

DRAFT MINUTES
Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
October 10, 2017 - 4:10 pm
Law School Flynn Auditorium

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2017

Report of the Executive Committee

Remarks by the Chancellor

Standing Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

- Voting Items
 - Rules of Order Change
 - Motion #1 – Commendation for Administration DACA Related Matters

Scheduled Remarks

Good of the Senate

Adjournment

Voting Members present: Ackerly, Algood; Benbow; Carnahan; Cole; Fessel; Finch; Fleming; Friedman; Getz; Green; Guthrie; Heuser; Johnson; Laibinis; Lehmann; Luo; Martin; Norman; Price; Reeves; Robinson; Rosenthal; Rowe; Schildcrout; Segovia; Simmons; Trigo; Valentine; Walden; Weintraub; Wilson; Wooders; and Wright

Voting Members absent: Allos; Balser; Benton; Bollen; Chakravarthy; Chang; Creech; Fauchet; Goddu; Greene; Griffith; Hopkins; Hutson; Jessee; Kim; Lowe; March; Massion; McLean; Merryman; Miga; Murphy; Ochon; Outlaw; Seow; Shay; Smrekar; Terhune; Townes; Wait; Wallace; Weavind; Wuerth; Yadav; Young

Ex Officio Members present: Anderson; Beasley; Cyrus; Dewey; Geer; Lutz; Miller; Raiford; Sweet; Wente; Willis; Zeppos

Ex Officio Members absent: Bandas; Brady; Carroll; Ertel; Hall; Hotchkiss; Kopstain; Marnett; Pietenpol; Raghavan; Stalcup; Smith; Thomas-Hunt; and Williams

Guests: Rita Burchett, Lori Hemmer, Tyler Reimschisel

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Call to Order

Senator Geoffrey Fleming, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Approval of the minutes of May 8, 2017

Chair Fleming asked for approval of the minutes. Senator Peter Martin made the motion. The motion was seconded by Senator Tedra Walden. The motion passed by show of hands vote.

Report of the Executive Committee (EC)

Chair Fleming kept the report brief to accommodate robust discussion and allow ample time for Chancellor Remarks and for the guest speaker.

- **Senators Only Meeting**
Senators formulated a letter to the Board of Trust (BOT) regarding concerns with a proposed off campus stadium. The letter was delivered to the BOT. The letter is posted on the Faculty Senate portal.
- **Faculty Senate Initiatives**
Former Senator Scott Pearson continues to move forward the Faculty Commons Project.
- **Faculty Senate Office Relocation**
The Office of the Faculty Senate has relocated to 1119 Branscomb Quad.
- **Executive Committee and Faculty Senate Meeting Schedule**
All EC and Faculty Senate Assembly meetings are listed on the Faculty Senate portal.
- **Guest Speakers**
 - October 5 - Brett Sweet was to give a financial update.
 - November 9 - Melissa Thomas Hunt, Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence is guest speaker.
 - December 14 - Mark Wallace, Dean of the Graduate School is the guest speaker.
 - January 11 - Vice Chancellor David Williams from athletics is the guest speaker.

Chair Fleming proceeded to the next item of business.

Remarks by the Chancellor

- There was never a plan to move the stadium off campus. One or two games may be played off campus, as in the past. Any athletics facility will be paid for by the athletics department. The Chancellor is focused on academics and the big picture.
- What's happening in our country with immigration, travel, and healthcare are concerning. The Chancellor and university leadership will continue to speak out.
- An international community of scholars should not be bound by party, position, or nation. Scholars should further advance science, research, and discovery.
- Chancellor Zeppos will soon start his search for a Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The search committee will include faculty, alumni, staff and students. The role and structure of Vanderbilt University will be identified along with organizational support.
- Tragedy reminds us how fragile life is, how fragile the social fabric is, and how hate can limit people. Vanderbilt must be a community of love and support. Discourse must model Vanderbilt's common values and common mission.
- The preliminary decisions have been announced for a \$125M endowed graduate fellowship, the largest PhD Fellowship program in the country. A graduate education mentoring and leadership Institute will be established. There will be more talk about a graduate student residential complex.
- Vanderbilt will move boldly and quickly to execute on good ideas.

Chair Fleming proceeded to the next item of business.

Standing Committee Reports

Chair Fleming called for reports from committee chairs Haoxiang Luo, William Robinson.

- Academic Policies and Services (APS) Committee Chair, Senator Haoxiang Luo, gave a report on a proposed new program named Vanderbilt Genetic Counseling Program. The APS committee has carefully reviewed the program. There was concern about students taking Peabody courses.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Co-chair, Senator William Robinson, gave an update on the DEI Committee. They are determining how DEI fits with the Faculty Senate and they are gathering information to define a scope of charges for the committee.

Having no other reports, Chair Fleming moved to the next item of business.

