



Meeting Minutes:

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Online Zoom Meeting

Present:

Albright, Dallas
Allen Woody, Jennifer
Bagley, Sydney
Bennah, Noni
Bennett, Jennifer
Bishop, Faith
Boone, Laura
Borgic, Kevin
Bourgoin, Jeremy
Brown, Tonya
Bush, Marita
Butner, Sean
Carroll, Sara
Chai, Pearl
Champion, Brittany
Conwell, Patrick
Coradazzi, Danny
Cornwell, Cassandra
Dawson, T. Renee
Fogg, Christine
Gilmore, Alana
Gyarmati, Krista
Herndon, Roger

Higgins, Ed
Hollifield, Michael
Jackson, Crystal
Jasper, Shaun
Keever, Jeffrey
Kole, Brenda
Kurilko, Rachel
Lampley, Cassanora
Long, Madeline
Maddox, Lynn
Manlove, Sharon
Manning, Katherine
Maraniss, Andrew
McKeever-Burgett, Adam
Moody, Chanc'e
Moore, La Tisha
Musick, Margaret
Noote, Allie
Osa-Oni, Raven
Perkins, Anissa
Perry, Caitlyn
Peters, Erin
Porter, Abby
Poteete, Sarah
Price, Amber

Putnam, Sara
Rice, Marquita
Rivas, Beth
Ryon, Chance
Schuerlein, Wendy
Sierra, Bryn
Smith, LaDonna
Sumlin, Alicia
Taylor, Susan
Tift, Mary Beth
Wang, Joanne
Weeks, Daravanh
Wilson, Maisie
Zuckerwise-Causton, Simon

Not Present:

Abrams, Jenny
Bahrt, Emily
Baughman, David
Benitone, Hastings
Bergheger, Claudia
Best, Douglas
Broadrick, Troy

Brust, Valerie
Bumpas, Elizabeth
Burroughs, Machalia
Carroll, Chantry
Cope, Sara
Crowhurst, Stacey
Crutchfield, Savannah
Cummings, Kenedee
Dickson, Nancy
Dixon, Michele
Dixon, Amanda
Eubanks, Lyn
Farst, Paige
Foggie, Christina
Gibbons, Sarah
Gladu, William
Griffin, Brittany
Kamtarin, Shahpar
Karns, Allen
Knighton, Keeouka
Lawrence Givens, Tiffany
Masters, Richmond
Mitchell, Heather
Notestine, Wesley
Poston, McKenzie
Pratt, Jeremy
Pring, Michael
Reed, Haley
Smith, Amy
Taiman, Matt
Turner, Kimberly
Weissinger, Jeffrey

Guests:

Adams, Laura
Adams, Aubrey
Alini, Evan
Andrews, Stacey
Arizaga, Emily
Cesarone, Amy
Connolley, Carter
Coppinger, Whitney
Crawford, Tony
Cummings, Eric
Diermeier, Daniel – Guest
Speaker
Echols, Joanna
Ellenberger, Paige – Guest
Speaker
Erickson, Brian
French, Maddie
Galloway, Kevin – Guest
Speaker
Garrett, Kaitlyn
Gentry, Joe
Gibson, Madison
Glasgow, Scotty
Harding, Amanda
Harrell, Melissa
Hyer, Nick
Johnston, Caroline
Jones, Kara
Kelly, John
Law, Katelyn – Guest
Speaker
Leibowitz, Miriam – Guest
Speaker
Liebman, Paul
Lloyd, Richard
Malone, Celeste
Morris, Morgan
Murray, Heather – Guest
Speaker
Naifeh, Jake
Parker, Patricia

Patel, Hari – Guest
Speaker
Porter, Beth
Puckett, Mike
Quartey, Cheryl – Guest
Speaker
Raiszadeh, Sara
Reed, Haley
Reeves, Kellea
Rice, Shantera
Rosack, MK – Guest
Speaker
Rucker, Cleo
Schaeffer, Hannah
Schettino, Shirley
Smith, Janet
Smithson, Carmen
Stoecklein, Phillip
Svennevik, Emily
Turton, Dawn
Vallone, Kyle – Guest
Speaker
Zhang, Nathan – Guest
Speaker

WELCOME

Adam McKeever-Burgett, President, called the Meeting to order at 8:32 am

Review of the Agenda

- Student Organizations – oVRcom, Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science
- Professor Kevin Galloway, Research Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of Making – “How to Make Almost Anything”
- MK Rosak and Katelyn Law – Giving Day 2024
- Miriam Leibowitz – Move VU
- Chancellor Daniel Diermeier
- USAC Announcements and Business

