

Vanderbilt University
Faculty Senate Meeting
February 7, 2008, 4:10 p.m.
Frist 140

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of December 6, 2007

Report of the Executive Committee

- Bruce Barry, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks by Interim Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos

Standing Committee Report:

Academic Policies and Services Committee:

Motion for Senate approval of the new degree of Doctorate of Nursing Practice

- Michael McLendon, Chair of the Academic Policies and Services Committee

New Business:

Proposed Medical Center Campus Smoking Ban

- Joel Lee, Associate Vice Chancellor for Medical Center Communications

Good of the Senate:

Presentation: *An Organized Approach to Simplifying Work: The STOP Task Force*

- Anna Letchner, Director of Administrative Strategy and Planning
in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration

Adjourn

Voting Members present: Armour, Barry, Blair, Bloch, Braxton, Breyer, Burk, Calico, Conway-Welch, Eisenberg, Emeson, Galloway, Hiebert, Kirshner, McCarty, McLendon, Moore, Neely, Norden, Oliver, Paschal, Piston, Roberts, Rousseau, Shepherd, Shiavi, Stone, Trigo, Wcislo, Weller, Wood, and Yarbrough.

Voting Members absent: Ahner (regrets), Benbow, Bernard (regrets), Bradford, Carter, Christie, DeHart, Dowdy (regrets), Ernst, Fogo (regrets), Gabbe (regrets), Hudnut-Beumler (regrets), Jennings (regrets), Lindquist (regrets), Medina, Reisenberg, Reschly (regrets), Retzlaff, Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Sharpley-Whiting, Shields (regrets), Slovis, Steinberg, Wait, Wasserstein (regrets).

Ex Officio Members present: Bandas, Brisky, Christianson, Damon, Fuchs, Gherman, Sandler, Schoenfeld, Tolk, Zeppos.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Chalkley, Gotterer (regrets), Hall, Jacobson, McNamara, Outlaw, and Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Bruce Barry.

Next Item on the Agenda – Approval of the December 2007 minutes

Minutes from the 12/6/07 meeting were reviewed and Chair Barry asked for any corrections or adjustments. Hearing none, he stated that the minutes stand approved.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Barry gave brief comments about the work of the Executive Committee and the standing committees. Academic Policies and Services has been busy vetting new degree programs. Also, they are working on an issue about class scheduling and time between classes. Faculty Life has been contemplating the results of the faculty survey that was completed in fall of 2006. Associate Provost Tim McNamara's office has been working on results, and they should be available soon. Student Life is continuing their work on faculty involvement in The Commons. At the next Senate meeting, Chair Barry said tht he expects some Faculty Heads of Houses to attend and participate in a panel discussion. Senate Affairs has been engaged in a benchmarking exercise with peer universities.

The Executive Committee requested and held a short meeting with Denny Bottorff, the chair of the Chancellor's Search Committee. Not much information was forthcoming, but they said that interviews had not started yet. The Executive Committee has continued to meet with the iChancellor and associate provosts. One of the issues that has been discussed is the committee that had been formed to look at GLBTQI issues on campus. Chair Barry said that a report should be available soon.

The Senate speaker's luncheon will be held on April 3.

Chair Barry turned the floor over to iChancellor Zeppos for his report.

Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Interim Chancellor

iChancellor Zeppos thanked Chair Barry. He then gave an update on the state of the university. He said that they have closed the books on the second quarter, and philanthropy is up 10-12%. There is a new financial team in the Medical Center, and there has been significant change in the culture of philanthropy there. We have received 16,900 applications for undergraduate admissions, and this is a 31% increase from last year. He said that faculty recruiting is going very well, and they have just made a new hire for the director of Ingram Cancer Center.

He then opened the floor for questions.

Senator Ann Neely: Are there plans to help the people at Union University after the recent tornado?

Associate Provost Mark Bandas: We are waiting until the first response is over. We will be working through the Red Cross. We are offering to give them old furniture and also to take a busload of students over to help out.

Dean Conway-Welch: We are supplying healthcare professionals across the state.

Senator Richard Shiavi: There was a planned expansion for the Student Recreation Center, but it hasn't happened yet. What are the plans for this?

iChancellor Zeppos: We built a small recreation center over at the Commons instead. We have looked at expanding more, but want to look at usage pattern in Commons first. Also, we put Health Plus over at the Stadium Club two years ago. It is on the agenda, but slightly on the backburner.

