Call to order

Approval of the minutes of November 1, 2012

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by the Chancellor

New Business

1. Approval of Lillian Nanny to serve the remainder of Judy Aschner’s term as Past Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate
2. Motion: Endorse the Report of the University Staff Advisory Council (USAC), Breastfeeding Support and Resources for New Mothers
3. Presentation by Dennis Hall, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Professor of Physics and Professor of Electrical Engineering

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent: Atack (regrets), Balser (regrets), Benbow, Braxton (regrets), Cannon (regrets), Conway-Welch (regrets), Dayan, Dever (regrets), Enterline, Fauchet (regrets), Fountain (regrets), Gigante, Gokhale (regrets), Guthrie, Harrington (regrets), Hemingway, Hornberger (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Hughes (regrets), Hyman (regrets), Lim (regrets), Morrill (regrets), Mulvaney (regrets), Niswender (regrets), Schoenfield (regrets), Schwartz (regrets), Smrekar, Southard-Smith, Tansey, Tsinakis (regrets), Wait, Wayman, Wikswo (regrets), and Winder.

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Barz, McCarty, McNamara, Miller, Wcislo, and Weintraub.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard, Fife, Fortune, Raiford (regrets), Stalcup (regrets), Sweet, Wente (regrets), Williams, Wright, and Zeppos (regrets).
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Sal March.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2012

Minutes of November 1, 2012 meeting were approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

1. Chair March shared that Judy Aschner is leaving Vanderbilt, and thanked her for her service on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
2. Chair March thanked the Chancellor’s office and Dean Mark Bandas’ office for developing the Chancellor’s letter emphasizing the importance of the Cognito training for faculty to help underline their responsibility for students and their mental health.
3. Chair March reminded everyone about the January Elected Senators Only meeting. He asked senators to send any items for that meeting to him.
4. Chair March shared that the Senate Executive Committee has been in conversation about the budget with the administration. One thing that came out of the meetings is that faculty members still have questions about how the budget issues affect them. He said that we have invited the Chancellor to speak about this issue today, but he couldn’t make it, so the Provost has graciously agreed to step in. We have also invited CFO Brett Sweet to speak at the February Senate meeting about this topic.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Provost Richard McCarty

Chair March turned the floor over to Provost McCarty (standing in for the Chancellor). He said that we are doing a CIO search—the first time Vanderbilt has had a CIO. The interviews will occur between now and the end of the calendar year. There is a real push to have this work done quickly, and the Chancellor is chairing this search. This position will be a Vice Chancellor and will be a member of the senior leadership team. This is being done in parallel with the Bain & Co. study of our technology issues. They are doing an excellent job and have reached out to you in your role as faculty members to find out more about these issues. CFO Brett Sweet is chairing the search for General Counsel. The last of 5 interviews was finished yesterday and it is now in the Chancellor’s court to make the final decision. Don Brady was the Faculty Senate representative on that committee. We are also nearing the end of the search for the next Dean of the Divinity School; that search will be concluded by early spring semester. With regards to sequestration, there is still a lot of political posturing going on. We are all hopeful that we do not face this horrible outcome in the New Year, and I believe that a deal will be reached. If not, we will have to pull together in every way to make sure we continue to operate well.

Provost McCarty also mentioned the Music City Bowl and how well the Athletics department has done with this big event.
With regards to the budget, we are all looking to contain costs. Changes are coming soon with the Affordable Care Act that will necessitate that we do things more effectively in the Medical Center, for example. We did have a meeting on Aug. 29 with all deans and their unit budget officers, but we were not able to meet with all faculty members, so the message didn’t get communicated as effectively as we’d like. We would like to eliminate the differential that we have every year in our budget. Half will be the responsibility of the schools and half will be the responsibility of administrative areas. Every unit will be asked to contribute its share of the cuts, but it is not mandated an amount—each school will do this differently. Also, we need to save for renewal and replacement—2% each year is our goal. We need all faculty to understand what we need to do as we go forward.

He asked for questions. Hearing none, Chair March thanked the Provost.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business: Approval of Lillian Nanny to serve the remainder of Judy Aschner’s term as Past Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate

Chair March brought up the issue of Judy Aschner leaving Vanderbilt before the end of her ex officio year. The Executive Committee asks the Senate to approve Lillian Nanney to serve the remainder of Judy Aschner’s term as past vice chair of the Faculty Senate in 2013-14. This request was approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Motion: Endorse the Report of the University Staff Advisory Council (USAC), Breastfeeding Support and Resources for New Mothers

Chair March reminded everyone that this motion was brought to the Senate at the last meeting in November. He then asked for any further discussion. Hearing none, he then asked for a vote on this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation by Dennis Hall, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Professor of Physics and Professor of Electrical Engineering

Chair March introduced Vice Provost Dennis Hall who gave a presentation about graduate education and the changes that have occurred in the past few years. Vice Provost Hall shared that there have been seven new graduate programs started since 2001, there is now direct charging of grant-paid tuition and an online application system, his office has ended the application fee, and there are a variety of workshops for graduate students. He also mentioned the EGE program, “Enhancing Graduate Education,” where faculty members can propose programs to help graduate education. He talked about graduate application numbers, and how Vanderbilt is ranked with their peers on various measures. He also addressed the attrition rate. He discussed PhDs awarded to underrepresented minority domestic students. He also talked about career and
professional development work—his office recently hired Ruth Schemmer as the Assistant Dean for Career Development. He then opened the floor for questions.

Question: Who are we competing with and where do students go instead of us?
Dennis Hall: It depends on the discipline (engineering students go to different places than humanities graduate students, for example).
Elizabeth Rapisarda: We will be undertaking a study now that looks at aspirational schools and peer schools, but it will be at the departmental level.

Question: Mental health and resiliency of the graduate students. What is the Graduate School doing about this?
Dennis Hall: In Jan 2013, Cathy Fuchs is meeting with the DGS’s to address this. It is a work in progress.

Question: What could we be doing better to improve graduate education?
Dennis Hall: This is about the faculty and their reputations. We are working hard in diversity and career development. The best thing we can do is to continue to try and hire the best faculty for these programs.

Question: Why did applications drop sharply after we went online?
Dennis Hall: Applications dropped after 2001 when the US became less hospitable to foreign applicants for graduate school.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair March asked for any news under good of the Senate. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.