agreement that the current process is robust and there is no need for a change.</p> <p>In addition, we discussed the option of establishing a “bias reporting system” independent of the EAD-based process for reporting bias incidents related to academic freedom as well as diversity and inclusion. The committee reviewed reporting systems in peer institutions and discussed the potential benefits of creating such a system at Vanderbilt. The committee members expressed mostly positive comments but there are important issues that need to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing well-defined goals for the provided services that may include reporting, support, referral to appropriate resources, and education of the Vanderbilt community. • Creating a clear framework for data collection, data and report handling and usage, and possible actions. • Creating multiple levels of services that can include, for example, anonymous reporting and confidential consultation. • Implementation and required resources. 	
7.	<p>Completed: Is there now a need for appropriate groups to reconsider student and staff freedom of expression on campus? (The academic freedom statement was presented to BOT on April 21, 2016; primary concern of students was student-on-student issues—they were less concerned about faculty-student issues (the students were) SPAF with reviewing the statement contemplating whether any additional text is necessary to clarify certain aspects of the statement as it becomes more of a “living” document. Review the Vanderbilt’s academic freedom of expression statement for areas requiring revision.</p>	Complete
8.	<p>Completed: Identify and outline any circumstances which limit a Vanderbilt faculty member from utilizing her/his Vanderbilt affiliation in public speech.</p>	Complete
9.	<p>Completed: The General Counsel’s office expressed a desire to hear from Faculty Senate on whether there would ever be a circumstance in which Vanderbilt would disinvite an outside speaker from visiting campus to give a talk. Identify current procedure and policies related to this issue.</p>	Complete