

MINUTES
Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 12, 2019 - 4:10 pm
Frist 140 – School of Nursing

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2019

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by the Chancellor

Standing Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Acra; Algood; Anderson, A.; Anderson, V.; Applegate; Attia; Benbow; Bisch; Bollen; Camarata; Choi; de Caestecker; Drake; Enyedy; Estrada; Fauchet; Filosa; Fitzpatrick; Friedman, K.; Geer; Harris; Hemingway; Heuser; Hudnut-Beumler; Hutson; Iacobucci; Jessee; Laibinis; Lewis; Lind; Luis; Magnuson; Martin; McLean; McTamaney; Middagh; Modena; Morgan; Neely; Parish; Phillippi; Pitt; Pitts; Ramey; Rodgers; Sanchez; Sharpley-Whiting; Simonett; Song; Terhune; Townes; Valentine; Walker; and Williams

Voting Members absent: Ackerly; Audet; Balser; Chambless; Cole; Creech; Friedman, D.; Guthrie; Johnson; Lacy; Marnett; Norman; Ochonou; Pollack; Wait; Wallace; and Yadav

Ex Officio Members present: Brady; Churchwell; George; Greene; Kopstain; Lutz; Nairon; Raghavan; Raiford; Robinson; Shellaway; Wentz; and Willis

Ex Officio Members absent: Bandas; Beasley; Ertel; Hall; Pietenpol; Stalcup; Sweet; Turner; and Wilson

Guests: Andrew Brodsky, Alissa Hare, Melanie Moran

Call to Order

John McLean, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

Approval of the minutes of May 6, 2019

Chair McLean asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made. The motion was seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Report of the Executive Committee (EC)

Chair McLean gave an in-depth report which covered the following:

- **Accomplishments in 2018-19 with the theme of Communications**
 - Establishment of the Faculty Engaged Newsroom
 - Engagement with Vice Chancellors Lutz, Koptstain, and Sweet
 - Creation of a social media presence for the Faculty Senate
 - Initiating a Task Force on Administrative Efficiency
 - Thanks to Past Chair Victoria Greene and Past Vice Chair Jeremy Wilson, Debbie Hayes, Kara Furlong, Melanie Moran, and Holly Algood.
 - Community Conversations will be held the day after Chancellor's Lecture Series events. Some faculty wanted water-cooler conversations the next day.
- **Theme for 2019-20 is Civility and Community.**
 - The Faculty Senate will create partnerships centered on community.
 - The Faculty Senate will partner with the Chancellor's Lecture Series to sponsor "Community Conversations" after each lecture.
 - The Faculty Senate has partnered with the Division of Communications, "I Am Vanderbilt" campaign. Members of the Senate were asked to complete a form identifying staff who serve the spirit, mission, and values of the university for an "I Am Vanderbilt" feature. All of the staff members featured in the Senate will be invited to the Faculty Senate year-end reception.
- **Goals for Civility – process versus product**
 - All standing committees were asked to engage in discussions of civility and to address this in the context of their committee charges.
 - The aim is to have consensus action items for implementation consideration in the spring.

- The spirit of discussion may center on the context of civility statements, codes of conduct, committees for institutional equity, and other models for guiding civility across Vanderbilt's mission and values.
- **Framework for Engagement**
 - Everyone was encouraged to actively participate in the work of their standing committees and stay abreast of initiatives and communications.
 - Faculty Senate meetings will be constructed along thematic threads of civility and community with proactive engagement of the standing committees.
 - Paper ballots will be used for voting this AY.
 - Reapportionment is being considered by the Senate Affairs Committee (SAC) and will be proposed in the coming months.
- **The Consultative Committee**
 - All 3rd Year Senators and the Executive Committee
 - Has at least one representative from each school or college
 - Can nominate faculty to university committees
 - Will review nominations for all Senate Faculty Awards
- **Faculty Awards**
 - The Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor Award
 - The Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor Award
 - The Thomas Jefferson Award
 - The Joseph A. Johnson Jr., Distinguished Leadership Professor Award
 - The Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award
 - There will be a call for nominations in October and in March.
- **Filing a Motion**
 - The process is established by the Rules of Order.
 - The motion goes to the Vice Chair through the Office of the Faculty Senate at least 8 days before a scheduled Senate meeting.
 - The motion is reviewed by the EC. There may be requests for more information, changes to the language, or even a request to allow another committee perspective.
 - Motions coming from committees do not need a second. Motions from individuals need a second.

