Call to order

Approval of the minutes of October 9, 2014

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by Provost Susan Wente

Scheduled Remarks
   David Williams, Vice Chancellor for University Affairs and Athletics

New Business
   Motion to approve new degree program, PhD in Astrophysics (Senator Brian Christman, Chair of Academic Policies and Services Committee)

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Bachmann; Blume; Brown; Cannon; Christenbery; Christman; Cliffel; Delpire; Dewey; Fogo; Friedman; Guelcher; Greer; Haglund; Hall, D.; Harrington; Hemingway; Hetherington; Lamb; Lim; Lind; Marcus; Martin; McAmmon; Norman; Oskay; Pearson; Price; Reside; Rohde; Steiger; Talbot; Tarpley; Walsh; Webb; Wehby; Willis; Wittig; Wooders; and Ziegler.

Voting Members absent: Anderson, Adam; Balser; Baker (regrets); Benbow; Creech; Enterline; Fauchet; Fountain; Guenther; Guthrie (regrets); Hasty; Heuser; Hopkins (regrets); Johnson, E.; Johnson, J.; Johnson, R. (regrets); Kennedy (regrets); Koutsoukos (regrets); Maroney; McCain; O’Hara O’Connor (regrets); Slayton; Sloop; Smrekar; Spottswood (regrets); Townes; Turner; Wait; Wright; and Wright-Rios.

Ex Officio Members present: Anderson, Audrey; Bandas; Combs; Johnston; Kopstain; Lutz; Raiford (regrets); Wente; and Williams.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets); Brady (regrets); Cyrus (regrets); Fortune; Hall, A.; McNamara; Miller; Stalcup; Sweet (regrets); Wcislo; and Zeppos (regrets).
Call to order

Chair Paul Lim called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

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Chair Lim asked for any discussion on the minutes.

A senator has two corrections. First correction is Professor Wcislo regarding drinking on campus--it should be the “light touch” not the “high touch.” (Note: after checking the audio recording of the 10/9/14 meeting, it was determined that the original wording was indeed correct, so it stands). Second correction is that the entire motion including the preamble needs to be included in the minutes.

Professor Lim confirmed that the senator was willing to approve the minutes as amended.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Lim gave the report of the Executive Committee:

- He reported that there is an update on implementation of the PBPV training that occurred at the last senate meeting. There are tweaks that need to be made to the training, and that is why department chairs and deans have not been notified about the training roll-out. The Executive Committee has been working on that.
- We have discussed globalization and internationalization. We will send out a faculty survey to canvass the opinions of the faculty regarding effectiveness, scope, and best practices for Vanderbilt to globalize within the world and the world to globalize within Vanderbilt.
- Third, we are working on the strategic plan implementation. We are working with Faculty Senators to implement the strategic plan.
- Fourth, we had a presentation by the Online Education Task Force. We will be bringing forth recommendations from that committee at a future Senate meeting.
- Fifth, the Future of the Libraries committee has been formed and was announced in MyVU.
- Last, tuition benefits for children who do not attend traditional college or university. There will be a report presented and we will discuss it in the Executive Committee and consider next steps.

Chair Lim asked if there were any questions or comments about the Executive Committee’s work. There were none.
Remarks by the Provost

Provost Susan Wente spoke to the senate about her first four months as provost and new initiatives in the Provost’s office. She also spoke about the search for the new Dean of Arts and Science, the search for the new Dean of the Graduate School, the search for the new Dean of Libraries following the work of the Future of the Libraries committee, the search for the new Vice Provost for Research, and the search for the new Dean of the Ingram Commons. She laid out the strategy for the implementation of the strategic plan initiatives, and discussed new programs such as TIPS, which will take the form of two types of proposals—VIA (Vanderbilt Initiative Awards) and VRA (Vanderbilt Reinvestment Awards). She also mentioned the Chancellor’s Faculty Fellows program that was not in the strategic plan, but that dovetails with the plan’s goals. She then took questions.

Faculty Senator: Where can we find the rules and procedures for the Chancellor’s Faculty Fellows?
Provost Wente: They are on the Provost website. They are for tenured faculty or equivalent rank in the Blair School. Also, the Law School is eligible because faculty promoted there go straight to full Professor. They are still included. It is not just for newly tenured associate professors.

Faculty Senator: How large will the group be?
Provost Wente: We do have a cap but I do not want to divulge the cap because we want the process to be candidate-driven. I have a realistic target in mind based on how many people we promote every year. It will be ongoing every year so if all cannot be accommodated the first year another nomination process will come next year.

Faculty Senator: We are not going to hire a full professor in economics until we have a new Dean of Arts and Science I have heard. Will the lack of a permanent dean affect any of the programs or the faculty in Arts and Science?
Provost Wente: No, I would say not.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Lim thanked Provost Wente for her remarks.