Chair Barry: I've noticed that the campus has a new street over by the hospital. How does the university name a new street?

iChancellor Zeppos: Michael Schoenfeld said that this is a city street, not a Vanderbilt street.

Next Item on the Agenda – Standing Committee Report: APS

Chair Barry recognized Senator Ann Neely who presented the motion from APS to approve the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. She said that the program came to the APS back in October 2007. The committee was impressed with the program, but had some questions, and Linda Norman from Nursing provided the answers. Chair Barry asked for any discussion or questions. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously after a show of hands by voting members. Chair Barry thanked the APS committee for their hard work.

Next Item on the Agenda – New Business: Proposed Smoking Ban

Chair Barry explained the motion from the Executive Committee concerning this issue (that it is supporting the principle of the issue rather than the specifics of the proposed ban). The motion reads, "MOTION: The Faculty Senate endorses the principle of a smoke-free campus at the Vanderbilt Medical Center." He turned the floor over to Joel Lee from the Medical Center. He said that there are three main points in this proposal: 1) What is our responsibility to our patients? 2) What is our responsibility to our employees? 3) What is our responsibility to the community at large? He said that they expect that the ban will go into effect on 9/1/08, and they plan to have town hall meetings before then about this issue. They are setting up smoking cessation benefits for employees. He asked for any questions.

Senator Cynthia Paschal: What do we know about other Medical Centers that have done this? What will stop employees from coming to the university side to smoke?

Joel Lee: We are unusual in that we are so close to the university side and not separate. We have looked at other universities like us in this regard—for example, University of

Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). We have had smoking areas and have had smoke patrolmen, and now we will have to have them regulate the smoking traffic. We are also working with the VA on this—they are working on a ban of their own, too.

iChancellor Zeppos: There are difficulties with banning smoking on the entire campus. We will be working on this slowly, but it is very difficult as there are safety concerns with students smoking outside, etc.

Associate Provost Bandas: We do have areas outside of residential halls where students can smoke, and we don't want to drive them out of the university to smoke.

iChancellor Zeppos: Most of our peer universities have not completely banned smoking.

Senator Jeanne Norden: I simply have a comment: leadership in departments will be vital. This will affect the workplace—and with people getting along as this is a serious addiction.

Joel Lee: This is an excellent suggestion.

Vice Chair Ron Emeson: One of the issues that the Executive Committee has discussed is about the “slippery slope” and how one judges the smell of smoke on an individual's clothes.

Joel Lee: It is a clinical judgment as to what triggers a pulmonary response.

Vice Chancellor Brisky: Staff means “physicians and faculty?”

Joel: Yes.

Senator Richard Shiavi: Has everyone adapted to smoking areas?

Joel Lee: Yes, and this is the next step. There are a number of national organizations that are pushing this. This sends the right public health message.

Senator Mary Yarbrough: Our staff and faculty have fairly low smoking rates. But even so, I support this issue.

Joel Lee: Another reason for moving smoking areas off-campus is that it decreases smoking overall.

Senator Paschal: There is a perceived issue of staff vs. faculty—we have to be a team on this issue. The language has to be inclusive of all employees.

Senator Piston: When this ban goes into effect, the VA will be a smoking paradise. This will be a very important thing to consider.

Joel Lee: We acknowledge this, and we are talking about this with them.

Senator Peter Rousseau: Can you elaborate on pre-employment testing?

Joel Lee: That is not a part of this proposal, but it was just a part of the general discussion.

Chair Barry called a vote on the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Barry asked for any other new business. Hearing none, he introduced Anna Letcher to give a presentation from the STOP group.

Next Item on the Agenda – Good of the Senate

Anna Letcher said that STOP stands for “Simplify the Operating Process.” Members are nominated by their deans, and serve 3 year terms. They look for irritants in the system or recent breakdowns in process with examples to diagnose. They also look at new areas of work where processes may not yet be known or defined. She gave some examples for the work that they have done. She said that they’d love for you to share your ideas with the task force at their website (www.vanderbilt.edu/stop). She asked for any questions.

Senator Bob Weller: Why doesn’t Vanderbilt use per diem?

Anna Letcher: It is a federal regulation that if you use per diem in any department, you have to use it for all. The complexity and cost to the university would not be in Vanderbilt’s best interest.

Hearing no further questions, she thanked the Senate for their time.

Chair Barry then called for any other items under New Business or Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Emeson,
Vice Chair