Call to order

Approval of the minutes of October 13, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Presentation on Athletics—Vice Chancellor David Williams

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent: Bachorowski (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Dever (regrets), Gervais (regrets), Gokhale (regrets), Hall (regrets), Moore (regrets), Mulvaney (regrets), Nanney (regrets), Niswender (regrets), Ramey (regrets), Rogers (regrets), Schwartz (regrets), Tellinghuisen (regrets), Tsinakis (regrets), and Wait (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bernard, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Fortune, Miller, Raiford, Stalcup, Williams, and Zeppos.
Ex Officio Members absent: McCarty (regrets), McNamara (regrets), Sweet, Wcislo, Wente (regrets), and Wright.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair David Weintraub.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of October 13, 2011 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for these minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub then gave the report of the Executive Committee:

1. Planning for December meeting: presentation on the College Halls/Kissam project (Tom Schwartz, Cynthia Cyrus)
2. Planning for January elected-senators-only meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
3. Planning for February meeting: discussion of proposals from Student Life Committee about Honor Councils
4. Met with Committee Chairs: lots of good work being done
5. SPAF subcommittee met with Vice Chancellor Matthew Wright and Provost Richard McCarty to discuss certain African investments; we expect a report to the full Senate, based on the SPAF report from that meeting, in December
6. Participated in further discussions with administrative leaders regarding nondiscrimination policy issues; will continue to monitor the situation. For now, we believe the Faculty Senate does not need to be involved beyond what we are already doing.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chair Weintraub then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos. He said that he spent time in Washington, D.C. with AAU presidents and chancellors recently. The budget picture that the country is facing is bad, but there is hope for easing the regulations that impose huge costs for the university. He said that he thinks we will get away from effort reporting and more towards results reporting. They are talking about big changes in human subject research towards less regulation as well. He said that both sides of the aisle are talking about preserving research funding, which is a good sign. You can’t cut away at education and research budgets and expect the country to stay innovative.

Regarding the nondiscrimination policy, we have been working on this issue for a while. The outside commentators aren’t interested in the nuances of this issue. He said that he...
has a lot of faith in our students and they don’t see the same divisions that we do. He also said that he will not compromise on core principles.

He added that applications are up, giving is up, and alumni contributions are up. His biggest worry is federal funding. He also commented that the search for a new engineering dean is coming along nicely.

Chair Weintraub thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his remarks.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation by Vice Chancellor David Williams

Chair Weintraub then welcomed Vice Chancellor David Williams to give his presentation on athletics.

Vice Chancellor Williams gave his presentation including: Academic Topics, Compliance and Reform, Conference Realignment, Our Graduates, Women’s Cross Country.

He then asked for any questions.

Do you have any comments on the recent Atlantic Monthly article?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I’m not in favor of paying athletes. I don’t believe in that. We are giving them an education. I read the article—our athletes are scholar-athletes. It’s not true for Vanderbilt.

What can be done about injuries and time lost to travel?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I don’t know what you can do to reduce the travel time unless we do away with some of the off-season competition. I think the second thing we can do is to vigorously enforce the 20-hour rule (supervised practice per week). I think the third thing we can do is to be deliberate about keeping the students to these rules. We work hard to reduce the travel, but it is an issue we constantly work at.

Athletic spending is going up at a much greater rate than general university spending. Can you talk about our budget?

Vice Chancellor Williams: Our budget is stable and much of that is returned to the university via tuition and room & board. We get some money from the NCAA. We have to generate money from ticket sales, etc. We don’t get any more money from the university due to tuition going up. We agree with that—we think more money should come from our performance. We have to manage our budget because coaches want more money.

Chancellor Zeppos: The economics of college sports is that there are the haves and have nots—there are very few universities that make money through athletics (U of Texas is
one). There are also proposals to cut football scholarships—I never thought I’d see that. These are real pressures.

Tutoring for upper division classes?

Vice Chancellor Williams: We use graduate students for tutors usually. We have used people in the community for foreign languages. We have a tuition coordinator that works on this.

Presumably some scholar-athletes are academically at-risk. Are we willing to redshirt the freshman for the first year to help them?

Vice Chancellor Williams: I am all for that. I wish they would make all freshmen ineligible. But since that isn’t the standard, we would lose the recruit to another university if we did this. We are using our summer school as a way to do this in a sense.

Is there anything from preventing need–based athletic scholarships only?

Vice Chancellor Williams: It is a recruiting disadvantage, unfortunately. That’s the other side of it. I wish we could do this so that we could spend that money elsewhere.

Concern that as the average SAT score in the general population increases, the average SAT scores of student athletes is not keeping up with that increase.

Vice Chancellor Williams: This is an issue. We try to address the gap and get the student to the next level.

Integrating the athletes into the student body—how is this going?

Vice Chancellor Williams: We tell them this is the expectation, and we are doing many things to support this.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Weintraub thanked Vice Chancellor Williams for his presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business and Good of the Senate

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or information for the good of the senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was received and seconded.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.