Keynote Speakers

- Student Organizations –
 - oVRcom – Hari Patel, Heather Murray, Nathan Zhang
 - Mission – to provide infusion clinic patients with the opportunity to experience virtual reality as a source of entertainment, distraction, and stress relief.
 - Goals – bring VR into the infusion clinic, provide comfort and support for patients, contribute to research on VR
 - Virtual Reality (VR) Therapy – offers something for everyone to enjoy, patients are led through relaxing sceneries, volunteers come to the infusion clinic twice a week to help set up the experience.
 - Team is made up of students, faculty, graduates, nurses.
 - Research – IBR-approved study – to investigate the ability of VR to function as a distraction intervention and improve the experience of the patients who are receiving chemotherapy in the infusion clinic. 90 patients are part of the study. Clinical Journal of Oncology is about to release the results.
 - Vanderbilt Student Volunteer for Science Program – Kyle Vallone, Cheryl Quatey, Paige Ellenberger
 - Founded 1994 at Vanderbilt by Chemistry professor Mel Joesten, part of the Science and Discovery Initiatives in VU College of Arts and Science and is also a student organization.
 - VSVS is a student organization providing hands-on science learning to 5th – 8th grade students across middle TN
 - Paige Ellenberger is the VSVS Coordinator and David Wright is the Faculty Advisor and Director of CSET
 - VSVS Lab is located in Stevenson Center – 5234 and 5232
 - VSVS has 300 – 600 volunteers per semester; 30 – 50 board members and interns; 20 student workers; 172+ hours worked in the VSVS Lab each week.
 - VSVS is funded by the College of Arts & Science, VU Office of Student Orgs, SOLS, and community donations – General Support; VINSE funds rural outreach; TN Space Grant Consortium and the Federal Work-Study Program funds student employment.

- Hands-on science kits are the core of all VSVS programs – there have been over 125 distinct lesson kits developed over the last 30 years.
 - VSVS operates four main programs – Local Classroom; Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital; Local Outreach; Rural Outreach.
 - Local Classroom – the bread-and-butter program – 60-150 classrooms per semester; 200-4800 middle school students per semester.
 - Each semester, VSVS sends out between 300 and 600 student volunteers to bring hands-on science lessons to 5th – 8th grade students.
 - Teams of 2-5 volunteers are paired with a MNPS teacher and visit the same classroom 4 times per semester, during the school day.
 - Lessons introduce and/or reinforce concepts from the TN Academic Standards for Science (TASS).
 - Volunteer training is provided at the beginning of each semester by the student board.
 - Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital – teaching hands-on science lessons to young patients (K-8) at Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital; including bedside lessons, Seacrest Studios, VSBS at the Clinic.
 - Local Outreach – at schools, museums, and community organizations; volunteers and kits to science events around the Nashville area; partner with other VU orgs; 11 outreach events attended in Spring 2024.
 - Rural Outreach – 14 schools across 4 counties – 4000+ students reached per semester. Free science material and resources provided to teachers in rural TN; training for teachers held each July; student volunteers prepare kits in June and July.

- Professor Kevin Galloway, Director of Making @ the Wond’ry, Research Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of Soldier Engagement
 - Making and Design Spaces: Enabling Innovation at the Wond’ry
 - Wonder + Foundry = THE WOND’RY Innovation Center
 - Support Structures:
 - Innovation Practice Areas –
 - Entrepreneurship practice – how to create new forms of value while managing risk.
 - Social Innovation Practice – how to lead responsible and sustainable social change.
 - Making and Design Practice – how to explore and then generate and test ideas in the real world.
 - Innovation and Design Research - how to support creative confidence and effective innovation process.
 - Mission of Making and Design
 - Provide students, faculty, and staff with the tools, training, and resources to pursue their passions and actualize ideas.
 - To support this mission of the Wond’ry offers:
 - Shared fabrication tools and equipment, fiber arts, mold making and casting, electronics, etc.
 - Workshops offered by makers in the community that focus on skill building through hands-on projects.
 - Mentors on hands to assist with projects.

- Free use of the space as well as a mix of free and subsidized materials
- September 28, 2024; 10 AM – 4 PM – TN Maker Fest – @ the Wond’ry – TNMakerFest.com
- Vanderbilt Giving Day 2024 – MK Rosak and Katelyn Law
 - April 11, 2024
 - 47 challenges totaling \$3,000,000
 - On-Campus – Alumni Lawn
 - Make a gift of any size to any area.
 - Encourage others to give.
 - Spread the word.
- Move VU - Miriam Leibowitz
 - Beta Testers are needed.

The Office of Transportation and Mobility is working with WeGo Public Transit and VUIT to transition the free public transit benefit from utilizing physical Commodore Cards to WeGo’s QuickTicket fare payment system this summer.

WeGo is eliminating magnetic cards on their services, precipitating the need for this change. The hope is that this shift in how full- and part-time faculty, staff, and students board buses and trains for free will make the process easier, including the option of using the QuickTicket by WeGo app (or card).

Volunteers are needed to help test the account registration process and WeGo’s services using QuickTicket, regardless of current bus or train ridership (can use non-transit users’ help, too). Ideally, would like to include testers who are faculty, staff, and students, salaried and hourly employees, and employees who do and do not regularly check VU email accounts.

