

Villanova University Faculty Congress

Academic Year 2011-2012

Meeting on February 8, 2012

Present: Mary Ann Cantrell, Sohail Chaudhry, Q Chung, Linda Copel, Rosario Drago, Rick Eckstein, James Glasgow, Christopher Haas, Judith Hadley, Eric Karson, Edward Kresch, Michael Levitan, Michael Pagano, Paul Pasles, Paul Rosier, Louise Russo, Joseph Schick, Gaynor Strickler, Robert Styer, Mark Sullivan, Fayette Veverka, Thomas Way, Seth Whidden, Peter Zaleski.

Absent: Chiji Akoma, Wayne Bremser, Joseph Dellapenna, John Groch, Sarvesh Kulkarni, Susan Mackey-Kallis, Victoria McWilliams, Letizia Modena, Barbara Ott, Elizabeth Petit de Mange, Salvator Poeta, Sridhar Santhanam, Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Maggie Wang, Kelly Welch, Joyce Willens, Farid Zamani. (all notified in advance)

Guest: Boots Cassel

1. Welcome and luncheon (Faculty Dining Hall, 12:30 p.m.)
2. Invocation (West Lounge, 1:30 p.m.)
3. Approval of minutes
4. Announcements and Committee Reports

* COF & APC reports will be forwarded soon
* Tuition benefits report is expected soon (by end of February) from administration
* Benefits study report
  + Consultant is expected to be present to answer questions from the faculty in late February
  + A report will be available to faculty

1. New Constitution and Bylaws are approved and will be posted
   * A **motion** was presented to thank the members of the committee for their hard work in developing the new documents and to formally disband the committee. The motion passed by acclamation.
2. Faculty congress elections for 2012-2014 term
   * Because of the revised procedures for filling the positions of Chair and Vice Chair in the new Constitution and Bylaws, those present decided to hold a special vote to fill these positions for the next session of Faculty Congress. After some discussion of next steps two motions were presented.
   * **A motion** was presented to elect Victoria McWilliams as Chair for the 2012-2014 session of Faculty Congress. The motion passed unanimously.
   * **A motion** was presented to elect Seth Whidden as Vice Chair for the 2012-2014 session of Faculty Congress. It was noted that Seth plans to be on sabbatical for one year during this time. The motion passed with all present in favor and one abstention.
3. Disaster protocol
   * There is a disaster protocol in place at Villanova. The Committee on Faculty discussed the need to work with the appropriate office to promulgate the protocol already in existence. Implementation is forthcoming.
4. Interdisciplinary course offerings
   * Boots Cassel presented examples for interdisciplinary courses at Villanova that were ultimately successful if difficult to construct. Interdisciplinary course development is hampered by structures and practices that assume discipline-specific courses. Furthermore, previous interdisciplinary course development has not prepared a pathway for easy development of further interdisciplinary courses. Dr. Cassel proposed that the structures be changed to allow this type of course to be developed easily.
   * Louise Russo reported that the issue was discussed at the Academic Policy Committee meeting of the previous week. It will be a benefit to students and the entire university. This was seen by APC to be an inter-college issue. Broad involvement across the colleges is therefore required for success. Carol Weiss of VITAL will be included in this work.
   * James Glasgow explained the VSB has some data and experience with development of interdisciplinary courses. He suggested that this information would be shared with a university-wide committee.
   * **A motion** was presented to ask APC to form a task force for the purpose of establishing a model for interdisciplinary course offerings. In the discussion it was the sense of those present that because of compensation issues, the Committee on Faculty is expected to be closely involved in the work. The motion passed unanimously.
5. New business

* Ed Kresch introduced the need to amend the new constitution to change references to FTNTT faculty to Continuing Non-tenure-track faculty. The procedure to change the name requires a motion to amend the Constitution that must pass with a two-thirds majority of the entire membership of FC. There was discussion over the exact term used across current university documents and the name preferred by the faculty members who are in this group. A motion will be presented in the near future.

1. Motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Schick

Secretary of the Faculty Congress