Meeting Minutes:
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Online Zoom Meeting

PRESENT:
Artus, Meagan
Bennett, Jennifer
Bishop, Faith
Bond, Rachel
Bonner, Cheryl
Borgic, Kevin
Bourgoine, Jeremy
Bush, Marita
Butner, Sean
Carlson, Robin
Carroll, Chantry
Carter, Marsha
Cochrane, Brian
Cole, Victoria
Conwell, Patrick
Cooley, Emma
Crowhurst, Stacey
Dickson, Nancy
Farst, Paige
French, Caitlyn
Gracey, Lisa
Griffin, Shore
Gyarmati, Krista
Harding, Amanda
Hastings, Lynn
Higgins, Ed
Hollifield, Michael
Jackson, Donald
Johnson, Denise
Kamtarin, Shahpar
Kelley, Emily
King, Amanda
Kiolbasa, Mary
Lawrence Givens, Tiffany
Maddox, Lynn
May, Ela
McKeever-Burgett, Adam
Melson, Keire
Mundy, Meaghan
Nashabi, Maya
Naughton, Megan
Noote, Allie
Osinski, Keegan
Peters, Erin
Pezzati, Katelyn
Poteete, Sarah
Pratt, Jeremy
Putnam, Sara
Sierra, Bryn
Sims, Beth
Smith, LaDonna
Stumpf, Jean
Turney, Kerrie
Walker, Susan
Wang, Rong "Joanne"
Watson, Hollie
Weisbrodt, Cathy
Wilson, Maisie
Zink, Andrea
**NOT PRESENT:**

Adams, Charlton  
Beck, Rebekah  
Bess, Angela  
Bousquet, Ben  
Brown, Jacquelyn  
Cahill, Bess  
Cherry, Sandy  
Dawson, Toni Renee  
Dixon, Michele  
Elliott, Craig  
Ingram, Donna  
Johnson, Faye  
Knighton, Keeouka  
Luffman, Josh  
Loudon, Jeff  
Manlove, Sharon  
Mitchell, Heather  
Pickert, Donald  
Pring, Michael  
Rastogi, Anuj  
Sanders, Sara  
Smith, Amy  
Turner, Kimberly

**GUESTS:**

Adams, Laura  
Anthony, Adam  
Bonner, Stacey  
Brooks, Bari  
Coppinger, Whitney  
Culver, Tiffany  
Cunningham, Patrick  
Diermeier, Daniel – Guest Speaker  
Glasgow, Scotty  
Horii, Emi – Guest Speaker  
Kopstain, Eric  
Pastrana, Mikey  
Porter, Abigail
WELCOME

Tiffany Lawrence Givens, President, called meeting to order at 8:30 am

- Welcome
- Agenda Review

GUEST SPEAKERS

Daniel Diermeier, 9th Chancellor of Vanderbilt University

Expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to staff for the work done every day and especially over the last two years, an incredible story

- USAC leadership instrumental in the success
- Vanderbilt is in the strongest position it has been coming out of the pandemic, and staff enables faculty and students to do their best work
- Chancellor Diermeier discussed The Vanderbilt Way highlighting an emphasis on belonging and continued growth with a commitment to ongoing learning - whether at Vanderbilt 3 days, 3 years, or 3 decades
- As a Vanderbilt community, the Chancellor wants to push us to grow, to thrive, and to develop our potential through Radical Collaboration
- Chancellor hopes that staff will serve as ambassadors for Vanderbilt to recruit great talent to continue to grow, while highlighting the University’s commitment to staff

Emi Horii, VU ’24; Experience Vanderbilt; VP of Faculty and Staff Fundraising

Experience Vanderbilt (EV) is a student-led, university-supported initiative which provides undergraduate students who qualify for need-based financial aid with funding for extracurricular activities which have fees.

- Extracurricular activities include student organizations, club sports, arts and cultural experiences, service trips, outdoor recreation trips, Greek Life, or any official Vanderbilt student organization that has fees associated with participation
- EV awarded $350,000 for the 2020-21 academic year
- EV began in the fall of 2013, when Vanderbilt Student Government (VSG) began brainstorming solutions to bridge the gap between the cost of Vanderbilt’s extracurricular experiences and the student body’s ability to afford such experiences
- Vanderbilt’s implementation of Opportunity Vanderbilt brought greater socioeconomic diversity to Vanderbilt’s student body, and subsequently, the number of students with monetary barriers to participation in extracurricular activities increased
- EV exists to fill the gap between financial aid and extracurricular activities by working directly with the administration to support Vanderbilt’s mission of creating an inclusive community throughout all aspects of the Vanderbilt experience
- Donations may be made here https://www.vanderbilt.edu/experience-vanderbilt/donate-now/.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication

Faith Bishop and Andrea Zink – Co-Chairs

- Thank you to Jeff Loudon for serving as Co-Chair all year, welcome to Andrea Zink new co-chair
- Everyone encouraged to submit media requests for upcoming events https://forms.vanderbilt.edu/view.php?id=1331832.
- Next Committee Meeting TBA

EDI

Denise Johnson and Shahpar Kamtarin – Co Chairs

- Heritage Calendar Poster for April is Ramadan.
- Please email Denise ideas and suggestions, denise.c.johnson@vanderbilt.edu
- Next Committee Meeting will be via Teams

Events

Jennifer Bennett & Amanda King

- April Coffee Break will be in person! Wednesday, April 20 at 8:30 AM at the Starbucks – 2525 West End Avenue. Open to all staff, great way to connect and network with others around campus. Stop by and grab a cup of coffee or tea – sponsored by USAC.
- Food Distribution – Saturday, April 30 — 7:30 – 10:30 AM Fort Negley Parking Lot 534 Chestnut Street, for a drive-thru food distribution. Sign up is encouraged, but not required.
- Donate on the Date – fundraiser in May – think about a date important to you and give that amount on that date to the Hardship Fund. Cash, check, or Pay Pal. Ie) celebrating 15 years of working at Vanderbilt – donate $15 on May 15th
- Next Committee Meeting April 26; 9 AM.

Membership

Cathy Weisbrodt and Lynn Hastings Co-Chairs

- Recognized Shore Griffin, Learning and Residential Affairs: Libraries, Library Expert as Staff Member of the Month.
- April Birthdays – Jennifer Bennett, Courtney Berry, Jeremy Bourgoin, Jacquelyn Brown, Paige Farst, Caitlyn French, Lisa Gracey, Krista Gyarmati, Michael Pring, Amy Smith, Susan Walker, Joanne Wang
- Elections are open – deadline April 13th at noon – please encourage your colleagues to be part of USAC. Even # groups and some odd # groups are having elections this year. Share your experience and encourage your co-workers to participate. Remember to self-nominate.
- Next Committee Meeting TBD.
Rules & Administration
Amy Smith and Sean Butner Co-Chairs

- Fun Fact of the Month – Motion to Reconsider – used to resurrect a motion which has already been settled, passed, or defeated, for the group to discuss and to act on again.
- Next Committee Meeting TBD

Staff Life
Adam McKeever-Burgett and Sara Putnam Co-Chairs

- Good and near immediate response to latest Summary of Issues discussing process communications issues with Staff Tuition Benefits.
- Continuing research project looking at specific benefits of peer institutions and local employers for comparisons on:
  - Bereavement Leave
  - Staff Tuition Benefit
  - Retirement Matching %
  - PTO for volunteering
- Other concerns and feedback – please pass along to a.burgett@vanderbilt.edu and sara.putnam@vanderbilt.edu or anonymously at https://www.vanderbilt.edu/USAC/about/contact
- Next Committee Meeting TBD

NEW and OLD BUSINESS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kroger Card

- Sign up for/use/update your Kroger Card. Helping colleagues in need within the university community is easy when you use your Kroger Plus card to benefit the Vanderbilt Faculty and Staff Hardship Fund.

Hardship Fund

- Reminder that The Hardship Fund has funds available for staff who need it - https://www.vumc.org/health-wellness/news-resource-articles/faculty-and-staff-hardship-fund

Karen Dolan Spirit Award

- Nominations are open through April 26.
- The Award recognizes a USAC representative for their stewardship, devotion, and service to the council. It is given to an employee who embodies the spirit of the late Karen Dolan, who had a strong passion for helping the Vanderbilt community during her time on campus. Dolan worked at Vanderbilt for nearly 26 years. She was the Graduate School registrar before being diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). She died in May 2006, and the award was created in her memory in 2008.

Move VU

- MoveVU created a fun video featuring Mr. C which highlights the easy steps to using the WeGo Public Transit bus system.
- Visit the new webpage with detailed information about riding the bus.
• ALL VU community members can ride the bus for FREE!

CLOSING REMARKS

*Tiffany Lawrence Givens, President*

• Thank you to everyone who attended the March 16 Lunch and Lacrosse Day; everyone is encouraged to attend a Lacrosse game.

• **May USAC Meeting** will be held via Zoom:
  - Tuesday, May 10, 2022
  - Time: 8:30 AM
  - Location: Zoom
  - All staff members are invited to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

*Our Vision: Through communication, consultation, and service, the Council will promote a strong partnership among the staff, faculty, students, and administration of Vanderbilt University.*