

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
April 15, 2010, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2010

Report of the Executive Committee
Cynthia Paschal, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Chancellor Zeppos

New business

Motion from APS to approve Master's degree program in Health Professions
Education —Tony Weil, chair

Report on 9 mo / 12 mo salary payment survey from Faculty Life committee
—Lillian Nanney, chair

Collection of input regarding future Faculty Senate initiatives

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Armour, Barr, Barz, Beauchamp, Blair, Bloch, Bodenheimer, Christie, Christman, Dawant, Graham, Hall, Halpern, Hudnut-Beumler, Lukehart, Miller, Nanney, Paschal, Piston, Price, Ramey, Roberts, Rogers, Rousseau, Saff, Schorn, Shields, Van Kaer, Walker, Weil, Weintraub, Wollaeger, Yoder.

Voting Members absent: Balser (regrets), Benbow, Blackett, Bradford, Braxton (regrets), Collins, Conway-Welch, Dever (regrets), Donaldson (regrets), Floyd-Thomas, Fogo (regrets), Fountain, Galloway (regrets), Guthrie, Hiebert, LeBlanc, Oliver, Oppenheimer, Peek, Reschly, Smrekar, Stone, Wait, Yarbrough.

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Fife, Fortune, Kovalcheck, McCarty, McNamara, Shepherd, Wentz, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Bernard (regrets), Christiansen, Dowell (regrets), Miller (regrets), Raiford (regrets), Retzlaff (regrets), Stalcup, Sweet, Weislo, Williams, Wright.

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Cynthia Paschal.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2010

Chair Paschal asked for any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, she then asked for approval of the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Paschal went over the motions that passed at the Faculty Assembly. She also went over the ongoing work of the Senate committees. She said that the APS committee has been working on approving degree programs; the Faculty Life committee is working on faculty development for all career stages; the PEAFF committee had drafted a motion pertaining to e-Discovery that will not be considered today due to time needed for additional collaborative work with VCHA and Provost office; the Senate Affairs committee has been looking at options for new committees/task forces; and the Student Life committee has been following up on VIP program for sophomores. Chair Paschal will be giving a presentation at the Board of Trust meeting next week.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Motion from APS to approve Master’s degree program in Health Professions Education

Chair Tony Weil presented this motion and said that the APS committee recommends approval of this program. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Bridget Rogers: How many students will be in this program?

Professor John Shatzer: Our break even point is 6 students, and our optimal amount would be 12-15.

Senator Margaret Blair: This proposal was well-prepared, and it was a solid proposal that was very carefully put together.

Hearing no other discussion, a vote was taken. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Next Item on the Agenda – New business: Report on 9 mo / 12 mo salary payment survey from Faculty Life committee

Senator Lillian Nanney presented information from the survey done for the University Central faculty about offering an option to be paid over nine months. She gave a history

of the discussion of this issue. She said that she and Senator Larry LeBlanc discussed this issue with Vice Chancellor Jerry Fife. She thanked the VIRG office for their help designing the survey. She reported that Engineering and Owen were the schools that had the most interest in this option. She concluded by saying that since there wasn't an overall push for offering this option, there will be no motion today.

Chancellor Zeppos made comments about how this would affect the university's cash payroll if it were to ever be implanted.

Senator Rogers did bring up the issues of effort reporting in terms of how salary is paid.

Provost Richard McCarty said that he likes the system at Vanderbilt since he worked under a nine-month salary system for twenty years.

Chair Paschal thanked the Faculty Life committee for all their hard work on this issue.

Next Item on the Agenda – Remarks from the Chancellor

Chancellor Zeppos said that it has been a very good year for Vanderbilt. The endowment is hopefully going up, but we don't know if it will make up for the bad years. He is very excited about working on the plan to support graduate education across the institution. He said that we have to create a real pool of money for graduate education since it is difficult to raise money for it philanthropically. He then opened the floor for questions.

Chair Paschal: Where do you anticipate the money for graduate education coming from?

Chancellor Zeppos: There is something called "quasi-endowment." That money will now become designated for graduate education. We are hoping that the endowment gets stronger so that we can do this.

Senator Dave Piston: I think that there can be a compelling argument made for graduate education in terms of philanthropy.

Chancellor Zeppos: It just doesn't work that way. People give to undergraduate programs, law schools, and business schools. But not for Ph.D. graduate education.

Senator David Weintraub: You mentioned four upcoming construction projects—what is the timeline for these projects to start?

Chancellor Zeppos: These projects will go forward and get started in spring 2011, most likely.

Senator Ed Saff: What about the proposed Institute for Advanced Studies?

Chancellor Zeppos: I am a big proponent for it, but I haven't seen a groundswell of support. Until the economy gets clearer, it has to go on the back burner. I think that we could get a \$50 million gift for it in the next capital campaign, though.

Provost McCarty: It is hard to implement the plan without buildings. So we need the buildings first, I think. I am consulting with deans about this now.

Senator Benoit Dawant: What are your plans for increasing the size of the faculty?

Chancellor Zeppos: Clearly, the faculty has grown in general. It is easier to grow the History department than Engineering, in terms of space. I have to be a little more respectful of the conditions under which we work. The challenge I would make is not to ask for more faculty, but to ask how you are going to be the greatest engineering school and leverage opportunities with the medical school. I think that there will be significant growth in the Engineering School after the Life Sciences building is finished.

Senator Lynn Ramey: What are the next steps for graduate education?

Chancellor Zeppos: My view is that we have already implemented a number of items in the task force report. We are putting money aside already. We are going to 12-month stipends, and we are keeping up with the incremental changes each year indexing with peer institutions so that we don't fall behind. We are also investing in international students and their support since grant funds can't be used for non-citizens now. As the faculty has grown, do we have a critical mass of graduate students in the programs? I am seeing great placements for our students this year. We have grown our Ph.D.s by almost a third, and when we get to graduating 300+ Ph.D.s, we will be a significant player in graduate education.

Next Item on the Agenda – Collection of input regarding future Faculty Senate initiatives

Chair Paschal asked everyone to write down your ideas for the Senate for next year and share them with us. She passed out index cards for everyone to write on and turn back in to her.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Chair Paschal reminded senators that the last Senate meeting of the year will be held on Monday, May 10 in FGH 134/Jacobs Believed in Me Auditorium. She also reminded them to send any nominations for chair-elect or vice chair-elect to the Senate Program Coordinator.

Next Item on the Agenda – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Roberts,
Vice Chair