



**Minutes for Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Sarratt 220**

ATTENDANCE:

Present

Amos, Stan
Attack, Becky
Banks, Diane
Barnett, Lora
Boglin, Harriett
Brassil, John
Cage, Vickie
Chapman, Angela
DiGiovanna, Sheri
Dixon, Michele
Dubois, Daniel
Formont, Jamie
Franklin, Keith
Jackson, John
Kendrick, Stacy
Kiely, Kay
King, Sue
Koval, Kristin
Krueger, Anna Kathleen
Lang, Melanie
Latham, Vickie
Martin, Ashley
McLeod, Laura
McMeen, Ben
Moore, Stacey
Norfleet, Lydia
Owens, Ann Marie
Palmer, Dave
Patterson, JoAnn
Pring, Michael
Pruitt, Don
Rhodes, Katherine
Richter, Andy
Seezen, Karen
Smith, Donna
Soxayachanh, Olivia
Stanard, Ray
Steward, Dan
Street, JJ
Suttles, Todd
Thompson, Molly
Trenary, Carlos
Villager, Nyla
Vincz, Janiece
Walker, Bryon
Wall, Andrea
Whaley, Elizabeth
Whatley, Luci
Whitlow, Cathy
Wilson, Cliff

Absent, sent regrets

Alley, Jean
Armstrong, Terri
Bailey, Bill
Bransford, Chris
Fisher, Kristy -*resigned*
Hiltz, Shirley
Johnson, Faye
McClure, Cheryl
McCurry, Barry
McGrath, Jason
McKee, Brenda
Moore, Kenny
Pickert, Don
Reynolds-Barnes, Deborah
Strohl, Sandy
Stuart, Kate
Wyatt, Michelle

Brake, Alyssa, MSAC Treasurer

Absent

Collins, Greg
Cribbs, Chris
Dean, Mary Ann
Fagan, Shawn
Fisher, Joe
Gambill, Jodie
Holcroft, Nancy
Houseman, Andrea
Jackson, Nancy
Johnson, Stacy
Jones, Eric
Pepper, Ronnie
Pickett, Annetta
Pryor, Jessica
Renshaw, Grace
Sheldon, Brenda
Smeltzer, Mike
Smith, Susanne
Soren, Carol
Steine, Cindy
Tucker, Phillip
Watson-Wienzetzl, Myrna
Watts, Katie
Webb, Mary
Wenzell, Alison
White, Lolita
Williams, Tara

Guests: Cliff Joyner, Lennon Coleman

Visitors/Speakers: Mark Wait, Dean of Blair School of Music and Terryl Hallquist, Co-Director of Vanderbilt University Theatre

8:30 a.m. President Diane Banks called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Andy Richter introduced and welcomed the following newly appointed members:

Stacey Moore, VEHS, communications standing committee, group 10
Eric Jones, athletics, staff life standing committee, group 26
Michael Pring, VUPD, staff life standing, group 27
Annetta Pickett, student campus events, group 30.

Andy reminds members that it is not too late to join a standing committee.

Events: Andrea Wall reported that Acting HR Director Lennon Coleman gave approval for USAC to proceed with the Kroger gift cards fundraiser. We ordered 40 to start and these will be in tomorrow. Anyone may sign up for a Kroger Gift card by emailing Andrea.wall@vanderbilt.edu. These cost \$5 apiece which pays for the cards (i.e. reimburses our payment for them). To use the card, go to the Kroger service counter; tell them how much you want to put on your card and use that to buy your groceries. 4% of what you spend on the card comes back to us and we will donate it to the Employee Assistance Program. If any questions, please feel free to ask.

Communication: Co-Chair Kristin Koval reported that they are continuing to make web updates and adding new members to the rosters online.

Rules and Administration: No report.

Staff Life: Melanie Lang reported on *Hands on Nashville* as a possible resource for our service projects. It is a local organization with no cost to join which organizes events for folks to volunteer. It is family friendly, senior friendly, offers a variety of service event opportunities such as cleaning parks, food to elderly, etc. They can organize and coordinate large group events for us. They can help us find an event that would work well for us.

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

Benefits Committee: No report.

Traffic Committee: Diane reported that they are looking at the condition of all the allies and parking lots. If anyone knows of any potholes or anything else wrong with these areas, please email Lance Hale at lance.hale@vanderbilt.edu.

Athletics: Cliff Wilson reported that the committee will meet tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

GUEST SPEAKERS

USAC continues to look at the ways Vanderbilt presents itself in the community and its influence on the neighborhood and the world. Today's two speakers represent two areas of VU which are the face of VU to many in the community.