Scheduled Remarks

Chair Lim welcomed Vice Chancellor David Williams who gave an update on student-athletics.

Vice Chancellor Williams gave a presentation focused on five pillars:
1. Academic success
2. Competitive success
3. Solid financial stewardship
4. Quality of the student-athlete experience
5. Changing legal landscape

He said that Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Audrey Anderson will speak about the fifth pillar at the end of his presentation.
Competitive success

We operate 16 varsity sports of which 15 are scholarshipped. Men’s cross country is not scholarshipped. Our women’s golf team won the SEC championship, men’s baseball won the national championship this year. It is our second national championship. In 2007, we won the women’s bowling national championship.

We participated in our third consecutive bowl game. We’ve only participated in 7 bowl games in Vanderbilt’s entire history.

Financial stewardship

We ended better than budget this year, and the Rec Center came in on time and within budget.

Academic success

He showed GPAs by team. We have four teams below our FY15 goal of having all teams over 3.0. He said that we are focused on raising the average GPAs of all athletes to 3.0, and our goal is 3.2.
Vice Chancellor Williams showed academic awards and GPAs over time for all student-athletes. Percentage-wise, we lead on SEC honor roll, but we are not first because the poll is based on numbers of athletes not percentages.

Faculty Senator: How many student-athletes do we have?
Vice Chancellor Williams: About 5% of students are student-athletes.

Faculty Senator: Do student-athletes have more psychological problems?
Vice Chancellor Williams: They may have issues related to competition or their desire to compete at the highest level. Our student-athletes have the same issues as other students like being homesick, but people don’t often think of them as having those issues.

Quality of the student-athlete experience

Vice Chancellor Williams also talked about his academic support staff, the Summer Bridge Program, life skills training, study abroad program, the integrity of the recruiting process at Vanderbilt, graduation rates, and degree completion program.

Faculty Senator: What is our institutional strategy for athletics? What is our institutional plan for athletics? Why do we invest so much time, effort, and money in athletics for the institution?

Vice Chancellor Williams: Athletics has a huge value in the well-roundedness of the individual. There are things you learn as a member of a team that enhance your ability to be a good student, employee, citizen. There are things that are at odds between athletics and academics but I do think there is value to athletics. It helps them get through college. It doesn’t have to be at the highest level. It has the ability to enhance their University experience.
Faculty Senator: Is there a list of institutional returns on investment? How do we measure what these millions we spend give us as a benefit at our university?

Vice Chancellor Williams: We struggle with that too because we get asked what is the value of college athletics. We would be willing to partner with someone to investigate that. We understand there is a value and a partnership, and I think as we go down the road we have to be able to articulate those benefits.

Faculty Senator: What is the cost to the university of the major sports?

Vice Chancellor Williams: The University invests $12 to $15 million in athletics and a majority goes to sports that do not produce revenue like tennis, golf, and lacrosse.

Vice Chancellor Williams said that he will turn the floor over to Vice Chancellor Anderson who will discuss the legal issues surrounding athletics.

Vice Chancellor Anderson: Let me describe the three kinds of lawsuits that are occurring in college athletics currently:

- Anti-trust law. Federal trial court in CA has ruled that certain NCAA rules that limit what we provide student-athletes violate anti-trust laws.
- Have student athletes deemed employees of the University.
- Have student athletes deemed employees under Fair Standard Labors Act to pay athletes at least minimum wage.

Vice Chancellor Anderson said that she would be happy to discuss this in detail with anyone who might be interested.

New Business--Motion to approve new degree program, PhD in Astrophysics

Chair Lim indicated there was two minutes left in the meeting, and we need to attend to new business. He offered the option of voting on the motion now or, if there is a two-thirds vote to table until the next meeting, we can do that instead.

Here is the motion:

“Resolved that the Faculty Senate approves the proposed Astrophysics Ph.D. Program”

Chair Lim said that the materials were previously distributed, and the external reviews were all positive. He reminded everyone that this is a committee motion, so no second is required. He added that Professor David Weintraub is here if there are any questions about the content of the degree program.
Faculty Senator: Seems like a high quality group to lead proposal. It has brought in lots of grant funding. One concern: we don’t have a permanent dean in Arts and Science, and we are looking for a dean and should something like this wait?

Provost Wente: I’ll just address this one procedural question. John Sloop is the current interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, and he has the full authority and power of an acting dean in that role by power of the provost.

At this point, a question arose as to whether there was a quorum present. It was determined that there was not, and thus, given that the Chair and the members considered this to be substantive business, Chair Lim chose to suspend voting on the motion until such time as a quorum was present. The motion will be placed under “Old Business” at the next senate meeting.

Good of the Senate

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.