Old Business

There was no old business from the EC.

Chair Fleming moved to the next item of business.

New Business

- Executive Committee member Senator Brian Heuser presented a motion for consideration. At the Senators Only meeting there was a recommendation for faculty and administration unity. The EC crafted a Faculty Senate Resolution: Commendation of Our Administration for Their Handling of DACA Related Matters which was brought before the Faculty Senate Assembly for a vote. Because the motion did not comply with the notification rule, a vote to change the rules of order was needed. Paper ballots were used for this meeting.

The Voting proceeded: Tally: 33 affirmative, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Motion to suspend the Rules of Order requiring three days' notice was affirmed.

The following motion on DACA Related Matters Commendation moved forward.

A Faculty Senate Resolution:

Commendation of Our Administration for Their Handling of DACA Related Matters.

➤ **Whereas:**

The Office of the Chancellor;
Office of the Provost;
Office of the General Counsel;
Office of the Vice Provost for Learning and Residential Affairs;
Office of the Vice Provost of Academic & Strategic Affairs;
and Office of The Dean of Students have provided bold leadership to our University and even our peer institutions of higher education through their statements and actions related to the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Let it be known:

That the officials of these offices have acted with integrity, clarity, and acumen to protect and advocate for those “young student scholars and leaders raised and educated in the United States” (Zeppos, Sep. 5, 2017).

Be it resolved:

The Vanderbilt Faculty Senate, as the deliberative and representative body of the University faculties, offers our sincere gratitude to and commendation of the Vanderbilt Administration for its response to the challenges posed by recent changes in US immigration law.

The Vanderbilt Faculty Senate remains dedicated to the principles of an inclusive community of students, staff and faculty, including, but not limited to, ability, ethnicity, gender, gender

identity, ideology, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

The Voting proceeded: Tally: 32 affirmative, 0 opposed, 2 abstention.
Motion on DACA Related Matters Commendation was affirmed.

- Faculty Manual Committee (FMC) Chair Brooke Ackerly introduced a proposal from Provost to Susan Wentz. The proposed change to the Faculty Manual removed the faculty status requirement from some who currently possess it. It will effect less than 500 people. Comments were variable. The topic raised interesting discussion points which will be deliberated further when the motion comes before the Senate at the November Faculty Senate Assembly meeting.

Chair Fleming moved to the next item of business.

Scheduled Remarks

Brett Sweet, Vice Chancellor for Finance & Chief Financial Officer

Questions submitted for Vice Chancellor Sweet through the Faculty Senate portal were:

1. **Opportunity Vanderbilt and Residential Colleges**
What are the *costs associated with Opportunity Vanderbilt and the new dorms that they're building*? How are these costs being covered? I don't know how we find out real answers to these questions (or check the answers that we get from the central admin), but I've talked to a number of people who think that these costs are being covered by university operating funds. Is that true?
2. **Immersion**
Another question pertains to Immersion. If federal funding for research continues to decline, *how will we afford the costs of bringing more people into our labs? Does the administration plan on investing money in faculty research* to help ensure the long-term availability and diversity of Immersion opportunities for undergraduates?
3. **Graduate Student Housing**
Are more dorms (maybe *graduate student dorms*) being planned?
4. **General Operations**
I was just told *Purchasing won't allow us to be reimbursed for Dropbox* purchases (a new policy apparently, as I've had no trouble doing this for years). I (and many other colleagues) use Dropbox to collaborate on research with colleagues at other institutions where using Vanderbilt Box is not practical. **I'm wondering if the Faculty Senate might be able to apply pressure to have this prohibition lifted.** Thanks for your thoughts.

Vice Chancellor Sweet's presentation highlighted the university's strategic initiatives which centered around four priority areas of focus

1. Launching new trans-institutional programs that strengthen research, graduate and undergraduate programs;
2. Defining the residential research-based undergraduate liberal arts education for the 21st century;
3. Leading technology development for teaching and discovery; and
4. Developing approaches to leveraging leadership in health care innovations

Key ongoing efforts in support of strategic initiatives

- Land Use Planning Initiative (*FutureVU*) – Nov 2015
- Commitment to further investment in Undergraduate and Graduate education via various initiatives underway
- Trans-Institutional Programs initiative (\$50M TIPs initiative)
- *Opportunity Vanderbilt* enables unfettered access to a VU education for all socio-economic levels
- Since 2010, added ~200 new endowed faculty chairs bringing total endowed chairs to 400

Future debt issuances will continue to align with these strategic initiatives

- New money issuances primarily for residential colleges
- Also for potential capital uses aligning with the recommendations from Land Use Planning Initiative (e.g., strategic/adjacent-to-campus real estate acquisitions, new academic buildings)

Chair Fleming moved to the next item of business.

Good of the Senate

There was none.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Hopkins
Vice Chair