VU is one of only 3 top 20 universities to offer an acclaimed and accredited School of Music. Mark Wait has been the Dean of Blair School of Music since 1993, and is an accomplished concert pianist with over 200 concerts in over 25 states.

8:50 a.m. Mark Wait, Dean of Blair School of Music

Dean Mark Wait passed out a handout about the Blair School of Music and noted the following interesting facts about the school:

- It is the youngest and smallest of VU's schools and colleges.
- Its mission started out differently than any other school at Vanderbilt. Blair started as a precollege academy in 1964 independent of VU with a gift from the Potter's. Old George Peabody College was affiliated with it until it went bankrupt in 77 and became part of VU. In Jan 1981, Blair became part of Vanderbilt by an agreement between Chancellor Heard and Justin Wilson, Chair of the Blair Academy Board. The program leading to the BA in Music began in the Fall, 1986. Thus Blair is one of the few music schools where the college program spun out of a pre-college.
- Enrollment is now around 700 up from 350-375 in 1993. The college program started in 1986 has grown to 200 music majors. Blair could handle twice that many, but the enrollment is capped at 200. 185-190 students are ideal because music instruction is 1-on-1. One of the reasons it's the most expensive schools on the books.
- A particular strength of Blair is the close relationship between faculty mentors and student protégés. There are 55 full time faculty members, 60 adjunct faculty, and 18 staff. Dean Wait pointed out "one of the world's greatest staff" members, USAC member Robert Haliburton, Blair's business officer. More than half the faculty teach in both pre-college and collegiate program. The mission is unified - there is no division between the two programs -- with some of the nation's best students in both programs.

Highlights of the programs include:

- Specialties in pre-college include Suzuki for young cellists and violinists (3, 4, and 5 years old); kindermusic (starting children at 18 months); strings, piano, etc instruction for late Elementary, Middle, and H.S. Includes national competition winners in strings and piano.

Q: When someone graduates from your pre-college program, do they go to VU?

A: No, they don't. It's a good thing to move on to other outstanding music schools after graduating from our program.

- The Collegiate program has grown and has music majors from all over the country, even a student from Thailand. Blair hopes to increase internationally – both in attracting international students and in sending our majors for a semester abroad. Blair has the highest number of students that study abroad: in Vienna, the summer program in Aix-en-Provence (15 students for a 2 week session), Copenhagen, Germany, and the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- Blair does not have graduate students. This was a decision by the faculty. Not having graduate assistants teaching is considered a strength of the school.

Highlights of Blair's History include four milestones: adding the college, expanding the building, awarding tenure, and modernizing curricula:

- Starting a collegiate program, getting a new school off the ground is difficult. Wait became Dean with a 3M budget and 750 m deficit. Former Provost Tom Burish and Dean Wait made a deal to make the Blair school self-sufficient in 4 years. In fact, there has been no deficit since 1996.

- After 1996, Blair needed an expansion of the building. Designed by Bob Street, at 36,000 sq feet, it was too small with only two classrooms for 150 majors. Blair needed performance space, practice rooms and more classrooms. Turner Recital Hall seats 250, but a larger performance space was needed. Through the generosity of donors, including Martha Ingram, Blair quadrupled to 130,000 sq feet building Ingram Hall which has 550-600 seats and offers community space for VU and community organizations. It is in the 10th year of operation now.

- In 2002, Blair was the only school within the university that had no tenure system. Faculty searches proved Blair was not as attractive to potential faculty as it might be because of this. With a 33-8 vote, tenure became mandatory for hires after 2003. Faculty hired before this could choose contract terms of 5-7 years or be reviewed for tenure. Once faculty decided which path they would take, they could not change their minds. 17 are now tenured. Post tenure review was instituted and standardized and the length of terms for those without tenure was set for seven years. All faculty are now reviewed every seven years. There is no difference in salaries, benefits, or committee assignments between those with or without tenure. Original goal was to get better faculty members and that has been successful.

- Oct 26, 2010, Dean Wait asked faculty not to consider revising current curricula but to consider instead “What will a music major need to be able to do in 2030 or 2040?” The faculty was able to let go of old beliefs and practices to explore future needs.

Other highlights include:

- 800% increase in early decision. Average SAT was 1502 – higher than A&S and Engineering. Gone up about 200 points in last two years, and in musical ability. This year sophomores are better qualified than seniors, 5-6 years ago. In terms of standards, it’s a moving target and should always be going up.

