

# Minutes for Vanderbilt University Faculty Senate

## September 7, 2023, Meeting

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### Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Alexandra Shingina, Alissa Hare, Amanda Rose, André Christie-Mizell, Andrea Capizzi, Anna Richmond, Brian Heuser, Bruce Morrill, Celina Callahan-Kapoor, Chris Guthrie, Christian Ketel, Christos Constandtinidis, Cindy Reinhart-King, Dan Levin, Dawn Iacobucci, Elise Boos, Emanuelle Oliveira-Monte, Frank Candelaria, Ingrid Meszoely, James Booth, Joe Fishman, John Koch, John Ayers, Jonathan Waters, Jonathan Sprinkle, Julio Ayala, Kelly Goldsmith, Kevin Schey, Louis Garrard, Marcy Singer-Gabella, Mariano Sana, M.L. Sandoz, Nicole Cobb, Pamela Jeffries, Pengfei Li, Peter Kolkay, Piran Kidambi, Queen Henry-Okafor, Ralf Habermann, Susan Andrews, Tamarya Hoyt, Tim Hanusa, Tim McNamara, Tyler Barrett, Yolanda Pierce, and Zhongyue Yang.

Voting members absent: Aimi Hamraie, Amanda Satterthwaite, Amanda Shakal, Buddy Creech, Camilla Benbow, Catherine McTamany, Claudine Taaffe, David Hyde, Debra Friedman, Elliott McCarter, Florence Sanchez, Jeff Balsler, Ji Hye Jung, Joerg Rieger, John Kuriyan, Joyce Johnson, Julie Vernon, Kate Clouse, Katherine Carroll, Kelly Sopko, Krishnendu Roy, Kristen Scarpato, Lealani Acosta, Lisa Fazio, Rebecca Ihrle, Ritu Banerjee, Rupi Saggi, Ryan Belcher, Sara Horst, Sara Martin, and Thomas Steenburgh.

Ex-officio members in attendance: Alan Wiseman, André Christie-Mizell, Brett Sweet, Candice Lee, Cybele Raver, Daniel Diermeier, Donald Brady, Doug Christiansen, Elizabeth Catania, G.L. Black, Jonathan Shaw, Nathan Green, Padma Raghavan, Rebecca Swan, Ruby Shellaway, Steve Ertel, Tracey George, and Tracy Sharpley-Whiting.

Ex-officio members absent: Alex Sevilla, Cleo Rucker, Eric Kopstain, Jennifer Pietenpol and Tiffany Tung.

Guests in attendance: Alex Valnoski, Amber Palmer-Halma, August Washington, Hans Mooy, Jess Evans, Lauren Hammond, Marcy Pedzwater, Mehar Bhasin, Ron Martinez, Shane Callahan, Stacey Andrews, Sydney Jones-Wright, and Tommye Sutton.

### Call to Order

A meeting of Vanderbilt Faculty Senate was held on September 7, 2023, in the large meeting room at the Faculty Commons. It began at 4:10PM and was presided over by Chair Andrea Capizzi, with Vice Chair Tamarya Hoyt confirming quorum.

Quorum as specified in the Faculty Senate Constitution (revised 4/5/2019) Article II.B.1. was met with the recorded attendance of 37 voting members of the Faculty Senate.

### Approval of Minutes

Chair Capizzi motioned for approval of the minutes as circulated of the May 4, 2023, meeting. Chair Capizzi asked whether there were any corrections to the proposed minutes. Corrections were not made.

Chair Capizzi asked for approval of the May 4, 2023, minutes. A motion was made. The motion was seconded. The motion was carried by voice vote. Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

## Report of the Executive Committee

Chair Capizzi gave a report which covered the following:

