



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY CONGRESS

Academic Year 2024-2025

September 23, 2024

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

via Zoom: <https://villanova.zoom.us/j/3688604725?omn=95666560633>

AGENDA

Present: Jennifer Altamuro, Theodore Arapis, Sutirtha Bagchi, Farshid Baghai, Rishtee Batra, Paul Bernhardt, Glenn Bracey, Lucy Chen, Allison Covey, Joseph Drury (vice-chair), Jason Grant, Amber Haley, Gregory Hoskins, Kamran Javadizadeh, Michelle M. Kelly, Christopher Kilby, Amanda Knecht, Brittany Koons, Rory Kramer, Bo Li, Daniel Mark, Michelle McKay, Gwendolyn Morris, Sergey Nersesov, Max Osborn, Jared Paul (chair), Alan Pichanick, Megan Povelones, Jennifer Ross, Jacob Rozran, Andrew Scott, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Monica Sywak, Raisa Velthuis, Stephanie Walkup, Ryan Weldzius

Housekeeping

- Welcome!
- Approval of minutes from May, 2024 meeting

Minutes approved (28 yes, 5 abstentions).

Special Presentation

- Meg Willoughby, University Ombudsperson

Overview of the ombudsperson's role, invitation to faculty to contact as needed.

Standing Committee Reports (*reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions*)

1. Awards Committee

Committee chair is sought.

2. Adjunct Faculty Representatives (Tina Agustiady)

Tina Agustiady, Jennifer Altamuro, Theodore Arapis, Sutirtha Bagchi, Farshid Baghai, Rishtee Batra, Paul Bernhardt, Glenn Bracey, Sherry Burrell, Lucy Chen, Allison Covey, Raul Diego Rivera Hernandez, Joseph Drury (vice-chair), Brenner Fissell, Jason Grant, Amber Haley, Gregory Hoskins, Kamran Javadizadeh, Ann Juliano, Stephanie Katz Linkmeyer, Michelle M. Kelly, Christopher Kilby, Amanda Knecht, Brittany Koons, Rory Kramer, Bo Li, Daniel Mark, Michelle McKay, Gwendolyn Morris, Sergey Nersesov, Max Osborn, Jared Paul, Alan Pichanick, Megan Povelones, Jennifer Ross, Jacob Rozran, Andrew Scott, John Sedunov, Rachel Skrlac Lo, Monica Sywak, Raisa Velthuis, Stephanie Walkup, Ryan Weldzius

3. CNT/FTNTT Faculty Representatives (Rishtee Batra)

Solicited feedback from CNT faculty about relevant issues.

4. Election and Credentials Committee (Bob Styer)

University Rank and Tenure Committee and the CNT Promotion Committee elections are complete; thank you for voting. The committee would like to have contested elections, looking for more candidates in future.

5. Research Policy Committee (RPC; Megan Povelones, chair)

Solicited feedback from faculty about relevant issues.

6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC; Michelle Kelly, chair)

Solicited feedback from faculty about relevant issues.

7. Retired faculty members – We are currently looking for a new representative

Beginning search for a replacement for Joe Betz†.

Committees with Faculty Representation (*reports submitted in advance; please see appendix; this time set aside for elevated issues and/or questions*)

1. Academic Policy Committee (Greg Hoskins)

Raised two issues for 2024-2025: 1) assessment of personal day policy; 2) permission for asynchronous instruction on election day.

2. Athletic Advisory Committee (Daniel Mark)

Solicited feedback from faculty about relevant issues.

3. Budget Committee (Raisa Velthuis)

Solicited feedback from faculty about relevant issues.

4. Mission and Social Justice Committee (Gwendolyn Morris)

The committee plans to focus on responsible consumption this year, with hopes of bringing waste levels in line with the situation pre-pandemic and of making sure it is carried through to Cabrini. It was asked if this might be a good time to revisit the cool food initiative that the FC supported in the past.

5. Student Life Committee (Rishtee Batra)

There will be a polling location in the Mullen Center on November 5 for the presidential election.

New Business

Meeting with Villanova University's new Chief Information Officer (Joe)

FC will inquire about security issues. There was a request for clarification about faculty webpages, whether faculty should go through VU or elsewhere.

Cabrini University Acquisition (Jared)

FC is hoping to begin more open discussion with the Provost's office about decision making around Cabrini, including renovation plans for the campus, how it will be used, how faculty expansion will keep up with an increase in the student body, transportation between campuses, and which faculty or departments might be moved to Cabrini.

Feedback on Textbook Program (Jared)

FC seeks information on how this program will be assessed (possibly also through APC). Some report that initial informal feedback is not great (books not delivered, faculty not trained in adopting books, students not knowing about opt-out, what does post-pilot look like, the bookstore seems to be using unrealistically high prices for books as the comparison point so as to increase the perception that the program is saving money). Positive feedback anecdotally, however, from engineering students, even though system was hard to figure out.

Academic Freedom Event (Joe)

In planning with Alica Dailey.

