Executive Committee: AY 15/16
Chair: Richard Willis, Professor of Accounting
Vice Chair: Ann Price, Assistant Professor of Medicine
Chair-Elect: Erin O’Hara O’Connor, Professor of Law
Vice Chair-Elect: Charlene Dewey, Associate Professor of Medicine
Immediate Past Chair: Paul Lim, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity
Immediate Past Vice Chair: Rolanda Johnson, Associate Professor of Nursing

The Executive Committee (EC) of Vanderbilt University’s Faculty Senate (FS) for Academic Year 15/16 files the following report of the EC’s activities from 11/4/2015-1/31/2016 for review by the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust:

I. Faculty Senate Meeting: 11/5/2015 (Items of Note)
A. Executive Committee (EC) Report to the Faculty Senate
   1. Faculty Manual: The “Follow the Faculty Manual” webpage is now available within the Senate portal (faculty access only). All motions, track changes, clean copies of accepted edits, and memo approvals are now available for review
   2. VU.edu: The suggestion to explore a “shortened” email address was explored with John Lutz, Vice Chancellor for IT, and Beth Fortune, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs. Both expressed that such a change would be costly and could cause branding and trademark issues. The EC will not pursue this further at this time.
   3. Graduate Education Study Group (GESG): The GESG was appointed by Provost Wente in September 2014. Four open forums across the campus were held to present the GESG’s executive summary and to gain further input before finalizing the report. These open forums have now concluded and the EC anticipates a final report within the next two months. Professor Mark Wallace was named Dean of the Graduate School effective January 1, 2016. Wallace was selected for the role following a search that began in September 2015 and was conducted by a diverse, cross-college search committee chaired by Camilla Benbow, Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development.
   4. Exam Schedule: A faculty member brought to the EC’s attention that the University spring semester calendar as originally posted did not include the final exam schedule for this academic year—creating confusion as students began registering for classes. The EC partnered with Vice Provost Doug Christiansen to quickly correct this issue.
B. Motions from the Faculty Manual Committee on Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Manual, Presented by Faculty Manual Committee Chair, Senator Myrna Wooders.
   1. Proposed Revisions to Part VII (Chapters 1-2)
   2. Proposed Revisions to Part VI (Chapters 1-4)
   3. Proposed Revisions to Part V
   4. Proposed Revisions to Part I (Chapter 5)
   5. Proposed Revisions to Part IV (Chapters 1-2)
   6. Proposed Revisions to Part II (Chapters 1-3)
   7. Proposed Revisions to Part I (Chapters 1-4)
Note: The EC with the assistance of Senator Wooders previously circulated proposed edits to the Faculty Senate. These were posted on the Senate’s portal and a comment period was provided. Most of the proposed revisions addressed by these motions were essential to the VU/VUMC reorganization. After presentation of each individual motion, discussion followed. Chair Willis called for a vote and each motion was subsequently passed. Chair Willis noted that sending a memo to the Provost and the Chancellor regarding these Faculty Senate approved revisions is the next step in the Faculty Manual revision process. If the Provost and the Chancellor approve, the revisions will be accepted and posted on the “Follow the Faculty Manual” webpage. All revisions were approved by the Provost and the Chancellor.

II. Faculty Senate Meeting 12/3/2015 (Items of Note)
   A. Executive Committee (EC) Report to the Faculty Senate
      1. Campus Master Plan: Chair Willis noted that the FS was included in the selection process for the architectural firm retained to facilitate work on the campus’s master plan: Pelli Clarke Pelli, He encouraged Senators to engage with this work by attending upcoming town halls.
      2. Chancellor-appointed Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community: A statement regarding their mission and objectives has been released for Senators’ review and comments. Chair Willis asked Senators to provide comments by 12/4/2015 through the Senate Portal’s anonymous feedback form or directly to the Committee’s co-chairs Professors Keivan Stassun and Beverly Moran
      3. Transgender Education Initiatives: The FS and the Office of LGBTQIA Life are working with Creative Services to develop a short video on the trans student experience at VU. The FS is also collaborating with the VSG and the Center for Teaching to develop a teaching guide to help faculty better relate to the trans student experience and incorporate gender inclusive practices in their classrooms. Chair Willis encouraged Senators to link to the Center for Teaching’s website which currently has 68 teaching guides available, covering a range of topics from mindfulness in the classroom to feminism to learning styles.
      4. Spring Faculty Assembly, March 31, 2016: Professor Donna Ford (Peabody) will be the Spring Assembly’s faculty speaker. Professor Ford has broad ranging expertise in such areas of education as multiculturalism and gifted education as well as minority achievement and underachievement.
   B. Motions from the Faculty Manual Committee on Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Manual, Presented by Faculty Manual Committee Chair, Senator Myrna Wooders.
      1. Proposed Movement of the “Vanderbilt University Compliance Program and Standards of Conduct” to Section VIII of the Faculty Manual.
         Note: This motion creates a new section of the Faculty Manual. It was offered by the Faculty Manual Committee in an effort to “better represent the spirit of Vanderbilt.” This motion moves “Compliance Program and Standards of Conduct” to the end of the Faculty Manual and thereby places “Part I: The University and its Governance” at the beginning of the Faculty Manual. Chair Willis called for discussion and subsequently a vote. The motion passed.
      2. Addition of Footnote I to the “Conflict of Commitment Guideline Regarding Non-Vanderbilt Online Teaching” (necessary in support of the VU-VUMC reorganization)
         Note: This motion further revises the Section entitled “Conflict of Commitment Guideline Regarding Non-Vanderbilt Online Teaching.” Chair Willis called for
discussion and subsequently a vote. The motion passed and was forwarded to the Provost and Chancellor for review. The Provost and Chancellor approved the Senate’s recommendation.

