Motion #2, as recommended by the Faculty Manual Committee

December 3rd, 2015

- Whereas the Vanderbilt Faculty Manual (as archived on 8/3/2015) requires revision and updating, and
- Whereas on April 2, 2015 the Faculty Senate passed by a vote of 30-YES, 9-NO, 3-ABSTAIN to recommend the attached insertion to the Faculty Manual in Part III, Chapter 3, entitled “Conflict of Commitment Guideline Regarding Non-Vanderbilt Online Teaching,” and
- Whereas, the Faculty Manual Committee in collaboration with Professors McNamara (Vice Provost for Research and International Affairs) and Raiford (Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs) have determined the need to insert additional language specific to the upcoming VU-VUMC reorganization before the previously approved insertion is forwarded to the Provost and Chancellor for review,

We the Faculty Manual Committee, move that the previously recommended Section entitled “Conflict of Commitment Guideline Regarding Non-Vanderbilt Online Teaching” be further revised by addition of footnote 1 as per the attached document, and

We further move that the Faculty Senate give its endorsement to this footnote to its previously approved Section, and

We further move that the entire document, including the footnote, be forwarded as a formal proposal as per Faculty Manual “Part 1, Chapter 5, Amendments to the Faculty Manual” to the Chancellor and the Provost, for review, and if accepted, final approval by the Chancellor.
Conflict of Commitment Guideline Regarding Non-Vanderbilt Online Teaching

General Standard: For faculty who are members of the Faculty Assembly (“faculty”), teaching outside the University presents issues that require special attention because it has the potential to compete with the University’s own offerings. In judging the appropriateness of any online course outside the educational mission of the University, faculty should consider the time commitment and the potential impact of these activities on the fulfillment of their commitments to the University as per Article III of the Faculty Manual.

In addition, the following special considerations and procedures apply to online courses offered, or reasonably expected to be offered, for academic credit and to online courses providing certifications:

Special Provision for Online Courses for Academic Credit: Faculty are not permitted to offer online courses for undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree credit for another education institution or venture except with permission of the faculty member’s Dean (or the Dean’s designee).

In determining whether to grant such permission or as guidance for reviewing potential conflicts, the Dean (or the Dean’s designee) and faculty should consider whether such an online course will impair the instructional offerings of the faculty member’s School or other Schools at Vanderbilt University. In making this impairment determination, the following factors (among others) may be useful to consider, with affirmative answers counting against approval, but no set number of affirmative answers being conclusive: Is the faculty member one of the primary instructors or a course director in the online course? Is the online course comparable to any current course at Vanderbilt? Is the online course among the courses that Vanderbilt plans to include in its own offerings in the next two academic years? Is the online course likely, in fact, to require the instructor to commit to teaching the content exclusively with the online vendor or other institution and not to provide any similar content in another online format?

Special Provision for Online Courses Providing Certifications: Faculty must disclose their plan to teach in online courses that offer certifications to their Dean (or the Dean’s designee) prior to undertaking such teaching.

1For faculty in SOM Clinical Departments, the Dean of the SOM (or Dean’s designee) will confer with the Provost; for faculty in SOM Basic Science Departments, the Provost (or Provost’s designee) will serve the role of the Dean and will confer with the Dean of the SOM.