Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2010

Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Report of the Executive Committee
   Chair Cynthia Paschal

Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect

Year-end reports from standing committees

New Business
   Motion from PEAF committee

Good of the Senate

Adjourn (reception to follow)


Voting Members absent:  Barr, Benbow, Blackett, Bloch (regrets), Bradford, Collins, Conway-Welch, Floyd-Thomas, Fountain, Graham, Guthrie, Hall (regrets), Halpern, Hiebert, Lukehart (regrets), Miller, Oliver (regrets), Peek, Reschly, Rousseau, Saff (regrets), Smrekar, Wait, and Yoder.

Ex Officio Members present:  Bandas, Dowell, Fife, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, Raiford, Shepherd, Stalcup, Wente, Williams, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent:  Bernard, Christiansen, Fortune, Miller, Retzlaff (regrets), Sweet, Wcislo (regrets), and Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Cynthia Paschal.
Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2010

Chair Paschal asked for any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, she then asked for approval of the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

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

Chancellor Zeppos handed out the certificates honoring the 3rd year senators. He thanked them for their service to the Faculty Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of Executive Committee

Chair Paschal thanked everyone for their suggestions at the last meeting. She said that they ran the gamut from faculty participation in shared government to faculty raises to student stress levels. She reported that there will be a smoking policy in place on the University Central campus by the fall. She then thanked everyone, and especially Professor Kass Kovalcheck who served as parliamentarian this past year.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Chancellor Zeppos thanked everyone for their service this year and said that he would be happy to answer questions.

Chair Paschal: Where do you see this university going in the next few years?
Chancellor Zeppos: I see the direction and greatness of the university as coming from the faculty and the schools. The ideas have to originate in the schools, especially the idea of excellence and mission. There are a few areas that are critical; healthcare is one. I don’t think anything else will be as important as this issue in the coming years. Vanderbilt is well positioned to be at the front of the pack on this issue. There are many areas of engineering that are also important in these coming years, in terms of energy use, for example. Our investment in graduate education will make its mark on the university in the next few years.

Senator David Weintraub: I was wondering how our facilities did during the flood. Also, can you comment on the policy surrounding the flood and time off for employees.

Chancellor Zeppos: We are trying to meet the immediate needs of those completely displaced by the flood. We have an online form for them to fill out to let us know of their needs.
Vice Chancellor Jerry Fife: We prioritized those who had the most need first. But we are being flexible on the term “uninhabitable.”

Chancellor Zeppos: I would encourage people to fill out the form so that we can know what the problems are and how many people are affected. Our own facilities were affected—Children’s Hospital had flooding in the basement on Sunday. I thank Jerry Fife and the administrative staff and Plant Operations (especially Ken Browning) for all their hard work over the weekend. They probably saved millions of dollars with their swift action. When I got the report from Jeff Balser on Tuesday, things were getting back to normal. Radiology and Oncology in The Vanderbilt Clinic was flooded. On the main campus, North and East Halls
were flooded. Mayborn took on water in the basement. $5 million is the estimate for the damage to Vanderbilt. We did fairly well considering how everyone else was affected.

Dean Ken Galloway: There are a lot of rumors about the Big Ten conference and changes to the SEC.
Chancellor Zeppos: I think that the SEC is in a great position because of the strength of the conference and the contracts we have.
Vice Chancellor David Williams: Whatever happens, if there is a SEC, we will be in it.

Senator Sharon Shields: In light of the UVA student beating, is there any pause to reexamine our own system in terms of the quality of life for our students?
Chancellor Zeppos: Whenever anything like that happens, it jolts us all. We all take very seriously our responsibility for the safety our students. One of the aims of the Commons is to localize the education, and keep an eye on things. The problem we always try and juggle is: what stays on campus and what goes off campus. That’s another reason we have Vanderbilt Visions.
Associate Provost Mark Bandas: After any incident like this, we go through a debriefing session to see if these sorts of things can happen here. We know that we can’t know everything, but we do feel good about our systems that are currently in place.

Chair Paschal thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his remarks.

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect

Chair Paschal said that Senator David Weintraub is being put forward as a candidate for chair-elect. She asked for any other nominations (and reminded everyone that the candidate needs to be a first-year senator).

Senator David Weintraub was nominated by acclimation.

Chair Paschal said that we have two candidates for vice chair-elect: Senator Greg Barz and Senator Terri Donaldson.

After two rounds of voting, Senator Greg Barz was elected as vice chair-elect.

Next Item on the Agenda – Year-end committee reports

Senators Tony Weil (APS), Lillian Nanney (Faculty Life), Mark Wollaeger (PEAF), Ellen Armour (Senate Affairs), and Bridget Rogers (Student Life) gave presentations on their year-end reports. Links to their reports can be found here: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business--Motion from PEAF committee

Chair Paschal gave a history and background of this motion and the electronic communications policy at Vanderbilt. The text of the motion follows:
“The Faculty Senate commends Chancellor Zeppos, Provost McCarty, Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs Balser, and the Office of the General Counsel for their serious consideration of the 2009/2010 PEAF Committee’s proposed changes to the Faculty Manual regarding privacy of faculty electronic records. We urge the development of policies and procedures that provide the strongest protections of individual privacy. In cases where legal compulsion or clear violation of University policy necessitate observation of faculty electronic records, said policies and procedures should be constructed so as to carefully limit the scope of investigation and use of results. We look forward to receipt this fall of a response to PEAF’s original proposal and commit to working with VU Administration to finalize relevant revisions to the Faculty Manual and accompanying procedures.”

Chair Paschal said that the good news is that great progress has been made on this issue. She opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Agnes Fogo: Under what other circumstances would there be a search unless there was a clear legal compulsion or violation of policy?
Dean Hudnut-Beumler: If there was an allegation of a violation, we would need to look at the electronic communications.
Senator Fogo: Who makes this determination?
Chair Paschal: That is a great question. Under the new policy, there would only be four people who could make the determination (Chancellor, Provost, VCHA, or General Counsel).
Chancellor Zeppos: We will think about what the trigger would be for some sort of investigation. We need some standard of probable cause or reasonableness.
Provost Richard McCarty: I think that it can be done in a very deliberate way, but also taking into account.
Senator Weintraub: I call the question.

Chair Paschal asked for a vote in favor of calling the question—it passed unanimously.
Chair Paschal then asked for a vote in favor of the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate and Adjournment

Chair Paschal thanked everyone for a great year, and asked for any business under good of the Senate. Hearing none, she invited everyone to the reception outside the meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Roberts,
Vice Chair