- Introduction the executive committee for the academic year 2023-2024.
  - Andrea Capizzi- Chair
  - Tamarya Hoyt- Vice Chair
  - Rebecca Swan- Immediate Past Chair
  - Liz Catania- Immediate Past Vice Chair
  - Alyssa Hare- Chair-elect
  - Peter Kolkay- Vice Chair-elect
- Welcomed the Administrative Staff; Stacey Andrews as Administrative Coordinator and Mehar Bhasin as the newly hired Administrative Specialist. Chair Capizzi also introduced Alan Wiseman as this year's Parliamentarian and thanked Professor Wiseman for his service.
- Announced that this year's senate meetings will start with historical information that reference 150 years (to relate to the 150-year mark, the sesquicentennial) of Vanderbilt University. She met with the University Archives Team to learn what is housed and will share at future senate meetings. For this meeting the history of the university student publication, The Hustler, was featured and photos of the first publication of the Hustler with some interesting points from the publication were shared.
- The executive committee meets weekly, and also meets monthly with the Chancellor and Provost to address faculty-raised issues that get reported out at Senate meetings.
- Status of motions from spring of 2023:
  - Department Receivership from the Chancellor and Provost – memo approved
  - Faculty Manual motion – memo approved
  - Faculty benefits- memo approved
  - The executive committee continually monitors motions and resolutions. One outstanding motion; *Faculty Salary and Competitiveness* is still in process and awaiting a report in October.
- The Senate is co-hosting an all-faculty workshop on September 28, 2023, at 11:30am '*How to be an Effective Advocate*' with Government and Community Relations and Communications.

Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

## Chancellor Remarks

Chair Capizzi turned the floor over to Chancellor Diermeier.

Chancellor Diermeier welcomed the Faculty Senate and guests to the new academic year and addressed two topics:

- Vanderbilt now: Chancellor Diermeier explained the current landscape of Vanderbilt, and that it is thriving by all measures. It has the strongest undergraduate class in history by yield. He explained that Vanderbilt should be the first choice for students who are passionate, and we should continue to strive and do better.
- Faculty and Staff:
  - The University has surpassed \$1 billion funding level in research.
  - Best year for faculty inducted to American Arts and Sciences.
  - Best fundraising year in history.
  - \$344M in financial aid, \$250M for undergraduates alone.

- Increased fundraising support from alumni.
  - Athletics is strong with facility renovations and enhancements as well as NCAA championships including women's bowling.
  - Continuing to be active in solutions to show the credibility of Vanderbilt.
- Q & A:
    - Question:* What is the university's response to help marginalized students?
    - Answer:* The University has supported every member of its community where the political climate has been challenging. Announcements have been made, including the announcement of a task force titled Diversity, Equity Inclusion, & Belonging who's will include protection of students and staff. Faculty and students must take initiative to make it a safe community for all, and to operationalize safety and well-being.
  
    - Question:* Have we spoken to the Governor and Senator directly for making students and staff feeling safe within the community?
    - Answer:* Yes, we have.

Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

## Standing Committee Reports

Chair Capizzi called for reports from the standing committees.  
There were no standing committee reports.

Chair Capizzi announced that during this academic year committees will address charges such as:

- Academic freedom from Academic Policies and Services Committee.
- Liberal Arts at Vanderbilt Across Schools by the newly formed Ad Hoc committee named LAVAS.

Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

## Old Business

There was no old business.

## New Business

There was no new business.

## Scheduled Remarks

Chair Capizzi introduced Provost Cybele Raver.

- Provost Raver highlighted some recent university progress.
  - Vanderbilt religious holiday updates will be announced in an upcoming memo. Faculty and staff have a responsibility to be aware of certain holidays pertaining to students, to be able to add it into Vanderbilts holidays calendar (to diversify and shed light on non-familiar holidays).

- Showing university commitment to diversity, a new Task Force on Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) has been formed which will be moving forward with incentives that are beneficial for faculty, staff and students. It will focus on marginalized communities in order for the campus to be safe for all.
- Vanderbilt has given students access to free birth control.
- Vanderbilt has also implemented that staff that are parents are to receive twelve weeks off for family planning.
- Jermaine Soto's work will focus on enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. He has been promoted to Senior Director of Faculty Advancement in the Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional Education.

Provost Raver closed with a statement explaining that students should be able to explore their identities in order to pursue scholarly advancements.

Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

Chair Capizzi introduced Associate Vice Chancellor, and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Jess Evans and Vanderbilt's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Shane Callahan, who updated the senate on technology at Vanderbilt University.

- Vanderbilt University Information Technology (VUIT) focuses on academic and research needs including academic technology research and advancing solutions.
- VUIT is working on creating a frictionless experience through collaboration, therefore making it easier to provide the tools needed to do the job.
- VUIT is currently working on behavioral modification with 8 guiding principles. Associate Vice Chancellor Evans shared a slide with the 8 guiding principles.
- VUIT has also been implementing internal awards within the department for helping staff, to award progress and promote positivity as well as bring in a competitive factor on wanting to be considered for awards.
- AVC Evans also discussed changing the support model for VUIT for faculty and students to have as much success as possible.
- CIO Evans also shared that research storage is a primary concern in VUIT and there is a renewed focus to partner with Research IT to improve the service offerings for researchers

Vanderbilt's Chief Information Security Officer, Shane Callahan was introduced and continued the report out.