Increasing Flexibility for two-day teaching timeslots on MW (Rishtee)

Looking for feedback on whether this is worth pursuing. Perhaps worth discussing in conjunction with Cabrini transition and/or new space opening up on campus. Could there also be an expansion of evening course time slots for grad courses?

Assistance for Graduate Students with housing challenges (Jared)

Others?

Pilot program for SEPTA seems to have disappeared. Follow-up needed.

Reminders

Upcoming Congress events:

FC leadership meetings with Provost & Vice Provost

(Jared, Joe, Michelle, Greg)

October 24, 9:00 am

Fall 2024 Faculty Congress general meetings

September 23, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

October 22, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

November 11, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

2024-25 Faculty Fridays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (*The Refectory*)

~~August 30, 2024~~

September 27, 2024

October 25, 2024

February 28, 2025

March 21, 2025

April 25, 2025

Appendix A: Standing Committee Reports

1. Election and Credentials Committee

Thanks to everyone who voted in the recent University Rank and Tenure Committee and the CNT Promotion Committee elections. Election results: Fr. Martin Laird, R&T Humanities seat; Samantha Chapman, R&T Sciences seat; Alan Pichanick, CNT Humanities seat; Stephanie Katz-Linkmeyer, CNT Sciences seat. We are grateful to these individuals for serving on these two important committees, and for all the candidates willing to run for a seat.

2. Research Policy Committee

Although the full committee has not met yet, the incoming chair (Megan Povelones) met with the outgoing chair (Jared Paul) and Amanda Grannas to discuss policy updates and development that could be addressed by the committee in the coming year. These include streamlining and clarifying language in the policies on Human Research Protections, Responsible Conduct of Research, and COI. The committee will also explore possible new policies regarding discretionary research accounts and data management. Finally, the committee is open to considering other research policy issues raised by faculty.

3. Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee

Edits to the Rank & Tenure process for the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) have been approved by FRRC and the Council of Deans. There will now be a first-level review committee, analogous to a department level committee in the FCN as well as the College Committee. In lieu of a Department Chair, the Dean of the FCN will appoint a Rank & Tenure Facilitator who will carry out the duties of the Department Chair, other than composing a Department Chair Letter, for both the tenure track (TT) and continuing non-tenure (CNT) promotion candidates.

Technical language edits are being discussed related to use of classroom lecture capture (use for peer evaluations) and student grade appeals and complaints (related to discrimination).

FRRC has been asked to address some inconsistencies in the TT and CNT rank and tenure policies particularly related to program directors serving on the University Committees and term limits to serving.

4. Academic Policy Committee

APC's first meeting is September 25, 2024.

5. Mission and Social Justice Committee

We had our first Mission and Social Justice Committee meeting on Aug. 23, 2024 with the goal of deciding on a Sustainable Development Goal for the year. It was agreed by consensus that we will focus on Responsible Consumption and Production. There was pre-pandemic progress made

toward the reduction of plastic use on campus, but the pandemic caused an increase of single use plastic. We plan to work with other groups on campus, like Dining Services, toward our goal. Additionally, we want to make sure that sustainable practices occur on the Cabrini campus as that campus develops and moves towards opening.

6. Student Life Committee

The Student Life Committee met on Friday, September 13, 2024 for the first of two fall meetings. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to the guest speaker for the afternoon- Andrew Camuso, the new Executive Director of Dining Services.

Andrew mentioned that Dining Services' strategic plan focuses on a few pillars: 1) Diversity and Inclusion, 2) Technological Advancement, 3) Sustainability, and 4) Culinary Excellence and described a number of initiatives under these pillars. Some notable initiatives include:

- An upcoming "Text and Tell" feedback system (to be implemented by the end of this semester)
- The return of "Green to Go" food containers and monitoring food waste in Dougherty and Donahue.
- Incorporation of different cultural foods to reflect Villanova's diverse population and to celebrate a variety of cultural and religious traditions
- Exploring possibilities of outside vendors or replicating desired type of food through Villanova's own operations.
- Faculty that have input or feedback on Dining Services can email Andrew at: Andrew.Camuso@vvillanova.edu

Kathy Byrnes (VP of Student Life) spoke briefly about the upcoming elections and its impact on campus. Some things to be aware of:

- On-campus students now have a convenient polling location at Villanova- in the Mullen Center. For off-campus students, shuttles will run to their designated polling locations.
- With polling location on Election Day on campus, there may be a need for poll workers, who are paid for their time by the County. If interested, let Dean Millard or JJ Brown know.
- Assorted events and activities related to the election are scheduled and can be found at: [Election Resources | Villanova University](#)

Of note to faculty, the student representative for Greek Life (sororities) mentioned that after a few years of holding "rush" activities off-campus at the Inn, sorority rush will take place on-campus in 2025. While the precise dates and activities have not yet been finalized, faculty should expect that classrooms and other meetings spaces on campus (e.g. Driscoll, Bartley, etc.) will be occupied by sororities the week prior to the start of class in January.

The next meeting is scheduled for November and the Student Life Committee tentatively plans to host the new Chief Information Office, Tej Patel, as the guest speaker.