C. Motions from the Senate Affairs Committee, Presented by Senate Affairs Committee Chair, Professor and Senator Buddy Creech

1. Be it resolved the Faculty Senate will be comprised of 60 senators from the schools, with the following distribution:

- Arts and Sciences 16
- Blair 2
- Divinity 2
- Engineering 6
- Law 2
- Medicine 20
- Nursing 4
- Owen 2
- Peabody 6

Senator Buddy Creech (Chair of Senate Affairs) explained that the Senate’s Constitution (Article II) requires Senate reapportionment every 5 years. This is based on both student enrollment and faculty appointments within each school. Senator Creech further noted that by following the past apportionment method (Hamilton’s Method), the Engineering School will gain a senator while A&S loses one Senator. The number of senators for all other VU schools does not change. Any change in the Senate’s apportionment requires an amendment to the Senate’s Constitution which in turn requires written notice to the members of the Faculty Assembly at least one month in advance before a vote, and must be approved by two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the Faculty Assembly. This vote will occur at the Spring Faculty Assembly on March 31, 2016. Chair Willis called for discussion. The Senate Affairs Committee noted that our FS Constitution specifies that no VU school may have more than 1/3 of the elected senators and no school may have fewer than 2 elected senators. Several senators questioned the use of the current apportionment methodology and asked that Senate Affairs re-examine this for future reapportionment cycles. Chair Willis called for a vote. The motion carried 32 affirmative and 1 opposed. This number of votes did not achieve the FS’s quorum requirements.

2. Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate endorse changes to the Senate’s Constitution and Rules of Order in order to align with the reorganized VU-VUMC

Senator Buddy Creech (Chair of Senate Affairs) explained that the proposed revisions to the Senate’s Constitution and Rules of Order are edits that must be made: (1) to align our documents with changes related to the VU/VUMC reorganization or (2) to re-align references in our Constitution and Rules or Order to the previously revised University’s Code of Bylaws. If approved these changes will require an amendment to the Senate’s Constitution which in turn requires written notice to the members of the Faculty Assembly at least one month in advance before a vote, and must be approved by two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the Faculty Assembly. This vote will also occur at the Spring Faculty Assembly on March 31, 2016. Chair Willis called for
discussion and subsequently a vote. The motion carried with 32 affirmative votes and 2 opposed. This number of votes did not achieve the FS’s quorum requirements.

D. Anita Jenious (Director of the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Department, Title IX Coordinator) Presentation to the FS

Anita Jenious shared information regarding the Campus SaVE Act which requires reporting of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. She explained that faculty are not considered “confidential resources” when discussing such incidents with students, staff, or faculty colleagues. She further explained that faculty who learn of such incidents involving VU students, staff, or faculty must report such incidents to the EAD. She then provided information regarding confidential resources on campus that are not mandated to report to the EAD.

III. Faculty Senate Meeting: 1/14/2016

A. Executive Committee (EC) Report to the Faculty Senate

1. Greek Life Task Force (GLTF) Draft Report: The stakeholder communication and engagement plan for the GLTF’s draft report has begun. Professor and Senator David Weintraub (Chair, GLTF) has scheduled a series of meetings with Greek student leaders, the VSG, and other campus organizations. Chair Willis explained that the FS’s EC will review the draft report and feedback from faculty and students before finalizing any recommendations to the administration.

