

Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom Committee
Vanderbilt University Senate
Report for Academic Year 2011-2012
Chair: R. Daniel Beauchamp, M.D.

Committee Members

Dan Beauchamp, Chair, Medicine (2012)
Brian Christman, Medicine (ex officio) [Executive Committee Liaison]
Jeremy Atack, A&S (2013)
Eric Bond, A&S (2014)
Joe Gigante, Medicine (2014)
Andy Gokhale, Engineering (2014)
Lynn Ramey, A&S (2014)
Joel Tellinghuisen, A&S (2014)
Danny Winder, Medicine (2013)
Paul Yoder, Peabody (2012)

Committee Charges:

1. Finalize ITS internal policy on e-disclosure (inherited from PEAFF)
2. Privacy policy on offices and labs (inherited from PEAFF)
3. Continued review of proposed Abu Dhabi program
4. Guidance for all international programs (not Study Abroad)
5. New bookstore and plans for renovations in Rand
6. Relationship and interaction with BoT
7. Assess the possible ethical concerns of faculty related to institutional investments in developing countries.

Progress:

1. Finalize ITS internal policy on e-disclosure (inherited from PEAFF)
The Faculty manual now contains the ITS and electronic communications e-Discovery policies as recommended last May by the Faculty Senate. The VU internal ITS policy has been reviewed and modifications suggested to Jerry Fife to align the internal policy with the Faculty manual as it applies to VU faculty. That has been done, and consistent policies adopted with consistent language in the Faculty Manual and in campus-wide ITS protocols per Deans Tim McNamara and David Raiford and Provost McCarty.
2. Privacy policy on offices and labs: faculty space (inherited from PEAFF)
Initial discussions have begun with the SPAF Task Force and a preliminary draft policy was circulated, but this work is incomplete and should carry over to the next Senate.

Deans David Raiford and Tim McNamara have expressed willingness to engage and collaborate on the development of a policy.

3. Continued review of proposed Abu Dhabi program
This has been folded into #4 below with broad guidance for all international programs.
4. Guidance for all international programs (not Study Abroad)
The task force submitted a draft set of guidelines to Chairman Weintraub on 3/9/12. The draft is attached to this document (see appendix).
5. New bookstore and plans for renovations in Rand
Lynn Ramey served as the Task Force and Senate representative on the Rand planning committee. As the only faculty person giving input, Lynn worked to facilitate student-faculty interactions. She has emphasized that improvement in food quality at Rand is a priority that may enhance these interactions.
6. Relationship and interaction with Board of Trust
This should be carried over to the next Senate if it remains a priority for the Exec Committee. There are specific action items to report.
7. Assess the possible ethical concerns of faculty related to institutional investments in developing countries.
A subcommittee of the SPAF task force interviewed Vice Chancellor Wright on 10/17/11 regarding the investments in African farming through Emergent Asset Management. A written report of this investigation was provided to the Executive Committee on 3 November 2011 and to the whole Senate on 1 December 2011. The report praised the processes employed by the Investment Office, although was not able to fully assess the controversial investment in question with the available information. This report has not been released outside the Senate despite calls from students to do so. It remains a controversial issue across the campus.