- Motions must be communicated to the full Senate membership at least 3 days prior to the meeting. This is communicated by the Office of the Faculty Senate.
- Amendments to the Rules of Order must be introduced to the Senate at a regular meeting at least 3 weeks prior to a vote.
- **Faculty Manual Update**
 - Partial Approvals of May 6 Omnibus Motion 5:
 - Part II, Chapter 2;
 - Part III, Chapter 2;
 - These changes reflect reorganization of the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action and Disability Services office into three separate offices.
 - Part III, Chapter 3 (Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment) changes were deferred to the University Conflicts Committee (UCC) for their deliberation.
 - Part VIII, Chapter 3 (Standards of Conduct) changes were deferred to the Executive Compliance Committee (ECC).
 - The above motions are available on the Faculty Senate Portal in the May meeting materials section and also in “Follow the Faculty Manual”.
 - All changes and updates can be found in the Faculty Manual August 2019 snapshot.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Remarks by the Interim Chancellor

Interim Chancellor Susan R. Wentz thanked the Executive Committee and the Senate for its leadership. She stated that her door and her mind are always open.

Interim Chancellor Wentz covered the following:

- The Part VIII, Chapter 3 motion from May 6 has been approved by the Interim Chancellor and Provost. The motion will now go to the Board of Trust (BOT) for approval.
- Authorship of the Open Dore will be shared with Vice Provosts.
- She has launched a bi-monthly column from the Interim Chancellor.
- With 40 direct reports, she is focused on enforcing community, civility, trust, transparency, and teamwork.
- She has launched a new Interim Chancellor’s Diversity Council co-chaired by Andre Churchwell and William Robinson. The council will comprise faculty, staff, and student representatives.
- The University Arts Council will complement the University Research Council.
- As a result of the Task Force on University Athletics final report, there is now a Faculty Athletics Committee.

- Ann Price has agreed to serve as Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) for the next year. The focus will be on the academic experience of student-athletes.
- Interim Chancellor Wenthe announced the University Eligibility Committee in which each school will add an academic dean. A new advisory group will be formed to reflect the teamwork and efforts of the committee.
- **Transparency** will emphasize communicating, being accountable, looking at how decisions are made and why decisions are made.
 - The Academic Strategic Plan's five-year progress report shows a transformative impact. TIPS Council and the Immersion Committee have reported on action items from the COACHE survey. There will be a partnership with the Faculty Senate to do a 4-year follow up to assess Vanderbilt's progress.
 - There is a September 30 deadline for the athletics strategic plan. There is much activity with capital projects, including graduate housing, at Peabody, and infrastructure work.
- **Trust** is built on transparency and teamwork. She will promote unconscious bias education/workshops. Howard Ross of Cook Ross did training with all Vice Chancellors and deans. The goal was to think about new ways to examine their own unconscious bias. Each Vice Chancellor has a trainer for their area. There is an upcoming 3-day workshop to train the trainer the Vanderbilt way. Discussion recommended that members of the Faculty Senate be trained among the leaders at Vanderbilt. Interim Chancellor Wenthe is supportive of this training for Senators.
- Interim Chancellor Wenthe reflected on the critical incident response portal. Hate incidents and bias incidents each prompt a different response. The various responses are logged on the portal. There is a new gender harassment portal for those who are impacted. The portal is spearheaded by Vice Provost Tracey George.
- It was amazing to see the level of engagement at the Chancellor's Lecture Series, Terry Crews event. William Robinson was thanked for moderating. A culture of respect, a culture of care is the Vanderbilt Community the Interim Chancellor wants to promote.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Standing Committee Reports

Chair McLean called for a report from Senate Affairs Committee (SAC) Chair Dawn Iacobucci. The SAC introduced the following 2 motions for discussion.