2. Faculty Manual, Part IV, “Disciplinary Actions and Grievances”: The Faculty Manual Committee under the leadership of Senator and Chair Myrna Wooders has revised Part IV to clarify procedures for grievances. The proposed revisions are now available for review on the Senate Portal website. A survey for anonymous feedback to the Faculty Manual Committee is included. Alternatively, feedback may be provided directly to Senator Wooders.

3. Travel Survey: The Senate partnered with Vanderbilt Travel, the University Staff Advisory Council, and the Medical Center Staff Advisory Council to survey travel satisfaction with the new travel agency, World Travel. The survey was conducted in mid-December 2015. Results and an action plan were released in the January 2016 issue of Engage, The Newsletter of the Faculty Senate. Travelers will be surveyed again in mid-February to further assess the performance of the new travel agency.

4. Gender Awareness and Inclusion Forums: Dates for two forums were released:
   a. April 1, Sarratt Student Center 112, 4-5pm
   b. April 6, Mayborn 204, 4-5 pm

   These forums represent a joint effort of the FS with VSG, the Office of LGBTQIA Life, and the Center for Teaching. Creative Services’ video which will speak to the transgender experience at VU will be aired at these forums. These forums were discussed in the December 2015 issue of Engage, The Newsletter of the Faculty Senate.

5. Academic Freedom and Responsibility: The Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom (SPAF) Committee, Chaired by Professor and Senator Holly McCammon, is considering proposing revisions to the Faculty manual’s statement regarding academic freedom and responsibility. SPAF is not only soliciting faculty input, but the committee is also reaching out to the VSG to involve students in this discussion to bring to light any student-relevant issues that the committee should consider before proposing revisions.
6. **Task Force on University Athletics (TFUA):** The TFUA, Chaired by Professor Karl Hackenbrack (Owen), will begin its work in January 2016.

7. **Professor George Hill, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** The EC met with Professor Hill to discuss issues concerning diversity at Vanderbilt. Updates will follow--many of them in conjunction with the work of the Chancellor-appointed Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community.

8. **Administrative Support for the Faculty Senate:** Chelsie Whitelock has transferred her position with the FS to devote 100% of her effort to Academic Affairs. The Senate is in the process of recruiting a new Administrative Manager to assist with FS administrative support. The position is currently posted through Vanderbilt HR. The EC thanks Ms. Whitelock for her service to the FS.

B. **Old Business: Re-introduction of Senate Affairs Motions regarding the reapportionment of the FS and amendments to the Faculty Senate’s Constitution and Rules of Order, previously presented at the FS’s 12/3/2015 meeting (see above)**

Note: A quorum was not present at the time of voting on 12/3/2015. Thus, Senator Creech placed his committee’s two previously introduced motions before the FS. Chair Willis called for discussion and a vote on each of the motions. The motion related to reapportionment carried with 42 affirmative votes and 2 no votes. The motion related to amendments to the Faculty Senate’s Constitution and Rules of Order carried with 47 affirmative votes and 1 no vote. No abstentions were recorded for either vote. A quorum was present for both votes. Chair Willis will now provide written notice to the members of the Faculty Assembly and a vote will be taken at the Spring Faculty Assembly on March 31, 2016. If approved by two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the Spring Faculty Assembly, the FS will be reapportioned as per the Senate Affairs Committee’s recommendation and the Constitution and Rules of Order will be amended as noted above.

C. **Greek Life Task Force Report, Professor and Senator David Weintraub:**

Senator Weintraub gave a brief overview of the history of previous Greek Life reviews which have occurred at approximately 20 year intervals at VU. He explained the GLTF’s charge and goals and mentioned how data was collected which informed these goals. He then presented seven draft recommendations (note the full GLTF report is available on the Senate Portal). Discussion followed. Meetings continue with student leaders, including a scheduled meeting with the EC. Senators’ feedback is solicited. This topic will be further addressed at the FS’s Elected Senators only meeting in February.

D. **Chancellor Appointed Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community, Professor Kevian Stassun (Co-Chair with Professor Beverly Moran) presenting for the committee.**

Professor Stassun briefly explained the charge of the committee and its goals. He then circulated two documents to the FS. A brief discussion of the documents followed. He asked that the contents of these documents be considered “confidential” and should not be discussed outside of the current FS meeting as the Committee’s work is still formative. The Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community held a two hour town hall for staff members on January 21 and two two-hour town halls for students on January 20 and 28.