Testers will have the option of using **EITHER** QuickTicket by WeGo app **OR** QuickTicket physical card; registered accounts may only use one option, the app and cards are not interchangeable.

Please email MoveVU@vanderbilt.edu with the following information **by Monday, April 29 (we will accept later volunteer offers)**, if USAC members or members of your department/team are willing to help test the system

Testing instructions will be shared with volunteers. Please email MoveVU@vanderbilt.edu with any questions.
 - New Rates Announced
 - MyVUon 4/4 with the new rates for 2024-25: <https://news.vanderbilt.edu/2024/04/04/parking-rates-commute-information-for-2024-25/>.
- Chancellor Daniel Diermeier – private remarks

USAC Business

Minutes

- March Minutes – approved.

Announcements

- Upcoming Officer Elections
 - Vice President/President Elect
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
- Awards
 - Karen Dolan Spirit Award
 - Committee Member of the Year
 - Committee of the Year
- Employee Critical Support Fund:
 - The Employee Critical Support Fund, previously called the Employee Hardship Fund, was established in 1994 to financially assist Vanderbilt faculty and staff who are experiencing a non-recurring sudden or emergency-related financial hardship due to an unforeseen or unavoidable event.
 - Vanderbilt Giving Day is **April 27, 2024** – please consider a donation to the Employee Critical Support Fund

Committee Reports:

Communications Committee:

- Co-Chairs:
 - Faith Bishop and Alana Gilmore
- Tip of the Month – Did *YOU* Know?
 - April – Elections
 - Spring Communications Campaign
 - Communication Champions be on the outlook for:
 - Emails to be sent regarding Even-Numbered Groups announcing USAC Elections
 - Emails to be sent to Odd-Numbered Groups – with general information and updates on USAC initiatives
- Remember to share your department's information to USAC's social media – Instagram, Twitter/X.
- Next Meeting: TBA

EDI Committee:

- Co-Chairs:
 - Cassanora Lampley and Raven Osa-Oni
- Ongoing Projects
 - Days of Significance Accommodation
 - EDI Training Initiative – sub committee meetings slated for post-commencement.
 - Plans to finalize proposals during summer '24
- Heritage Month Spotlight - April
 - Sexual Assault Month
- Next Meeting: March 26; 10 AM, via Teams

Events Committee:

- Co-Chairs:
 - Michael Hollifield and Sara Carroll
- Events
 - Photo Booth at Student Life Center
 - Thanks everyone – very successful.
 - Happy Hour
 - May 14, 2024; 4 PM – 6 PM; HiFi Clyde's 1700 Church Street
- Next meeting: April 16; 9 AM via Teams

Membership Committee:

- Co-Chairs:
 - Christine Fogg and Krista Gyarmati
- 2024 Election Timeline
 - Nomination Period
 - March 13 – April 5
 - Any non-union staff member can be nominated.
 - Individuals may nominate themselves.
 - Confirmation Period:
 - April 8 – April 26
 - Be sure to approve your nomination in order to be included on the ballot
 - Elections:
 - April 29 – May 10
 - Members of Even-Numbered Groups
 - Remember to VOTE
 - Run-Off Elections (if needed):
 - May 13 – May 24
 - Is used when there is a tie for an elected position with a Group
 - Other:
 - USAC term is two years.
 - Members elected in 2024 will serve until 6/30/2026.
 - If currently serving, and you wish to continue, you must run again; be nominated or nominate yourself and be re-elected.
- Birthdays - April:
 - Emily Bahrt, Jennifer Bennett, Jeremy Bourgoin, Kenedee Cummings, Paige Farst, Caitlyn French, Krista Gyarmati, Erin Peters, Michael Pring, Amy Smith, Joanne Wang
- Meet a Member:
 - Rachel Kurilko, Lead Technical Support Specialist, VUIT
- Next Meeting: April 23, 10:00 AM, via Teams

Rules and Administration:

- Co-Chairs:
 - Sean Butner and Amy Smith
- No Report
- Next meeting: TBD

Staff Life

- Co-Chairs:
 - Jennifer Bennett, Jeremy Bourgoïn, Danny Coradazzi
- Ongoing Initiatives:
 - Summary of Issues Work
- Promotions for Partners:
 - Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon, 4/24; 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM; SLC
 - HR Employee Learning & Engagement
- Next Meeting: April 17; 1 PM via Teams.

Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, May 14, 2024
 - Via Zoom – 8:30-10 AM
 - Email: usac@vanderbilt.edu
- SAVE THE DATE
 - Tuesday, June 11, 2024
 - In Person and Zoom
 - Central Library Community Room
 - Featuring
 - USAC Awards
 - Vice Chancellor Sydney Savion

ADJOURN

Adam McKeever-Burgett, President, adjourned the Meeting at 10:00 am.

USAC Vision: Through communication, consultation, and service, the Council will promote a strong partnership among the staff, faculty, students, and administration of Vanderbilt University.