Call to order

Approval of the minutes of May 9, 2011 meeting

Report of the Executive Committee

Election of Kass Kovalcheck as Parliamentarian

Remarks by Chancellor Nick Zeppos

- Framing the Conversation about International Programs

Discussion of International Programs involving Vanderbilt

- Richard McCarty, Provost, on international programs based in University Central
- Robert Dittus, Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Health, on international programs run out of the Medical Center
- Tim McNamara, Vice Provost, on the Abu Dhabi initiative
- Open Session for comments and questions

New business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment to reception (in the Atrium between Frist and Godchaux Halls)


Voting Members absent: Aschner (regrets), Bachorowski (regrets), Bradford, Conway-Welch (regrets), Fogo (regrets), Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Halpern, Hyman (regrets), Moore, Schwartz (regrets), Skaar (regrets), Tansey, Wait, Wayman, and Wollaeger.
Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Bodenheimer, Christman, Fife, Fortune, McCarty, McNamara, Sweet, and Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard, Miller, Raiford (regrets), Stalcup (regrets), Wcislo, Wente, Williams, and Wright.

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

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the minutes of May 9, 2011 meeting

Chair Weintraub asked for the minutes to be approved. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Election of Kass Kovalcheck as Parliamentarian

Chair Weintraub put forth a motion to have Kass Kovalcheck serve as Parliamentarian for the 2011-2012 academic year. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Weintraub introduced the committees/task forces, and members of the 2011-12 Executive Committee.

Chair Weintraub then gave his report: the Executive Committee is meeting weekly, and they have met with the Chancellor and will meet with the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. He said that they were consulted over the summer about bookstore plans. Also, they were invited to place a member (Senator Tom Schwartz) on the Provostial committee on the Kissam Halls project.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Chancellor

Chair Weintraub explained that the usual Q&A will not be done by the Chancellor due to time constraints. He then turned the floor over to the Chancellor. Chancellor Zeppos said that he was happy to frame the discussion on international programs at Vanderbilt. He said the first question he always asks about anything is, “What’s our mission? Why are we doing this?” Universities develop their own policies around international activities. He said that he needs principled advice on international initiatives—our principles should always be at work and they should be tied to our mission.

Next Item on the Agenda – Discussion of International Programs involving Vanderbilt

Chair Weintraub introduced Provost Richard McCarty who gave an overview of Vanderbilt’s international programs in University Central. He said that Vanderbilt currently has a strong presence in Latin America, North America (Canada), Asia/Pacific...
Chair Weintraub then introduced Associate Vice Chancellor Robert Dittus who gave a presentation on global health initiatives that originate from the Medical Center.

Chair Weintraub finally introduced Vice Provost Tim McNamara who gave a summary of what is currently happening with the Abu Dhabi initiative (the new school of education in the Emirate). Vice Provost McNamara said that Vanderbilt is currently discussing the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to cover the exploratory phase. He said that Peabody faculty members also have two grant programs that might be put in place over there. He also gave background and history of this initiative.

Vice Provost McNamara outlined the risks: 1) Vanderbilt brand. He said that we won’t be forced to compromise our values over that which we have control over. 2) Focus and capacity: concerned about not wasting faculty effort and administrative bandwidth. 3) Safety of faculty and students. He gave a tentative timeline of activities. He also mentioned other universities and cultural centers that have a presence in Abu Dhabi.

Discussion and Questions:

A question was asked about the distinction we make between Vanderbilt values and American values—odd that we are pushing international programs when we lowered the requirement for foreign languages. Also, a question was asked about Abu Dhabi’s position on Israel.

Vice Provost McNamara: As a research university, we can’t withdraw and we have to engage with people in order to change them. It is true that the UAE doesn’t recognize Israel, but they also have covert relationships that support Israel. It is completely surrounded by Saudi Arabia and it has to be very circumspect about its politics.

Ellen Goldring is a Jewish professor who is actively engaged in this Abu Dhabi initiative. She said that the private work is different from the public policy.

Chair Weintraub: We are thinking about broad policies here.

There was discussion about the foreign language issue, and encouraging the Institute for Second Language Acquisition (Virginia Scott) at the table.

A question was asked: How do you guarantee that Vanderbilt values are maintained if this isn’t a Vanderbilt school?

Chancellor Zeppos: You have to have the right to exit at any time. That’s how you hold onto your values. I want to build slow, trusting relationships so that I can tell that things
are evolving in the right direction. It should grow incrementally. We should always be able to walk away from it.

Vice Provost McNamara: Should this college come into being, we would insist that members of Vanderbilt faculty would serve on the board of this college.

There was a comment about how mission of education is important, but we can’t be held responsible for every action by every person/student.

There was a question about India: what are Vanderbilt’s plans there?

Vice Provost McNamara: Forming the kinds of institutional relationships is difficult in India. I would love to be educated otherwise. We have a new chair of Religious Studies who is keenly interested in forming these relationships. Please give us advice if you have it.

Someone brought up the issue about the Africa land grab story in the Guardian.

Chair Weintraub said that he’d like to defer the question to another time as this is not the focus of the current discussion. Provost McCarty said that he stands solidly behind our chief investment officer who operates with the highest ethical principles. Chancellor Zeppos said that we are having some wonderful discussions about this, and we’re happy to talk about this.

A question was asked about global branding and global initiatives—what are the feedback and the benefits?

Vice Provost McNamara: I believe that to compete for resources, we have to have a global presence. If we don’t have this, we will not be a player on the international scene. Our international rankings are lower than our national rankings. This will not be changed overnight, but extending our mission will help us, and will help us improve recruiting and retaining faculty and students.

Chancellor Zeppos: We have to think about future generations and our future reputation. The whole locus of the world is shifting. How do we serve so that our successors say that we did think of the new world that is in front of us?

Someone raised the issue of mission drift: we want to have the most impact in the communities and countries that we go into. Are we talking about a country like this because of the wealth that will allow us to do it as opposed to a country with less money? We might want to think about redirecting some of the funds that we gain from this initiative into another community with fewer resources (social justice aspect).

Chancellor Zeppos: It doesn’t work that way, so we will have no margins or extra money that we would get from this.
Vice Provost McNamara: We have to stay focused on our mission. That is what will guide us. Principles should apply not only to us going somewhere, but also to people who want to come to us. The principles issue is helped by not making a profit. We are not building a building, hiring people, etc.—we are not investing anything other than our time at this point.

Chair Weintraub then ended the discussion due to time constraints, and the thanked all of the presenters.

**Next Item on the Agenda – New business and Good of the Senate**

Chair Weintraub asked for any new business or 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 5:34pm.