



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

### **PRESENT:**

Artus, Meagan  
Bennett, Jennifer  
Bishop, Faith  
Bond, Rachel  
Bonner, Cheryl  
Borgic, Kevin  
Bourgoin, 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.  
le) celebrating 15 years of working at Vanderbilt – donate \$15 on May 15<sup>th</sup>
- 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 Bourgoïn, Jacquelyn Brown, Paige Farst, Caitlyn French, Lisa Gracey, Krista Gyarmati, Michael Pring, Amy Smith, Susan Walker, Joanne Wang
- Elections are open – deadline April 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:a.burgett@vanderbilt.edu) and [sara.putnam@vanderbilt.edu](mailto: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.***