Minutes for Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate  
October 6, 2022, Meeting

Attendees  
Voting members in attendance: Susan Andrews, Leon Bellan, Dietmar Bisch, James Booth, Andrea Capizzi, Katherine Carroll, Elizabeth Catania, André Christie-Mizell, Kate Clouse, Christos Constandtinidis, Philippe Fauchet, Kelly Goldsmith, Alissa Hare, Brian Heuser, Tammy Hoyt, Eric Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Peter Kolkay, Phil Lieberman, Larry Marnett, Sara Martin, Ingrid Meszoely, Rob Mikos, Colleen Niswender, Anna Richmond, Joerg Rieger, Amanda Rose, Jacob Sauer, Kevin Schey, Berk Sensoy, Marcy Singer-Gabella, Jonathan Sprinkle, Rebecca Swan, Claudine Taaffe, and Emilie Townes.


Ex-officio members in attendance: Donald Brady, Daniel Diermeier, Steve Ertel, Anders Hall, Amy Johnson, Candice Lee, John Lutz, Mark Magnuson, John McLean, Ryan Middagh, David Raiford, Cybele Raver, Padma Raghavan, Alex Sevilla, Tracey Sharpley-Whiting, and Jon Shaw.

Ex-officio members absent: Doug Christiansen, André Churchwell, Tracey George, Nathan Green, Steve Ertel, Eric Kopstain, Jennifer Pietenpol, Cleo Rucker, Ruby Shellaway, and Brett Sweet.

Guests in attendance: Alan Bently, Stacey Bonner, Lauren Hammond, Pam Jones, Stacey McCarty, Elissa Moody, and Sheree Wright.

In attendance on Zoom: Camilla Benbow, G.L. Black, Donald Brady, Kate Derrick, Celina Callahan-Kapoor, John Geer, Jane Hirtle, Mark Magnuson, Ryan Middagh, Jami Miller, David Raiford, Cleo Rucker, ML Sandoz, Shirley Schettino, Alex Sevilla, Amanda Shakal, Ruby Shellaway, Tiffiny Tung, and Dawn Turton.

Call to Order

A meeting of Vanderbilt Faculty Senate was held on September 15, 2022, at the Faculty Commons Room 200. It began at 4:13pm and was presided over by Chair Rebecca Swan, with Vice Chair Liz Catania as secretary.

Quorum as specified in the Faculty Senate Constitution (revised 4/5/2019) Article II.B.1. was made with the recorded attendance of 49 voting members of the Faculty Senate.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Swan motioned for approval of the minutes as circulated of the September 15, 2022, meeting. Chair Swan asked whether there were any corrections to the proposed minutes. Corrections were not made.

Chair Swan asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made. The motion was seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.
Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Report of the Executive Committee**

Chair Swan:

- Chair Swan reported most committees have met at least one time and motions are expected in the next few months, specifically from the Faculty Manual committee.

- Chair Swan attended the fall staff assembly alongside the Chancellor.

- The Executive Committee has begun meeting with individual faculty councils, or Deans at smaller colleges, as a way to further connect at the college and school level.

- Chair Swan provided a walkthrough of the new Faculty Senate website showing the landing page, senator search, committees, and resources. Explained that materials previously available in the Senate portal are now found in Box.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Chancellor Remarks**

Chair Swan turned the floor over to Chancellor Diermeier.

Chancellor Diermeier:

- Chancellor Diermeier recently attended the fall staff assembly. It is very important that we think about our staff as members of the community and that our values apply to them as well. We need to provide opportunities for growth and community, and this was a powerful event that was an example of how we want to invest in our staff. An example of this investment is our partnership between dining and Nashville State, where our dining staff can get certified in culinary arts.

- Provided an update about recent news surrounding gender affirming care at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). The university is working closely with the medical center on the issue, and a statement was sent to the entire Vanderbilt community. The work is not done and there will continue to be follow-up action.

