

Vanderbilt University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
December 1, 2005, 4:10 p.m.  
144 Alumni Room, Vanderbilt Law School

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Call to Order

Approval of Minutes of November 10, 2005

Note: Minutes can be found on the Senate website at:  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/111005facsen.pdf>

Report of the Executive Committee

John A. McCarthy, Chair of the Faculty Senate

Remarks on Current Status and Future Prospects for Academic and Professional  
Momentum at Vanderbilt: A Medical Center Perspective

Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Priorities for Common Action

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Freshman Commons

SGA Resolution for Change to Drop/Add Policy

New business

Good of the Senate

Motion to Adjourn

Voting Members present: Ahner, Barnett, Barz, Burk, Campbell, Dowdy, Ellingham, Emeson, Flake, Foster, Friedman, Fuchs, Gabbe, Galloway, Hearn, Hudnut-Beumler, Lachs, Levine, McCarthy, Peebles, Pettepher, Porter, Reisenberg, Smrekar, and Washington.

Voting Members absent: Adams, Barry (regrets), Benbow (regrets), Bradford, Conway-Welch, Carter, Casagrande, Cummings (regrets), Ernst, Fogo (regrets), George, Griffin, Heflinger, Hetcher, Hodges, Hoffman, Jennings (regrets), LeBoeuf, Link, McCarty (regrets), Neely (regrets), Rubin, Sandler (regrets), Schmidt, Shyr, Smith, Steinberg, Tarpley, Wait, and Wasserstein.

Ex Officio Members present: Gherman, Gotterer, Jacobson, Kovalcheck, and Thompson.

Ex Officio Members absent: Balsler, Barge, Brisky, Chalkley, Gee (regrets), Hall, McNamara, Outlaw, Perfetto, Sandler, Schoenfeld, Spitz, Summar, Williams, and Zeppos (regrets).

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The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair John A. McCarthy. Minutes from the 11/10/05 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve them. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Next Item on the Agenda – Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair McCarthy began the meeting by conveying apologies from Chancellor Gee and Provost Zeppos for their absence from this meeting. He reported that they will both attend the next Senate meeting on February 2, 2006, at which time the Provost will give his presentation.

Chair McCarthy gave an update on the activities of the Senate Executive Committee. First, the Executive Committee has resolved to form two task forces: the Freshman Commons task force (to report to the Student Life committee), and the Interdisciplinary Collaboration task force (to report to the APS committee). Chair McCarthy said that these task forces are being formed in order to respond to issues of importance to the entire university. He stated further that this is a clear expression of the Senate's partnership with the administration as well as with student government.

Chair McCarthy stated that after much discussion, it was decided that there would be no special executive session of the Senate in January 2006. Instead, it is possible that there will be open forums organized as a part of the work of these task forces.

He mentioned that the Executive Committee has discussed the structure of the mini-seminars to be held in the spring with Chancellor Gee. There will most likely be three mini-seminars: 1) Computational Biology, 2) Medicine, Health, and Society, and 3) Teaching Across the University. He said that Senator Peter Cumming will lead the first seminar; former Senate chair Matt Ramsey will most likely lead the second seminar. He stated that the Senate might help to shape the third seminar as it is not as fully formed as the other two at this point. He asked senators to let him know if there are other topics of interest. He added that Chancellor Gee is also organizing an ongoing discussion group which will be different from the mini-seminars, and that we will hear more about this in February (during the Chancellor's report).

Chair McCarthy said that the Executive Committee has endorsed a visit by Professor Sander Gilman in February. The visit will be co-sponsored by the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, the Center for Health, Medicine, Health, and Society, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, the Center for European and German Studies, and the Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages.

As a point of information, Chair McCarthy informed the Senate that Senator John Lachs has decided not to present the motion that was discussed at the last meeting at this time.

Chair McCarthy then turned the floor over to Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Presentation by Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs**

Vice Chancellor Jacobson thanked Chair McCarthy for the opportunity to speak to the full Senate (link to presentation: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/facultysenate/files/Jacobson1205.ppt>). He said that this presentation will focus on both the goals and challenges that face the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC).

He stated that one in four students at Vanderbilt is a VUMC student (approximately 3000 out of 12,000 total students). Over the past five years, the Medical School has improved its selectivity in terms of student applicants. VUMC's MCAT and GPA scores are in the top 5% in the country. We're usually in the top 5, and always in the top 10 medical schools.

Vice Chancellor Jacobson stated that we would like to see 75% of our residents come from the top 20 schools. Currently, it is under 50%. He pointed out that VUMC draws more from regional medical schools, and we would like to draw more nationally. As an aside, though, he mentioned that we draw more from Harvard Medical School than any other school besides Harvard itself.

