

Senate Affairs Committee  
Vanderbilt University Senate  
Report for Academic Year 2011-2012  
Chair: Agnes B. Fogo

**Committee Members:**

Agnes Fogo, Chair, Medicine (2012)  
Greg Barz, Blair (2012)[Executive Committee Liaison]  
David Carbone, Medicine (2013)  
Al Powers, Medicine (2014)  
Bridget Rogers, Engineering (2012)  
William Tansey, Medicine (2013)  
Mark Wollaeger, A&S (2014)  
Dale Andrews, Divinity (2012)

**Charges assigned at the beginning of the year:**

1. Propose document changes for charges for Grievance Committee and for APS and propose charges to create SPAF committee.
2. Formally propose rules changes for permitting 2<sup>nd</sup> year senators to run for chair-elect and vice chair-elect.
3. Visibility of the Senate—how to improve our communications with faculty and (when appropriate) the larger university community; consider establishing a presence on myVU.
4. Continue work on relationship with Staff Organizations.
5. Follow-up on Faculty Manual change process.

**Work done:**

1. The committee proposed changes in committee charges and names, to reflect the addition of a new committee to deal with Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom (SPAF), and to thus focus the former PEAFF committee to work solely on Grievances. The former PEAFF will thus be named the Grievance Committee. A motion was made for change in the Senate rules of order to reflect these changes.

2. The committee extensively reviewed the possible consequences of allowing 2<sup>nd</sup> year senators to run for chair-elect and vice chair-elect. A major motivation for the proposal to consider this change was to increase the number of eligible senators. The expansion of number of senators addresses this issue. Other complicating factors were discussed in detail. The committee thus does not recommend further consideration at this time of allowing 2<sup>nd</sup> year senators to run for these offices.
3. 3. The committee chair met with the Chair of the Staff council, Kenny Moore. Possible common areas of concern for faculty and staff were discussed. We then had a subsequent meeting focusing on safety training and responses with Jerry Fife, August Washington, and Bob Wheaton on common concerns in this area.  
The committee recommended that at least yearly meetings of the Chair of SA and Staff leadership take place to continue communication to identify areas of common concern, and possible further actions. This task was added to the committee standing charges and put forth in a motion.
4. The process of maintaining records of the Faculty Manual was investigated. The Provost's office will now be responsible for yearly updating and archiving of the Faculty manual.
5. The Chair met with Tim McNamara regarding an issue of clarification in the Faculty Manual disciplinary action section. The committee then reviewed and approved of the revised clarified wording shared from Tim McNamara's office, to be amended in the Faculty Manual. These changes were then presented as a motion to the Faculty Senate..