Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2010

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

Report of the Chancellor

New business

Motion to recommend mid-career development programs (Ann Price, Faculty Life chair)

Motion to endorse the new degree program in Biostatistics (Eric Skaar, APS chair)

Good of the Senate

Adjournment


Voting Members absent: Aschner (regrets), Atack (regrets), Balser (regrets), Beauchamp (regrets), Benbow, Bradford, Carter, Collins, Donaldson (regrets), Fischer (regrets), Floyd-Thomas, Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Hall (regrets), Halpern, Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Hughes (regrets), Hyman (regrets), Lukehart (regrets), Miller, M. (regrets), Moore (regrets), Nanney (regrets), Oppenheimer, Peek, Schwartz (regrets), Skaar (regrets), Tansey (regrets), Turner, Weil, Weintraub (regrets), Wait (regrets), Winder, and Young (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Fife, Fortune, McCarty, Paschal, Raiford, Roberts, Wcislo, Wente, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard, McNamara (regrets), Miller, Stalcup (regrets), Sweet, Williams, 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 March 3, 2011

Chair Christman asked for any changes to the minutes of the March Senate meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Christman gave his report stating that the Executive Committee has talked with the administration about the campus smoking policy, the Abu Dhabi initiative, Honor Council, and tech transfer/OTTED. He said that they represented the Senate at the Spring Faculty Assembly and BOT meeting this month. Also, he reported that we will hold a past chairs and vice chairs luncheon on April 29 to find out from these faculty leaders what important issues are on their minds.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chair Christman then turned the floor over to Chancellor Zeppos. Chancellor Zeppos talked about student mental health issues. He said that we should talk about this topic all of the time—it is of utmost importance. He said that mental health for all students, faculty and staff is one of the issues that he cares most deeply about. He mentioned that in 2006, we worked with the Senate on this issue. There is no ‘one size fits all’ solution. The way we try to deal with this for undergraduates is by prevention and intervention. We take a proactive view in educating the parents and involving the family if we think they need to be involved. All staff members who work with students are trained in spotting mental health issues. He has encouraged every professor to go through this training. He thinks it’s important to know how to help these young people. He said that he puts mental health resources as a top priority in his financial plan.

Senator Mavis Schorn: What about part-time students?
Chancellor Zeppos: We can look at these gaps. We should be able to help everyone who asks for it.

Chancellor Zeppos said that he also visited Abu Dhabi recently. It was his due diligence to find out what the situation was. He said that this has to be something that’s very good for Vanderbilt. If we all say that we can make an impact and we want to do it, then we will. But there is more to come—no decisions have been made yet.

He said that faculty hiring this year is outstanding, and that we have superb junior and senior faculty joining the university. He said that we need to support graduate education, and we have put aside $100 million for the graduate education endowment. He said that we want to grow that by another $100 million over the next five years.

Chair Christman thanked Chancellor Zeppos for his remarks.
Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation from Traci Nordberg, Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer

Chair Christman introduced Associate Vice Chancellor Nordberg. She said that she views human resources at Vanderbilt as a journey. She said that the mode before was transactional and based on personnel. There is a new mode which is focused more on partnering. Human Resources had a firm do a study to help identify new models for service. Now there is mandate for change, and we are working on it. She said that there is now a new model of how we provide services—we will now have a single point of contact and expert centers. We also needed new infrastructure (key hires, technology, and process improvement). And, lastly, we have a new approach—more coaching, and different language. She showed the new service delivery model. She also mentioned what you can expect from the new HR: relief of administrative burdens, high standards for recruitment support, improved navigation of benefits, clear paths for how to solve problem and reliable turnaround times, and partnership on issues for faculty and staff. She then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Paul Yoder: Who is our single point of contact?
Associate Vice Chancellor Nordberg: As soon as your group is up and running, you will be notified.

Past Chair Cynthia Paschal: Is there an opportunity to provide retirement plan counseling independent of the retirement benefits companies?
Associate Vice Chancellor Nordberg: We have heard that the system in place is not meeting the current needs. We are working on this issue right now.

Chair Christman thanked Associate Vice Chancellor Nordberg for her presentation.

Next Item on the Agenda – Year-end report from Student Life (Mavis Schorn, chair)

Chair Christman turned the floor over to the Mavis Schorn, chair of the Student Life committee. She went over the charges to her committee from the beginning of the year. She mentioned that they were charged at looking at the honor councils, which actually turned out to be more about the honor system. She said that this charge took up most of their time, so at this point they are still working on this issue. They expect it to carry forward to next year’s committee. She said that she met with Cindy Funk, Director of the Career Center. And the committee met with Susan Barge about the progress of the college halls initiative (Kissam). She opened the floor for any questions or comments.

Chancellor Zeppos: We are 95% there in terms of funding for Kissam. We hope to get Board of Trust approval in April.

Chair Christman thanked Senator Schorn for the report from the Student Life committee.
Next Item on the Agenda – Guns on campus motion (Executive Committee)

Chair Christman then presented the motion from the Executive Committee. He opened the floor for discussion.

There was an amendment to revise the wording of the motion slightly by Senator LeBlanc. Senator Smrekar seconded the motion to amend.

Amended motion:
“We, the Faculty Senate of Vanderbilt University, resolve that we oppose legislation that would alter current policy regarding guns on college campuses in the state of Tennessee. We fully support the resolution of the Faculty Senate of the Knoxville Campus of the University of Tennessee.”

Senator Bridget Rogers: Why are we doing this?
Chancellor Zeppos: We don’t want the government telling us what to do anymore than they do.

Senator Schorn: Does the law track with actual reduction in violence?
Chancellor Zeppos: Regardless of the data, do you want to put this on our list of things to worry about? I don’t.

Associate Vice Chancellor David Raiford: It is not illegal to have guns in your possession (in your car). We know that they are on the medical side in people’s cars, most likely, but they are not being carried around.

There was other discussion about this issue. The question was then called and a vote was taken.

Motion carried on a voice vote with one opposed.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Christman asked for any 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 5:23pm.