- In an important move, we recently quit charging for our concerts as a public service. What Blair received from those sales wasn’t much – about \$12,000 from which Ticketmaster took \$5,000. Audiences have doubled since then. New people coming through the door. We post notice of these concerts in the Hillsboro area and in newspapers. Dean Wait invites everyone to attend their concerts which are primarily classical but have folk music, bass guitar, fiddling, and a global music component.

Dean Wait closed his presentation by noting that Blair does not teach music business courses, that MTSU and Belmont do that well. A number of Belmont part-time faculty also teach part-time at Blair. Dean Wait handed out Blair statistics to the USAC members.

Q: Vanderbilt has hosted internationally known singers....will that continue or is that economy dependent?

A: No, it’s not if you have an endowment for it. Mary Ragland gave 1M to support the voice program and to bring internationally known singers, such as René Fleming, Ian Bostrick, to give concerts. Current Blair goals in fundraising are to establish similar endowments for classical music and to bring inspiring, life changing role models to work with our students.

Q: Do you have adult music classes?

A: We offer classes and instruction in all the standard instruments, a lot are offered for non-music majors. 2200 of Vanderbilt’s 6000 undergraduates take some kind of music class every year -- classes such as Global music, women in rock, history of rock, etc and classes that meet in evenings. Adults can attend these. Call the Blair School office to request a list of those classes. Blair has had a pre-college and adult program from the very beginning.

Q: Where can we find the schedules?

A: Concerts and classes are listed on the VU website. Last Tuesday Blair introduced a new website.

Dean Wait ended his comments with a thank you to staff “for all your work and support of what we all do. We value the staff throughout the VU community. “

9:25 a.m. Terryl Hallquist, Co-Director of Vanderbilt University Theatre

Diane Banks introduced Terryl Hallquist. Professor Hallquist came to Vanderbilt in 1985. In addition to teaching undergraduates, she directs two major plays a year and is Co-Director of the Vanderbilt University Theatre, another program that provides many in the community with an opportunity to visit our campus.

Professor Hallquist thanked USAC for the invitation. Loves to get the word out about what the theatre does. When Cecil Jones, Emeritus Professor, who recruited Jon and Terryl Hallquist, was an undergraduate student, the drama club was called the Gargoyle and performed in the old gym. In the spring of 1948, it was renamed the VU Theatre Group. In 1975, Neely Auditorium was converted from a chapel to a flexible black box theatre.

The Theatre Department and the VU theatre are linked and have as goals:

1. help the general student to learn standards of criticism and the ways theatre and society are related
2. provide opportunities for majors and minors (20 of each) to work on plays as stage managers, technicians, or actors
3. encourage students to go on to be professional actors or professors or teachers
4. include all students who want to audition, undergraduate or graduate, but typically undergraduate students from A&S, Peabody, Blair (lots of minors from Blair), engineering, etc.

The Theatre is a public face for VU. Each year we try to do two contemporary and two classical shows. Terryl is doing *The Seagull* and *In a Dark, Dark House* this year. Every other year they try to do Shakespeare. Every 4 years, they bring in Actors from the London Stage Group. Delbert Mann left money for this. David Alford came to do Mamet. They try to include a musical every 4 years – it depends on their budget...they are more expensive and it depends on the talent pool. Need singers, dancers, and actors and when they have the talent, they can do it.

Terryl showed a slide show of *Our Town*, by Thornton Wilder; *Role Play*, directed by Jon Hallquist; *The Country Wife*, a classical piece; and *Brighten Beach Memoirs* by Neil Simon.

Terryl has one shop manager and several students that help her. The Theatre faculty includes a costume designer, and lighting, set, and sound director. Terryl showed renderings and a costume from the *Merchant of Venice* done by their costume designer, Alex Sergeant. Alex gets students involved as hands-on crafts persons. Students took renderings and they made the stamped on additions to the fabric out of glue. Terryl noted that the Annex where costumes are stored is not climate controlled, so costumes have a limited period of use.

Terryl introduced Brett, a senior student who is auditioning for graduate schools. He performed two monologues for the Council.

Terryl reminded us to come see their shows including their next show the first two weekends in April and handed out brochures with their show schedule.

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/theatre/currentseason>

10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned.

The next USAC meeting will be on **March 9, 2010** in Sarratt 220, the Rand Function Room.

**Reminder: All meeting times and locations are posted on the Staff Council website*
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/usac/next.html>