Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2012

Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Report of the Executive Committee
Chair David Weintraub

Remarks from Provost Richard McCarty

Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect (Links to candidates’ statements and CVs here: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/cvs.htm)

Year-end reports from standing committees (Please read in advance of the meeting--link to final reports here: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/commit.htm)

New Business
  Motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force—Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair

  Report from the Academic Programs and Services Committee—Senator Eric Skaar, chair

Good of the Senate

Adjourn (reception to follow)


Voting Members absent:  Andrews (regrets), Atack (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Beauchamp (regrets), Braxton (regrets), Cannon (regrets), Carbone (regrets), Clark (regrets), Does (regrets), Fogo (regrets), Halpern (regrets), Morrill (regrets), Ramey (regrets), Schwartz (regrets), Tansey (regrets), Tsinakis (regrets), Turner (regrets), Winder (regrets), and Wollaeger.
Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, Raiford, and Wente.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets), Fortune (regrets), Miller (regrets), Stalcup (regrets), Sweet, Wcislo (regrets), Williams, Wright, and Zeppos (regrets).

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2012

Minutes of April 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Recognition of Third-Year Senators

Chair Weintraub and Provost Richard McCarty recognized all third-year senators with certificates and thanked them for their terms on the Senate.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub thanked the outgoing committee and task force chairs. He mentioned highlights of the Senate’s work over the past year including Professor Abby Stewart’s visit; ongoing dialogue with the Chancellor, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs; new Senate office space in Sarratt Student Center; new non-discrimination policy in the Faculty Manual; the Honor System report; and the new process for archiving the Faculty Manual annually.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks by Provost Richard McCarty

Provost McCarty gave a report on the Board of Trust meeting in April. They approved the tuition increase (1.9%) for undergraduate education. This will require a focus on costs. This is the lowest increase among our sister universities. Some buildings were also approved—the Medical Center plaza project will start soon.

He also spoke about the nondiscrimination issue and said that there was a major effort to review the applications for all student groups for next academic year. 424 organizations have been approved, which is more than we had last year. This has created a lot of media coverage, but we will continue to reach out to all student organizations. We have not kicked anyone off campus. Mark Bandas and Pat Helland have done an incredible job working through this issue. Gov. Haslam vetoed a bill that was passed by the Assembly that would have singled out Vanderbilt for some harsh measures next year. We are very fortunate that the governor vetoed this misguided legislation. We hope to continue engaging the members of the General Assembly and educate them about our nondiscrimination policy.
He said that we are in receipt of a second letter from the Prayer Caucus of the US House of Representatives. They are concerned about the harsh treatment of Christians on our campus. We are drafting a response and hope to invite them to visit us.

He said that two of our colleagues have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences—Randolph Blake and Larry Bartels. He also announced that he has decided to make a change in the leadership of the Psychological and Counseling Center. He said that Cathy Fuchs will be the new director of the PCC. She will take over on August 1, 2012. He hopes that the Senate will invite Cathy to give an update on her initiatives at the PCC sometime next year. He said that we are moving to put in competitive salaries for our professional staff, and to have them working for Vanderbilt full-time. We want to support the work that they do with our students. He said that he is also proud of the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug task force.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Question: Question about all-comers policy. I think we should emphasize the term “nondiscrimination” and not the term “all-comers.”
Provost McCarty: That is language taken from a 2010 Supreme Court case. What we have been doing is saying that if you are a student in good-standing at Vanderbilt, you should be able to join any group. And if you are a member of the group, you should be able to run for office.

Question: Salary raise—low tuition raise=flat salaries?
Provost McCarty: They will not be flat—the average salary increase will be 2% for faculty and staff. We won’t make enough to cover this, but we will dig into the piggy bank for it.

Chair Weintraub thanked Provost McCarty for his time.

Next Item on the Agenda – Elections for Senate Chair-elect and Vice Chair-elect

Elections were carried out and Donald Brady was elected Chair-elect while Jeffrey Johnston was elected Vice Chair-elect.

Next Item on the Agenda – Year-end reports from standing committees

Chair Weintraub noted that the committees’ year-end reports were available on the Senate website at: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/committees/index.php.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business

Motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force—Senator Mary Yarbrough, chair
Chair Weintraub presented a motion to accept the report from the Student Alcohol and Prescription Drug Task Force that was presented by Senator Mary Yarbrough at the April Senate meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Report from the Academic Programs and Services Committee—Senator Eric Skaar, chair**

Chair Weintraub then recognized Senator Eric Skaar who presented recommendations from APS regarding follow-up on the Graduate Education Task Force report, which his committee had been charged to do. After meeting with many administrators across campus, here is their list of recommendations for the Executive Committee to follow-up on:

1. The selection process for recipients of “topping off awards” should be reconsidered. Specifically, more control should be given to the individual schools to select the recipients of these awards.

2. Support should be provided for the submission of training grants and fellowships. In light of the increasing demands on faculty time, and the decreased funding rate associated with training grant and fellowship applications, faculty should be given incentives and support to apply for these types of awards.

3. Career development support should be increased across campus including the creation of handbooks with sample job hunt materials and the addition of one FTE focused on career development to the BRET office.

Chair Weintraub thanked APS for all their work on this important issue.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate**

Chair Weintraub 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.