

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 3, 2013, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to order

Approval of the minutes of September 12, 2013

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by the Provost

Scheduled remarks: Vice Chancellor Jeff Balser

New Business

1. Motion submitted by Senators Myrna Wooders, Kathryn Anderson, Mark Cannon and Claire Smrekar

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Anderson K., Balser, Barth, Benbow, Blume, Cannon, Clark, Driskill, Folgarait, Fountain, Gokhale, Greer, Hemingway, Hurder, Johnson J., Johnson R., Johnston, Jade, Kennedy, Kirshner, Lim, Lind, Marcus, Mihalik, Mulvaney, Nanney, Niswender, Ramsey, Reside, Schoenfield, Spottswood, Steiger, Tarpley, Tellinghuisen, Tsinakis, Wehby, Willis, Wittig, Wooders, Ziegler.

Voting Members absent: Anderson, A, Barnes, Bachorowski, Brady (regrets), Creech, Delpire, Dever (regrets), Enterline (regrets), Fauchet (regrets), Fogo, Gigante, Guelcher, Guthrie (regrets), Hall, Hasty, Johnson, E. (regrets), Maroney (regrets), Norman (regrets), Powers (regrets), Price (regrets), Ramanujam (regrets), Rohde, Slayton, Townes, Wait (regrets), Watters (regrets), Wayman, Wright, and Wright-Rios.

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, March, McCarty, McNamara, Raiford.

Ex Officio Members absent: Anderson, A., Bernard (regrets), Cyrus (regrets), Dowell (regrets), Fife, Fortune, Hall (regrets), Lutz, Miller, Stalcup, Sweet, Wcislo (regrets), Wente (regrets), Williams, and Zeppos (regrets).

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Call to order

The meeting of the Vanderbilt Faculty Senate was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Vice Chair Jeffrey Johnston as Chair Donald Brady was unable to attend. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected.

Report of the Executive Committee

The report of the Executive Committee was given by Vice Chair Johnston. The Executive Committee has had regular meetings with university leadership. Much of the discussion has focused on the strategic planning process which is moving swiftly, and the effort underway to reach as many faculty as possible during this formulation stage. The financial health of the university and medical center, and campus safety have also been discussed. Senate subcommittees are just beginning to meet.

Provost Richard McCarty gave remarks about the current state of the university. Vice Chair Johnston said that he was moving the agenda item of “New business” ahead of the scheduled remarks.

New business

Senators Myrna Wooders, Kathryn Anderson, Mark Cannon and Claire Smrekar submitted a motion that was distributed in writing via email to all senators three days before the meeting as stated in the Senate’s Rules of Order. The text of the motion follows:

“Proposed Faculty Senate Resolution (9/27/13)

Whereas the issues of personal violence and public safety are of paramount importance to the Vanderbilt University community, and

Whereas creating a Vanderbilt University campus culture that is safe, secure and welcoming, with freedom from fear and respect for the rights of others, is a critical and an urgent priority;

We propose that Faculty Senate join with other campus organizations in a continuous and committed effort to implement a strategy of personal safety and violence prevention;

More specifically, we propose:

- Joining in a formal partnership with Green Dot;
- Establishing a Faculty Senate task force on personal violence prevention and public safety designed to: 1) expand campus-wide understanding of the issues associated with preventing sexual assault and 2) implement a campus-wide system to support sexual assault survivors;

- Securing a commitment by all academic departments to join in formal discussions with designated student advocates and student affairs professional staff for the purpose of better understanding the issues associated with sexual assault and providing appropriate, high quality support for sexual assault survivors;
- Expanding and targeting resources on campus (e.g., student affairs professional staff; Green Dot trainers; information technology) to support the aims of reducing violence of any sort on campus and ensuring a campus climate of safety, respect, freedom from fear of violence and safe by-stander involvement in violence prevention.”

To facilitate discussion, Vice Chair Johnson presented a bulleted summary of points in the motion which had been distributed to the senators before the meeting. Information pertinent to the discussion was provided by Dean Mark Bandas and listed with the relevant point. In light of remaining business, Vice Chair Johnston requested that debate be limited to ten minutes. After debate, there was a motion to table the question for further review and consideration by the group that proposed it, and this secondary motion was seconded and approved.

Scheduled Remarks by Vice Chancellor Jeff Balsler

Vice Chancellor Jeff Balsler gave a presentation about the state of the Medical Center.

Good of the Senate

Vice Chair Johnston asked for any information for the good of the Senate. He reminded the senators about Professor Andrew Delbanco’s visit on October 15, and he also reminded them of future Senate speakers.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.