Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2010

Report of the Executive Committee (Brian Christman, Chair of the Faculty Senate)

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

Summary of the State of University Athletics:
    David Williams, Vice Chancellor for University Affairs

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent:  Judy Aschner (regrets), Beauchamp, Bradford, Braxton (regrets), Calico (regrets), Carbone, Floyd-Thomas, Fogo (regrets), Guthrie, Halpern (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler, Lukehart (regrets), Oppenheimer, Peek, Schwartz (regrets), Shields (regrets), Skaar, Smrekar, Tansey, Turner, and Wait (regrets).

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Brian Christman.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2010

Chair Christman asked for the minutes of 10/7/10 to be approved. He asked if there are any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of Executive Committee

Chair Christman recognized the hard work of all the committee members. He reminded everyone that there is an executive committee liaison to all Senate committees. He thanked the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for making themselves available for discussion of university business.

He said that the executive committee’s recent work includes following up on the email privacy policy. He said that Vice Chancellor Balser and Provost McCarty are working on the final language, which will then go to the PEAF committee, and then on to the full Senate. He said that they are also discussing the issue of faculty office privacy, and that this would be a similar policy with a limited number of university officers who could approve any exceptions. He said that the Student Life committee continues to work on the issue of the Honor System. He said that there was great discussion at the last Senate meeting.

Chair Christman said that the Alcohol Task Force is coming together. He mentioned a recent study about alcohol that outlines the societal cost of alcohol. He said that Louise Hanson, Paul Ragan, Scott Rodgers, Anderson Spickard, Jr., Larry Dowdy, and Mary Yarbrough have all agreed to serve on this task force. He asked for other motivated volunteers for the task force to contact him.

He then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Chair Christman mentioned that we solicited questions from faculty senators for the Chancellor. We will open the floor for other questions after the submitted questions.

Chair Christman: What is your vision for Vanderbilt University?

Chancellor Zeppos: There is a strategic plan that is currently on the website. There are some recommendations that have been implemented, and some initiatives that have
failed. Why haven’t we done another one? My philosophy is that I don’t like to do plans unless we have some money for it. I think the next time you’ll see this kind of planning is when we finish this capital campaign.

Regarding the Medical Center strategic planning, when I was provost, I didn’t always agree with the planning that was done in this area. I would say that I struggled with the strategy of clinical enterprise in the Medical Center. I think Jeff Balser has articulated a research-based, cutting-edge strategic plan for the Medical Center now. We have to be one of the universities that dramatically transforms how healthcare is delivered in this country, and this is vitally important to Vanderbilt.

Regarding the social sciences, I think that the strategies have been mixed in terms of results. I think it’s essential that we attract and retain quality faculty in all departments. I think that the engineering schools is one of my priorities—to significantly enhance the quality of that school and create a stronger partnership with the Medical School and Nursing School. Graduate Education is a priority for me, as well. I am a big supporter of the tenure system.

Chair Christman: Can you talk about the university’s new process of linking health insurance premiums to income?

Chancellor Zeppos: We did it because we are aware of the lack of raises, and we thought it was the right thing to do. It wasn’t good for the morale of the staff to raise their insurance premiums without giving them a raise.

Senator Christina Karageorgou: I recently found out that our graduate students receive no benefits for their spouses or children. Is this true?

Chancellor Zeppos: Yes, this is true. We do offer it, but they have to pay for it.

Chair Christman thanked the Chancellor for his time.

Next Item on the Agenda – Summary of the State of University Athletics:

David Williams, Vice Chancellor for University Affairs

Chair Christman introduced Vice Chancellor Williams. Vice Chancellor Williams said that the four pillars of Vanderbilt Athletics are 1) academic success, 2) competitive success, 3) quality of the student experience, and 4) fiscal responsibility.

**Academic Success:** He showed a few different slides demonstrating Vanderbilt’s high academic success with their athletes. **Competitive success:** He showed a graph that demonstrated that Vanderbilt is competitive in the post-season NCAA competition within the SEC. **Quality of the student experience:** The quality of the student experience includes many hours of community service. Vanderbilt also emphasizes study abroad for the student athletes. He said that they made changes to make sure that the athletes can participate in study abroad.
Fiscal responsibility: He showed a slide with the budget of the athletic department. He also showed the expenses of the athletic department for FY 09-10. He thanked Patricia Marett and Brett Sweet for helping the department with their budget.

He talked about starting the Athletic Hall of Fame over the last few years. He mentioned the 2010 NCAA Self Study, a department leadership series, and the partnership with the University Athletics Committee. He also mentioned the FY 10/11 “Good to Great” goals of the athletic department. He said that they are looking at having the University Athletics Committee handle student scholarship appeals. He added that Provost Richard McCarty is now the Faculty Athletic Representative.

Chair Christman then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Lynn Ramey: Why don’t we have a volleyball team for women?
Vice Chancellor Williams: We aren’t financially sound enough to add a sport like volleyball. It is a money issue as well as a facility issue. We think it will happen in the future.

Vice Chair Bobby Bodenheimer: What are the current major challenges?
Vice Chancellor Williams: Football. It’s always going to be a challenge. We have to work very hard to get these students’ academics up to par. Facilities are also a challenge. We recruit 18 year-old kids who are impressed by big facilities. But we lead with Vanderbilt academics.

Chair Christman thanked Vice Chancellor Williams for his presentation to the Senate.

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

Chair Christman asked for any new business or anything under “good of the senate.” Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn, which was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Bodenheimer,
Vice Chair