Motion 1: Senate Affairs Committee Amendment to the Rules of Order

- Whereas, the Rules of Order does not allow sufficient time for the Executive Committee or Senators to review motions prior to upcoming meetings, the Senate Affairs Committee proposes revising the Rules of Order, Section III. D. as follows,

- Whereas, the Rules of Order needs to be consistent and the 2019 revision to Rules of Order Section VIII. B. requires Senators to work through the Executive Committee to communicate with the Senate Membership,

Be it resolved that the Senate Affairs Committee revise the Rules of Order, Section III. D. as follows:

Rules of Order

III. Rules of Procedure

D. Motions Under New Business¹

- ~~1. No motion shall be voted under the heading of New Business unless it has been received by the members of the Senate in writing at least three days before the meeting at which it is to be submitted.~~
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 - ~~2. Senators wishing to move under New Business shall communicate their proposed motions in writing to the Vice Chair of the Senate not less than eight calendar days before the meeting at which the motion is to be made. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice Chair of the Senate to communicate the proposed motion to the Senate membership. However, any Senator who so desires may communicate a proposed motion directly to the Senate membership.~~
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 - ~~3. A Senator desiring to make a motion which has not complied with the notification requirements in the Faculty Senate Rules of Order, Article III., Section D. 1. above may do so, but the vote may not be taken until a meeting held at least three calendar days after the meeting at which the motion is presented. A motion which does not comply with the notification requirements may be voted upon at the meeting at which it is presented only if this rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.~~
1. A Senate Standing Committee or Senator wishing to move under New Business shall communicate the proposed motion in writing to the Vice Chair of the Senate not less than 2 weeks (14 calendar days) before the meeting at which the motion is to be made. The Executive Committee shall review the motion and consult with the proposing committee or Senator about whether the proposal should be forwarded to the Senate at that time, discussed further with the originating committee or Senator, referred to another complementary Committee, or postponed to a future meeting. For motions that go forward, it shall be the responsibility of the Vice Chair of the Senate to communicate the proposed motion to the Senate membership 1 week (7 calendar days) prior to the next Senate meeting.
 2. A motion which does not comply with the notification requirements in the Faculty Senate Rules of Order, Article III, Section D.1 may be voted upon at the meeting at which it is presented only if this rule is suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

¹ <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/constitution-documents/rules-of-order.php#c>

3. A committee or Senator may submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee that they deem relevant for the Faculty Senate and its committees to consider.

Senate Affairs Committee

Dawn Iacobucci, Owen, Chair

Jeremy Wilson, Blair [Executive Liaison]

Wonder Drake, Medicine

Gieri Simonett, A&S

Jason Valentine, Engineering

David Cole, Peabody

Sari Acra, Medicine

Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, A&S

Motion 2: Senate Affairs Committee Amendment to the Rules of Order

- Whereas, the Rules of Order characterizes the role of the Executive Committee more as a gatekeeper than facilitator,

Be it resolved that the Senate Affairs Committee revise the Rules of Order, Section IV. A. 3. as follows:

Rules of Order

IV. Committees

A. Standing Committees

3. The Executive Committee of the Senate will normally assign items to committees pursuant to the subject matter of the committee's charge. The Executive Committee may assign matters to any committee for its consideration in an effort to avoid an undue workload on any particular committee. The Executive Committee of the Senate may refer items to ad hoc committees named for the immediate purpose when those items do not fall within the charge of a standing Senate committee or when directed to do so by Senate resolution.

The Executive Committee will facilitate communications for committee or Senator concerns that do not fall within their committee charges. The Executive Committee may help, direct, or forward communications of concern to standing or ad hoc committees.

Senate Affairs Committee

Dawn Iacobucci, Owen, Chair

Jeremy Wilson, Blair [Executive Liaison]

Wonder Drake, Medicine

Gieri Simonett, A&S

Jason Valentine, Engineering

David Cole, Peabody

Sari Acra, Medicine

Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, A&S

Chair McLean opened the floor for discussion.

There was concern that if the EC forwards or postpones a motion there should be a process for Senators to bring the motion to the Senate. There was concern that a deferred motion might get lost and there needs to be some way that the motion does not get stuck. It was explained that a 2/3 majority vote is a way to appeal directly to the body.

It was emphasized that motions should come through committees and as a rarity could come from individuals. The Senate can make a new rule should it decide to change this. Some members were concerned about balance. It was stated that there needs to be assurance that the intentionality of the motion is appreciated.

Both SAC Rules of Order motions will be voted upon at the October 3 Faculty Senate meeting.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Old Business

There was no old business from the EC.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

New Business

There was no new business from the EC.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Scheduled Speaker

There was no scheduled speaker for this meeting.

Good of the Senate

The next Senate meeting is Thursday, October 3, 2019 from 4:10 – 5:30 pm.

Chair McLean proceeded to the next item of business.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Algood
Vice Chair