- Chancellor Diermeier is starting to think about freedom of expression and its relationship to culture. Last year there was a conflict between members of student body surrounding racism and antisemitism, which upon reflection had nothing to do with the question of free speech but with culture and a “rush to righteousness.” This prevented students from engaging in complex arguments. Chancellor Diermeier has talked with student government and VUceptors about the topic and they are committed to working through this, however they will need support from faculty. Looking into tools for faculty to use to manage conflicts that may occur in the classroom setting.

Chair Swan opened the floor to questions from the senate.

- Question: It is important that we model civil discourse with students. Is the goal to not only educate the students but also the faculty?
O Chancellor Diermeier: Absolutely. Tiffiny Tung is already having conversations with faculty on how to facilitate this. We want to share best practices. Potentially hold workshops to spread the good work that is already happening every day.

• Question: Do you see there being opportunities for outside moments to inform these conversations?
  o Chancellor Diermeier: Yes. We are working on the Supreme Court decision and working to have discussions on the various aspects of the Roe reversal issue to look at it from a variety of perspectives. Dialogue and discourse will lead to a firmer foundation. These are basic things and skills that need to be reinforced.

• Question: Is there any discussion or thought about Vanderbilt having a campus in another country?
  o Chancellor Diermeier: There is discussion. There are certain things that we want to do but we want to do them well, and there is room for us to think about big things. We are open to thinking about a variety of things.

• Question: Team or group teaching is a great opportunity to facilitate discourse, is there a plan to encourage more of it within this context?
  o Chancellor Diermeier: Interesting idea that we will explore. Would suggest bringing other faculty members into the classroom as a guest lecturer to gain multiple perspectives.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Standing Committee Reports**

There were no standing committee reports.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Scheduled Remarks**

Chair Swan introduced Vice Provost for Research and Innovation Padma Raghavan

Vice Provost Raghavan:

  • Vice Provost Raghavan reflected on where we are now. There are hundreds of different projects going on including: I-24 Motion, Immersive Study of Korean Percussion, the Wondry, and more.
• We are at a singular moment of opportunity. New leadership of the Chancellor and Provost are committed to driving impact through research and innovation. There is growing faculty demand for increasing Vanderbilt’s impact: 122 VU faculty lead awards of $2M or more, 562 U.S. patents awarded to VU inventors (FY12-21), 1,724 proposals submitted to external sponsors by VU faculty in FY22. The big idea is to catalyze impact by bringing end-users and researchers together, tackle grand challenges with government and private-sector partners, and test and launch innovations in the environments and communities they impact.

• Discovery Vanderbilt is building on Opportunity Vanderbilt and Destination Vanderbilt, and is an investment in you and for you to come together to do something bigger than we have ever done before:
  o Catalyst funding and support for grant proposal development
  o Innovation and tech transfer support and development
  o Expanded resources for undergraduate research
  o Investments in graduate student research
  o Cross-institutional knowledge hubs, centers, and institutes

• Vice Provost Raghavan is looking forward to next steps, Provost Raver will be making a public announcement of Discovery Vanderbilt on October 17.

Chair Swan opened the floor to questions from the senate.

• Comment: Thanked Padma for her impact on the faculty community and the way she and her office have been so forward thinking
  o Vice Provost Raghavan: It has taken a village and we are going to do this together.

• Comment: Thanked the university for the new support given to graduate students. What issues were considered in terms of raising the level of all student support to provide enhanced equitable support for all students vs. specific programs?
  o Vice Provost Mizell: In terms of selection, the provost, and himself did about a year of research to figure out which areas to target and bridge the gap for all schools. There is a lot of variation across schools-working with the Deans to ensure we are releasing funds in the right way

• Question: Excited to see the vision being charted. How can we align faculty peers with discovery Vanderbilt?
  o Vice Provost Raghavan: Early days still and we are starting to conceptualize. We welcome your input and ideas as we are working toward this.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Good of the Senate**

Chair Swan opened the floor to comments.

Chair Swan:

• Thanked everyone for coming and our speakers for their remarks.

Chair Swan proceeded to the next item of business.

**Adjournment**

It was moved that the meeting should be adjourned. There was a second and the meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.