- CISO Callahan explained how the university brand is protected through its own cyber security methods.
- Student protection is strengthened by providing internships, and jobs, protecting them from harassment.
- The process of protection starts with each person individually, where understanding the tactics from threat actors is critical when using any collaborative platform like email or browsing the internet.
- Staff can support security protection efforts by advancing research with top-tier products and data.
- VUIT is also addressing existing Vanderbilt University Medical Center network access issues and working collaboratively on efforts for a solution.

Chair Capizzi opened the floor for questions from the senate.

*Question:* Over the past few years, staff have noticed the extra need for security, making jobs difficult due to the inability to access applications and share data and needed updates to systems that cannot change. -It is an issue of trust and respect. The changing access and privilege breaches contribute to the distrust that professors experience. Could faculty meet with VUIT to make possible the changes necessary for their division and specification?

*Answer:* Vanderbilt's Chief Information Security Officer Callahan: If you do not patch your vulnerability on your computer, you put yourself and the university at risk. It is the mission of VUIT to protect the university. VUIT comes to staff to determine if their needs are met, and although it takes time and is a concern, it is within the mission. Efforts are underway and we will continue to work collaboratively to find resolution but there are no immediate answers as it is situationally based. Since security exceptions are specific to each person/team/department, the best path to attain these exceptions is to reach out to AVC Evans and CISO Callahan directly so they can get a personalized engagement for the requesting unit.

Chair Capizzi turned the floor over to Vanderbilt University Police Department (VUPD) and Public Safety for an update on Traffic and Parking.

Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Safety, August Washington, presented the agenda by saying that Vanderbilt University is transitioning due to building and construction, and that there is transition in between the hospital and the campus.

- Public Safety is working diligently in order to resolve the issue and are adding an arterial road to help the flow of traffic starting on Monday (September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023).
- Looking to address the flow of traffic and using officers to mitigate those intersections in order to make traffic flow.
- The challenge the police department has experienced is that traffic moves too rapidly, and the goal is wanting to make it consistent by providing a steady and consistent traffic flow.
- VUPD has eleven officers dedicated morning and afternoon to help people through 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Average garage exit and area wait times were twenty minutes, and up to forty minutes or higher. VUPD increased efforts and have gotten them down to an average of four minutes, which is a 50-75% reduction time, on average.

The floor was turned over to, Deputy Chief of Police Tommye Sutton, who continue to update the senate.

- Main focus is consistency.
- Want VUPD to be steady so that faculty, staff, students, or visitors don't feel a difference between contractors within the division or VUPD.
- Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Safety Washington joined in on the conversation. An improvement should be noticeable in the morning commute. Thursdays are the toughest day of the week for traffic and a solution is being worked on.
- Hanz Mooy from Campus Planning and Construction added that plans on opening a temporary roadway from the West Garage through Blair School onto 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in order to mitigate traffic. The expectation it is that it will be open by the end of the year. The division will have mitigators in order to make sure the process is seamless. Construction is supposed to start as early as this weekend.
- The division is excited about the solution and helping address faculty and staff commuting frustrations.

Chair Capizzi opened for questions:

*Question:* Has VUPD investigated the crosswalks on 21<sup>st</sup> and the dangers for pedestrians from cars? Have they considered doing something with a crosswalk to enhance safety?

*Answer:* Solutions such as cones have been installed in order to slow traffic and will try to put in more traffic confinements. One more problematic issue is students not using the crosswalk. But will investigate 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue issue to enhance safety.

Chair Capizzi moved on to the next order of business.

## **Good of the Senate**

Chair Capizzi opened the floor to comments.

Chair Capizzi proceeded to the next item of business.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Capizzi moved that the meeting should be adjourned. There was a second and the meeting adjourned at 5:18p.m. and announced that the next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup> in large meeting room at Faculty Commons.

*Tamarya L. Hoyt*

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Tamarya Hoyt, Secretary  
Faculty Senate Vice Chair

October 12, 2023

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Date of Approval