In terms of research dollars, VUMC is growing especially in terms of NIH funding. Vice Chancellor Jacobson added that we are growing as well in relation to NIH's percentage funding.

The challenge in growth and research, Vice Chancellor Jacobson stated, is to build the infrastructure, explaining that we cannot build the buildings fast enough. Referring to the VUMC 2006-2010 Research Strategic Plan, said he remarked that it was shared with executive faculty in Medical Center only last week. He also pointed to the challenges emanating from the recent changes to TennCare.

Vice Chancellor Jacobson then entertained questions from the floor.

Dean Jim Bradford asked for clarification of what is meant by Public Health and Health Care. Vice Chancellor Jacobson responded that they want to create a vehicle to enhance coordination among several related areas. Step one is to try and get centers together to make sure that they work together.

Senator Norman Tolk asked about the prospects for tech transfer spin-offs. Vice Chancellor Jacobson answered that he believes that Vanderbilt does tech transfer as well as it can. He added that there is some confusion concerning conflicts of interest.

Chair McCarthy asked if there was an ideal size in terms of achieving excellence in all areas. Vice Chancellor Jacobson said that each of the three missions have to work to be excellent. He added that VUMC has decided to be a small medical school with about 100 students. He also mentioned that parking was a limit to clinical practice, and that we have to find satellite sites in order to grow. On the research side, he said that our only limitation is the ability to attract and retain top faculty, and the availability of funding.

Senator Claire Smrekar asked about the role of industry in research funding. Vice Chancellor Jacobson said that there is a challenge to industries, especially in life sciences, to find a better way to develop products for the marketplace. They need to find ways to partner with universities and vice-versa. He added that there are not many examples of collaboration that are successful because one has to navigate the landmines of conflict of interest. But, he added that many of these conflicts are manageable.

Senator Ron Emeson asked about future, short-term plans to deal with decreases in NIH funding.

Vice Chancellor Jacobson said that the bridge funding program is not designed for the situation we find ourselves in now. He added that we will find a way to deal with that. He said that the first goal is that everyone needs to be retained, and he said that he is comfortable that we will be able to deal with that issue.

Senator Joey Barnett asked about university/industry partnerships and if there are plans for this to happen soon. Vice Chancellor Jacobson said yes, there are. He added that we need to get that message out better and sell ourselves to industries.

Senator John Lachs asked if there is any way to offset the cost of uncompensated care other than cost-sharing. Vice Chancellor Jacobson said that in a macro sense, yes there is. He said that there is enough money to take care of everyone today. There is a vast amount of waste and misuse of resources. He added that we try not to cost shift. We try to hold our price increases to the insurance companies at lower rates. The reason we can do this is that we can keep our expenses down. We are trying to be responsible in that way. Most universities are not doing this, though.

Hearing no further questions, he turned the floor over to Chair McCarthy.

### **Next Item on the Agenda – Priorities for Common Action: Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

Chair McCarthy thanked Vice Chancellor Jacobson for his presentation. He then asked Senator Norman Tolk to give a brief presentation on the Task Force on Interdisciplinary Collaboration. Senator Tolk explained that he will chair this task force, and mentioned that there are two main issues that the task force will address: 1) Teaching Across Schools and 2) Research Aspects on Multi-Disciplinary Collaborations. He mentioned that there will most likely be mini-seminars that result from the work of the task force.

Chair McCarthy thanked Senator Tolk, and then turned the floor over to Senator Stokes Peebles, chair of the Student Life committee.

**Next Item on the Agenda – Priorities for Common Action: Freshman Commons**

Senator Peebles gave an update on the Student Life committee's activities. He mentioned that the committee successfully dealt with a student grievance case, and sent their recommendations along to the Chancellor. He added that he has served as the Senate's representative to the Campus Security task force, and that recommendations will be forthcoming from this group soon.

Senator Peebles mentioned that the University Committee on Athletics (which includes Senators Jim Hearn, Stokes Peebles, and Karen Campbell among its members) had a meeting yesterday. He said that this committee meets quarterly with David Williams to discuss issues relating to athletics.

He added that the committee has decided to form two subcommittees to deal with its charges: one dealing with mental health issues for students (chaired by Senator Craig Anne Heflinger with Senators Clint Carter and Agnes Fogo as members), and one concentrating on the Freshman Commons (Senators David Wasserstein, Peter Cummings, John Lachs, and Jim Hearn).

Chair McCarthy thanked Senator Peebles for his presentation.

**Next Item on the Agenda – SGA Resolution for Change to Drop/Add Policy**

In the interest of time, Chair McCarthy called for a vote to table the discussion on the SGA resolution for a change to the drop/add policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Next Item on the Agenda – New Business and Good of the Senate**

Chair McCarthy then called for any new business or business under Good of the Senate. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Anne Heflinger,  
Secretary